

AIRLIFT Dispatch

Vol. 42, No. 10

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, March 14, 2003



Senior Airman Matthew Fortune, 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Maintenance Flight autobody repairman, uses a grinder to grind welds smooth on a 1991 Chevy G-Van here March 5. About two to three vehicles come through the flight a day, and the flight has roughly a two-day turnover.

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Team Charleston: One family, one mission, one fight!

COMMENTARY

Commander's Comments

By Col. Brooks Bash
437 AW commander

Charleston AFB continues to be extremely busy, launching 15-25 missions daily. In the past week, there was a day when AMC had 120 C-17 aircrews in the system, compared to a previous high of about 90 crews in the months after the 9-11 attacks. All of these aircrews are transiting CAFB in the C-17 stage. The 437th Aerial Port Squadron loaded 20 wide body commercial aircraft in just three days—topping 600 tons loaded in just one day. Way to go APS!

We have also seen the arrival of KC-10 Extenders here this past week; those aircraft will routinely fly missions from here, adding to the amount of cargo we can move quickly to Southwest Asia. Another group of reservists—aircraft maintainers—were activated last week and will be here to keep the jets moving.

Lt. Gen. John Baker, Air Mobility Command vice commander came to see our operation this week, and I want to echo his sentiment—the people of Team Charleston have superbly come together to accomplish even the toughest taskings.

Awards

That excellence is exemplified in the airmen of the **437th Airlift Wing Command Post**, recently named best in AMC. Congratulations! Additionally, a 437 AW command post member, **Airman 1st Class Jeanette Lagania**, was selected to be part of the 2003 Tops in Blue team as a vocalist. **Special Agent Norm Dominesey** from our Air Force Office of Special Investigations local detachment also earned recognition as AMC's agent of the quarter for Oct.-Dec., 2002. Along with these award winners, Team Charleston's work continues to set the standard—be proud!

Promotions

Congratulations to Team Charleston's two newest colonel selects: **Lt. Col. Jeffrey Watson**, 437th Airlift Wing staff judge advocate, and **Lt. Col. Maria Dowling**, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron commander and below-the-zone promotee. This is a significant milestone for these officers.

Leprechaun Leap

When the pace gets this tough, the benefit of physical fitness be-



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tyrone Pearsall

Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, welcomes students to Careers on Wheels. The event gave more than 700 third-graders in the Charleston County school district the chance to see vehicles and talk with the people who use those vehicles in their careers.

comes even more important. Exercise will keep you ready for the mission, and is a great way to relieve stress. Put on something green, and join me at the Fitness and Sports Center at 11 a.m. Friday for the 5K "Leprechaun Leap" fun run/walk.

Distinguished visitors

This week we had the pleasure of hosting the Assistant Undersecretary of Defense for Transportation Policy, Earl Boyanton, as he visited CAFB to speak to members of the National Defense Transportation Association and Air Force Association. We look forward to hosting retired Gen. Duane Cassidy, former commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Military Airlift Command, the predecessor to AMC. Gen. Cassidy will assist with the delivery of our 51st C-17 on Tuesday.

Safety

As busy as we are, the pace has continued to increase. Of all the accomplishments listed above, the one unspoken aspect is the most important: Team Charleston is accomplishing the mission, not only in a fantastic manner, but by doing it *safely*. No matter how well we do, if we fail to do it safely, we have failed. This is a time of changing routines, unfamiliar processes, and new faces on the job. Commanders and supervisors need to be out with the troops, evaluating and emphasizing safety at each opportunity. Your continued presence is making a difference. Keep up the great work and keep it safe out there!

Action line addresses phone repairs in base housing

Q: We recently had to pay for the phone company to come out and fix a phone jack in our bedroom in base housing. Would you please clarify the policy?

A: Thank you for your inquiry concerning phone repairs in base housing. The phone service in family housing units is a contract between the resident and Bell South. The Air Force is required to provide housing residents with primary service and service to one phone jack within the unit. Over the years, phone jacks occasionally fail; therefore, it is the resident's option to repair any additional phone jacks themselves or contact the phone company and pay for the repairs. If there is zero phone service in the unit, and Bell South is required to re-wire in order

to restore service, the resident can be reimbursed with a documented bill from Bell South. This is the only case where phone repair service reimbursable. Thank you for your call.

– Col. Brooks Bash
437 AW commander

The Commander's Action Line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston AFB a better place to live, work and play.

First, give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at 963-5581, or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil.

From the top

"Tonight I thank the men and women of our armed services and their families. I know their deployment so far from home is causing hardship for many military families. Our nation is deeply grateful to all who serve in uniform. We appreciate your commitment, your idealism and your sacrifice. We support you, and we know that if peace must be defended, you are ready."

– President George W. Bush

One of a kind

Commander explains Combat Camera mission

By Lt. Col. Clifton Douglas
1CTCS Commander

The 1st Combat Camera Squadron is the sole active duty unit of its kind in the Air Force. Others stationed at CAFB may have wondered who Combat Camera is, what we do, why we do it and what our support brings to the Air Force mission.

Stationed at Charleston AFB since the early 1980s, 1CTCS is a specialized communications squadron, aligned administratively under the 621st Air Mobility Operations Group, McGuire AFB, NJ. Operationally how-

ever, we get our deployment taskings from Air Mobility Command through the Tactical Airlift Control Center.

The mission is to support Department of Defense and Air Force senior leadership with timely and informative visual imagery. This imagery enhances operational decisions during combat and peacetime contingencies. Elements of our mobility force are capable of deploying in as little as six hours' notice. All personnel are equipped and trained individually and as deployable teams to operate in the most difficult of conditions, to include combat.

Combat Camera provides a vital link between field operations and command elements by using state-of-the-art multimedia equipment to provide broadcast-quality imagery, acquired day or night, on the ground or in the air. Our combat capabilities include deployable digital photo and printing systems; video editing and imagery transmission near real-time secure over satellite systems and we facilitate theater weapon systems video, (fighter aircraft - gun camera footage), through editing, data masking, duplication, and electronic distribution anywhere in the world.

Combat Camera's ability to meet mission requirements has been validated through successful documentation of Operations like the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, Grenada, Operations Just Cause, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, to name a few. We have

also captured our nation's tragedies; most notably, the aftermath of terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, as well as the Shuttle Columbia tragedy.

Combat Camera sends operational imagery via satellite or the Internet to the Joint Combat Camera Center at the Pentagon. Some of the imagery is

available to the public at dodimagery.afis.osd.mil.

Combat Camera is among the most heavily tasked units in Air Mobility Command. It is not unusual for the unit to accrue more than 16,000 TDY man-days amongst 125 deployable personnel in a single year during peacetime.

Despite this, unit morale remains high, because this is mission-normal for us. A testament to the caliber of men and women assigned here is that they are more apt to complain about *not* being deployed, rather than about how long they will be deployed. They truly enjoy the Combat Camera mission and are incredibly proud to be assigned here. That pride is evident in their professionalism, dedication and insatiable pursuit of excellence in everything they do. I am blessed to command a unit comprised of such exceptional men and women.

Combat Camera is a world class combat imaging organization built upon talented, highly motivated people working together to provide an enduring visual record of United States Air Force and Department of Defense activities during peace and conflict—"Global Reach...Global Images."

worth repeating

"A testament to the kind of men and women assigned here is that they are more apt to complain about not being deployed..."



—Lt. Col. Clifton Douglas
1st Combat Camera Squadron commander

The DOC spot



Capt. Michael Lyons
437th MDG Family Practice
pediatrician

Education: A graduate from Boston College, Boston, Mass., he continued his education at Tufts University of Medicine, also in Boston, with a follow-on residency at David Grant Medical Center, Travis AFB, Calif.

Best part of job: Working each day to help children lead healthier lives.

Biggest challenge: Balancing the need to take care of acutely ill children with the equally important task of prioritizing prevention.

Sound medical advice:

"A large number of childhood illnesses can be taken care of at home. The Guide to Your Child's Symptoms book is a wonderful resource which can be obtained at the Family Practice Clinic."

Dispatch

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Mail to: 437 AW PAI, 102 East Hill Blvd.
Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154
E-mail to: dispatch@charleston.af.mil

Editorial staff

437 AW Commander - Col. Brooks Bash
Chief, Public Affairs - Maj. Linda Pepin
Chief, Internal Information - Capt. Krista Carlos
Editor - Airman Stephanie Hammer
Photo support provided by 437 Visual Information:
Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky
Staff Sgt. Corey Clements
Airman 1st Class Tyrone Pearsall
Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey
Andre Bullard

NEWS

Air Force works to smooth out AEF rough spots

By Cynthia Bauer
AMC Public Affairs

The Air Force continues its quest to smooth out the rough spots in the Air and Space Expeditionary Force process as the Defense Department positions forces for a possible conflict with Iraq.

Air Mobility Command Vice Commander Lt. Gen. John Baker, who serves as a member of the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff's AEF Forum, said the surge in deployments has interrupted the normal AEF battle rhythm of three-month rotations.

In an update on the work of the AEF Forum, Baker said right now, AEF pairs 7 and 8 slated for redeployment at the end of February are frozen in place, and pairs 9 and 10 have deployed early. Air Force officials have said those deployed should anticipate remaining in place until further notice.

"We're also tapping into additional AEFs to fill some of the shortages we face. The Air Force is also mobilizing Guard and Reserve forces. This avoids deploying those who have not spent sufficient time back home for recon-

worth repeating

"Every family should be confident that there is help available for anything they need, from childcare to bill-paying. The commanders are responsible for making this happen. It's part of taking care of our people."

Lt. Gen. John Baker
Air Mobility Command vice commander



stitution," said Baker.

"We have always advertised that the three-month battle rhythm would need to be suspended to support this level of effort," he said. "The warfighters want the team they already have in place, the team that has established relationships. War is 24-7 and requires people. The commanders are not in a position to train an entirely new group. They need to expand their capabilities in Southwest Asia."

Baker said he feels the command's airmen and their families understand the need for extended deployments, and he's ensuring AMC commanders and their

staffs take care of families on the home front.

"We've put together a video-teleconference for commanders and family support center folks to sit down and review considerations and help families prepare for war. Every family should be confident that there is help available for anything they need from childcare to bill-paying. The commanders are responsible for making this happen. It's part of taking care of our people," he said.

Baker said the forum continues to address other issues, including filling the AEF libraries, or pool of deployable airmen, with individuals who are properly coded for deploy-

ment and as well as improving the system.

"A couple of years ago, we had about 80,000 airmen coded as deployable," said Baker. "We now have more than 260,000. This is important because it helps us avoid tapping the same people over again for deployment."

The AEF Forum has also concentrated on identifying and relieving stressed career fields.

"We now have a new way of measuring how stressed our various career fields are in meeting our deployment commitments. We developed a new formula that's easier to understand," said Baker.

He said the new measurement provides assessments consistent with those in the past, but now provides information on the extent to which a career field is stressed.

"We are looking at various solutions from higher accession rates of airmen into stressed career fields, cross-training and contracting out, as well as actually adjusting our force content, among others," he said. "But as I've said before, the fix won't happen overnight, but it will happen."

Red Cross recognizes seven Team Charleston heroes

By Tech. Sgt. Ruby Zarzyczny
437 AW Public Affairs

The American Red Cross and the South Carolina Electric and Gas Corporation recognized seven Team Charleston members Thursday at a banquet in North Charleston.

Three Charleston AFB airmen received medals in the Neighborhood Heroes Military category.

Maj. John Brewer, 437 MDG Family Practice physician, received a medal for volunteering at the First Baptist Medical clinic on Rivers Avenue during his free time, providing free medical services to those in need.

According to Kathy Nelson, who nominated Brewer for the medal, he offers his medical services to the patients at the clinic with compassion, dignity and care.

Tech. Sgt. John Buckner, 315th Airlift Wing chief of personnel relocations, received a medal for rescuing and reviving an unconscious man from a swimming pool June 4.

"When approached about saving the young man's life, Tech Sgt. Buckner was very humble and would only reply, 'I saw a person in need and I responded,'" said Chief Master Sgt. Virgil Childers, 315th Mission Support Squadron chief of military

personnel, who nominated Buckner. "This is the way he approaches life, always reaching out to anyone in need or in trouble."

The third Team Charleston airman to receive a medal also helped save a life.

Senior Airman Adam Koerner, 16th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, received a medal for helping paramedics rescue his friend, who was involved in an all-terrain vehicle accident.

Two other members of the 16 AS received certificates for their heroism and bravery during recent military operations.

Capt. Brain Wald, 16 AS chief of special operations and evaluator aircraft commander, and Staff Sgt. Justin Malott, a loadmaster with the 16 AS, received certificates for their actions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The reason I nominated Capt. Wald, Staff Sgt. Malott and Senior Airman Koerner for the American Red Cross Neighborhood Hero award is because they truly represent the core of what the 16 AS and Team Charleston is all about — the Air Force core values," said Lt. Col. Gary Goldstone, 16 AS commander.

"These airmen represent America's finest, and to have the civilian community recognize their selfless acts is a bonus. Like every other airman,

they don't operate for the recognition, but rather for the pure and simple fact that their driving force is to do the right thing even when no one is looking," said Goldstone.

Team Charleston isn't made up of airmen alone. The Red Cross also honored two civilians who support the Charleston AFB family.

Richard Gilbert received the Random Acts of Kindness medal for volunteering every Wednesday morning at the 437th Medical Group pharmacy.

"I nominated Richard Gilbert because I wanted him to be recognized for his selfless acts of volunteering," said Lt. Col. Todd Tomlin, 437th Medical Group Diagnostic and Therapeutic Flight commander. "Richard Gilbert is a young man of 59 and retired from the military. He could be spending his retirement money sailing the seas, but instead he chooses to help others by volunteering."

Another member of the CAFB family was recognized for the efforts she made when she saw people in need.

MaryBeth Bash, wife of Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Air Wing commander, performed CPR on two separate occasions last year and rendered assistance to a pregnant woman who fainted at a social occasion.

Mu\$t be the money

Financial analyst, 437 CPTS earn Air Force-level awards

By Maj. Linda Pepin
437 AW Public Affairs

He may not be faster than a speeding bullet or able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, but if you need the money to buy that bullet, or repair that tall building, Capt. Stephen Cristofori is your guy.

Cristofori, the Financial Analysis Flight commander in the 437th Comptroller Squadron before assuming his current position as 437th Airlift Wing executive officer, earned recognition as the Air Force's top financial analysis company grade officer of the year for fiscal 2002. Additionally, the 437 CPTS won the Air Force comptroller's Special Acts and Services award for the past year.

As a financial analyst, Cristofori was responsible for submitting 437 AW financial plans to higher headquarters, ensuring CAFB had the money necessary to carry out its mission. Cristofori submitted a budget cited by Air Mobility Command as the exemplar for other bases, for the second year in a row. He is credited with piloting an \$18 million year-end closeout, funding combat supplies and numerous civil engineering work orders and repair projects.

In conjunction with his work on the Combat Wing reorganization, the Sebastian, Fla., native identified discrepancies with the wing's

Transportation Working Capital Fund. The squadron's approach to identifying, researching and correcting the problem was the basis for the special acts and services award.

"This is an awesome accomplishment," said Maj. Robert Blue, 437 CPTS commander. "Our mission here is to provide a superior brand of financial management, and these awards reflect that. The squadron is proud and honored to have received this award."

Cristofori cites the close working relationship with the AMC budget office as a secret behind his flight's successes.

"We were up front with them on our issues," he said. "When we identified a problem, we also built a proposed resolution, taking responsibility."

Cristofori brought to light the need to track the cost of reservists as a cost of war. "When the Reserve came on board, some came with orders not citing any funds," Cristofori said. "We could have had those reservists here without realizing the cost of war. We reported it, and as a result, the monthly reporting for cost of war now includes a category for activated reservists."

This is not the first Air Force award for Cristofori, a Citadel graduate. As a lieutenant, he earned the title Air Force's top financial services company grade officer in 1997.

Not superhuman. But not a bad start.

Wing CC answers airmen's questions

Q: Is there a plan to help airmen with child care during the first 48 hours after notification of a deployment?

A: Personal preplanning is key to family deployment readiness. Air Force guidance assists this process by requiring single parents and dual military couples with family members to complete an Air Force Form 357, Family Care Certification. The family care program is a plan for childcare in the event of temporary duty, deployments, extended duty hours, recalls, etc. Each Air Force member is responsible for the care of family members during these circumstances. As part of the plan, members are required to identify short and long-term caregivers and provide powers of attorney as required. For more information on developing your family care plan, see your first sergeant.

Q: Are there plans to change the school district that base children go to?

A: Schools are a very important issue for our families. There are no plans to change the school zones. However, Lambs Elementary is attempting to add the 6th grade to the school. This change would move 6th graders from Morningside Middle to Lambs. As we receive information, I will have the *Airlift Dispatch* report it.

GI Mail provides secure, reliable e-mail link to loved ones

By Cynthia Bauer
AMC Public Affairs

With airmen deployed away from home, the opportunity to communicate with loved ones takes on greater importance.

"To provide a link back home, Air Force Crossroads, the Air Force's official community Web site, offers a secure and reliable e-mail program through Global Internet Mail to help families keep in touch," said Capt. Greg Whitaker, Headquarters Air Mobility Command Network Operations and Security Center.

"Although there are other non-profit and commercial e-mail and Internet services available, military members need to understand GI Mail is sponsored and maintained by the Air Force. We can't verify the operational capability or

security of other such services," he said.

Registration for GI Mail is free for those eligible through the Air Force Crossroads Web site at www.afcrossroads.com. Members can log into the Web-based system from any computer with Internet access. Eligible users include active duty, Reserve, National Guard, retired or Civil Service employees and their authorized family members.

Whitaker said there are three great reasons to use GI Mail: security, bandwidth and availability.

"You've probably heard about the various break-ins and hacker attacks at free commercial e-mail providers," he said. "GI Mail is a Department of Defense system, employing



the same great security you've grown accustomed to in AMC."

On bandwidth, unlike commercial providers, there is no advertising or "spamming" from junk mail distributors on GI Mail. "Not only will the service remain speedy

even in the most remote or forward locations, users won't spend time sifting through mountains of junk mail," Whitaker said. "And GI Mail is a DoD product provided for morale. Unlike civilian services, the system will get the attention and maintenance that our deployed personnel deserve."

In addition to GI Mail, the Air Force Crossroads Web site also offers forums and online chat rooms, and has online videoconferencing

tools under development. Access the Web site and click on "Communications Center" for additional information.

According to CeCe Medford, chief of AMC's Family Matters Branch, families who don't have computers or Internet access can rely on Family Support Centers for help.

"Our Family Support Centers have gone the extra mile to ensure families can stay in touch, even without a home computer," she said. "The FSCs have computers with connections to Internet service providers available for families to use."

Medford said that family readiness NCOs can explain video teleconferencing, how to borrow digital and video cameras, sign up for morale calls, and how to take advantage of special family activities.

AROUND THE AIR FORCE

Child-care test program provides peace of mind

WASHINGTON — Airmen who use base child-care facilities no longer need to take a day off of work when their children are too sick to stay with others.

A test program began recently at 25 Air Force installations designating a special-care provider for children who are mildly ill — children who would, under Air Force rules, not be allowed to stay in base child-care facilities with healthy children.

Under the program, a private-care provider at each base was selected by the family child-care panel and specially trained to deal with mildly ill children. Additionally, during the selection process, the Air Force looked first to those providers who already had special skills.

When children who are already in base child-care become sick, their parents pick them up and take them to the special-care provider until they are well enough to be in their regular child-care setting again.

If the program proves successful during the five-month test phase and additional funding is approved, Air Force services will expand the program to all installations where it is needed. **(Air Force Print News)**

Coalition drops leaflets in northern Iraq

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey — Coalition aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq dropped informational leaflets near Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery batteries for only the second time in 12 years.

Aircraft supporting Operation Northern Watch dropped 240,000 leaflets on two locations south of Tall Afar and southwest of Saddam Lake. Both locations have a history of Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery firing on coalition jets, according to officials.

The front message on the leaflets warns the Iraqi military, "Do not track or fire on coalition aircraft." The backside of the leaflets read, "Any hostile action by Iraqi air defenses toward coalition aircraft will be answered by immediate retaliation. Iraqi air defense positions which fire on coalition aircraft or activate air defense radar will be attacked

and destroyed." **(Air Force Print News)**

Air Force selects 2003 Tops In Blue team

SAN ANTONIO — The Air Force has selected its 2003 Tops In Blue team. Winners were selected from contestants who participated in the 2003 Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Airman 1st Class Jeanette Lagania, female vocalist, was selected from Charleston AFB.

This year's competition marks the 50th anniversary of the Air Force Worldwide Contest as well as the start of Tops In Blue. **(Air Force Print News)**

Two Osan airmen receive federal convictions

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Two airmen here received federal

convictions during two separate courts-martial recently.

Senior Airman Lucinda Shaw, 303rd Intelligence Squadron, pleaded not guilty to all charges and specifications against her during a special court-martial. She was charged with disrespecting her section commander, disobeying and disrespecting her first sergeant five times, disrespecting two other senior non-commissioned officers twice and disorderly conduct.

The court members found her not guilty of the charge of disorderly conduct, one specification of disobedience and one specification of disrespect, but guilty of the six other crimes.

She was sentenced to reduction to airman basic, forfeiture of \$767 pay per month for six months and a reprimand.

During several encounters with her section commander and first sergeant, Shaw was disrespectful by becoming belligerent, telling them they would pay by going to hell and ques-

tioning her first sergeant's authority over her. She was disobedient by interrupting him after being told to remain quiet and refusing to leave his office.

Senior Airman Dennis J. Scholz Jr., 5th Reconnaissance Squadron, pleaded guilty to the charge of possession of child pornography and elected to have his case tried by military judge alone at a general court-martial.

The judge found him guilty and sentenced Scholz to reduction to airman basic, confinement for eight months and a bad conduct discharge.

While using Scholz's personal computer to locate a file of Web-cam photographs, his roommate discovered images depicting minors engaging in sexually explicit acts. The airman informed his unit's first sergeant who notified the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Investigators found numerous sexually explicit images and movie files involving minors. **(Air Force Print News)**

Combat Camera Photo of the Week



Photo by Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen, 1 CTCS

View askew

Airman 1st Class Josh Robinson, 16th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, checks the brackets to the ramp of a C-17A Globemaster III. Loadmasters go through a detailed checklist prior to each flight.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement: The 437th Maintenance Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Paul Childers Monday, 10 a.m., in the 315th Airlift Wing Auditorium, Bldg. 60.

Retirement: The 437th Security Forces Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Billy Ford March 21, 3 p.m., at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Sheri Oulton at 963-3614.

Around the base

Shots: The Immunization Clinic is open to active-duty members only Monday-Friday, 7:30-9 a.m., and 1-4 p.m.

Closure: Gross Avenue, between Dickson Avenue and Batson Drive, will be reduced to one lane of traffic Monday-March 28 to allow for new water main installation. Alternate travel routes should be used to alleviate congestion.

OSA: The Charleston Officers' Spouses' Association will host its March event Thursday, 10 a.m., at Middleton Place Gardens, Hwy. 61.

The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron is paving roads in the Hunley Park housing area. Do not park on the streets listed.

Two-way traffic and driveway access will remain available. Vehicles left on the streets will be towed.

March 17: Tennessee, Utah, North Dakota, West Virginia, Mississippi, New York, South Carolina

March 18: Tennessee, Utah, North Dakota, West Virginia, Mississippi, New York, South Carolina, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Michigan

March 19: New York, South Carolina, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, Montana, Maryland

March 20: Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, Montana, Maryland

March 20-21: Maryland

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Airman 1st Class Scott Baldwin 437th Communications Squadron

Airman 1st Class Scott Baldwin is a visual imagery and intrusion detection systems technician for the 437th Communications Squadron.

"My job is primarily to perform maintenance on security systems including intrusion detection and closed circuit television systems," said Baldwin, a native of Jacksonville, Fla. "I do a wide range of electronics maintenance on base including the wing commander's cable access channel and various other systems. I also provide the base with video teleconferencing services."

Baldwin said he enjoys meeting new people at CAFB.

"I like the interaction with other people on base the best," said Baldwin. "It is good to get out and meet other people who make up the Air Force."

Educational benefits, work experience, and travel were all factors in Baldwin's decision to join the Air Force.

"I joined to accomplish something better than what I was doing back home," said Baldwin.

Stationed at Charleston AFB for a year and a half, Baldwin said he enjoys surfing, traveling, reading and playing music.

"Charleston has a diverse culture and a lot of history," said Baldwin. "There is plenty of stuff to do here, and I am close to home. The base is great and has a real family feel to it."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

The group will tour the gardens and have a boxed lunch prepared by Middleton Place. Cost for the tour and lunch is \$20. To RSVP, call Karin Norris at 871-9829 or Kathy Braunbeck at 767-2375.

Chiefs: The Chiefs' Group monthly meeting is Thursday, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. All chiefs and chief-selects are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Virgil Childers at 963-2054.

Healthcare: The Healthcare Consumers Council meeting is Thursday, 2 p.m., at the Charleston Club. The briefing provides quality reports on hospital services, TRICARE, pharmacy and health promotions. The council is committed to broadening beneficiaries' awareness about updates on healthcare benefits and services. The meeting is open to anyone eligible for military health care. For more information, call the base clinic at 963-6710.

Heart Link: A Heart Link spouse orientation is scheduled for March

25, 8:45 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Family Support Center. The program is geared towards spouses with five or fewer years of Air Force affiliation. For more information or to register, call Linda Saylor-Lankosz at 963-4406.

ESC: The Enlisted Spouses' Club is sponsoring a Bunko night for its meeting March 25, 6:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center. For more information, call Marcia Lytton at 760-6892.

Blood drive: The next base blood drive is scheduled for March 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Old Chapel Annex, Bldg. 217. All blood types are needed. Appointments are available and walk-ins welcome. For more information, call a squadron blood drive representative or Capt. Paul Brown, 963-4678.

Golf tournament: The 437th Operations Support Squadron is hosting a golf tournament March 28, with a shotgun start at noon at Wrenwoods Golf Course. The cost is \$15 plus green fees and cart. Refreshments, prizes and mulligans

are available. Sign up at the 437 OSS orderly room or the golf course. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Mark Lewald at 963-5561.

Committees: Committees are forming to plan for the 2003 Senior NCO Professional Development Seminar, to be held July 22-24, and the Senior NCO Induction Ceremony July 24. To assist with the Senior NCO PDS, call Senior Master Sgt. George Broome at 963-4646. To assist with the Induction Ceremony, call Senior Master Sgt. Susan Barnes at 963-5776.

Volunteers: Charleston AFB has a strong partnership with the local community. Many base personnel help to build and maintain that positive relationship through their community involvement. The 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs office would like to support these base personnel by making sure they get the visibility they deserve. Please notify the 437 AW Public Affairs Community Relations Section at 963-5535, -3383 or -5657, of any volunteer events or requests received from the community.

FEATURE

The Driving force: Vehicle operations keeps mission rolling

By Master Sgt. Angel Newman
437th Public Affairs

If C-17 missions are the heart beat of Charleston AFB, then the vehicles and drivers of the 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Management Flight are the arteries.

Since Charleston became a stage location in January, the vehicle operations element has steadily circulated people and cargo to and from the flightline.

"Aircrew transportation is our primary mission," said 2nd Lt. Gregory Marsh, 437 LRS vehicle operations officer. "We provide bus support for all home-station and transient aircrews flying through Charleston."

Whether it's moving crews to planes, post-flight stops or billeting, Marsh said the increase in operations at CAFB is keeping the transportation troops busy. Even with 32 people assigned to the element and 10 additional TDY personnel — five from Scott AFB, Ill., and 5 from McChord AFB, Wash. — most

people in the flight have worked 12-hour shifts since August.

"Our job is like a puzzle," said Master Sgt. Joe Lowery, 437 LRS vehicle operations element chief dispatcher. "We have to get all the pieces to fit."

The responsibility for assembling that puzzle often rests with the dispatchers. These "behind the scenes" players are tasked with making sure buses and u-drive vehicles are in the right place at the right time to maximize mission support.

"We coordinate the movement of all vehicles and drivers," said Staff Sgt. Timothy Beers, 437 LRS aircrew dispatcher. "It's hard to manage it all with the increased air flow. Our ops tempo has gone up a hundred fold."

Beers said one of the biggest challenges is taking care of the drivers.

"Just trying to get everyone the opportunity to have lunch is challenging," he said. "Our busiest times seem to be around noon and during our shift changes. Our drivers know they have to be out there for the crews and they always are."

The airmen and NCOs behind the wheel every day say they know how important their part of the mission is, and despite the fast



Photos by Andre Bullard
Airman 1st Class Shawn Graham, 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operator, "reflects" on the day to come.

pace, enjoy meeting new people and being "on the road."

"I get to meet all kinds of people and I'm always on the move," said Airman 1st Class Jay Perez, 437 LRS vehicle operator.

Airmen 1st Class Khalilah Hardaway, 437 LRS vehicle operator, said she feels she is doing something significant for the mission and wants everyone to know they "don't just drive buses."

"We have a lot of other responsibilities," said Hardaway, "Including driving tractor trailers to transport cargo and parts to keep the mission moving. People don't always see what we do."

One group knows just how vital this part of the mission is.

"There's a sequence of events when an aircrew gets alerted, and part of that is getting to the right place on time," said 1st Lt. Shayne Matthews, 17th Airlift Squadron C-17 co-pilot. "The vehicle operators go out of their way for us. It's nice after a 24-hour day to have such great support."

The vehicle operations element runs 24-hours a day, every day. Lowery said the group got past the initial "shock" of the increased ops tempo and is settling in at this pace.

"I've really been impressed with how everyone is handling the extra workload," said Lowery. "We have a good crew of professionals."



An aircrew boards a bus provided by the 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Vehicle Management Flight. The flight ensures mission accomplishment by getting aircrews to the right place at the right time.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive
Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Phone: 963-2536.

After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services: *Saturday* - 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass. *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church. *Weekdays* - 11:30 a.m. Mass. Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex.

Protestant Services: *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and 11 a.m. Children's Church. *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service in Bldg. 217 (old Chapel).

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Synagogue Emanu-El, 5 Windsor Dr., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 571-3264.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission: 99 cents for adults and children.

Any person under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (a minimum of 21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Tonight, 7:30 p.m.

"Final Destination 2" – Ali Larter

Kimberly watches helplessly as a logging truck spins out of control and sets off a horrifying chain reaction. A moment later, she finds herself stuck in on-ramp traffic with a line of commuters she saw die moments before. **(R) 90 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"Biker Boyz" – Laurence Fishburne

An undefeated racer, Smoke, is the undisputed King of Cali. Smoke's dominance of the set is about to be threatened by a young motorcycle-racing prodigy called Kid, who is determined to earn the coveted title. **(PG-13) 111 minutes**

March 21, 7:30 p.m.

"The Recruit" – Al Pacino

Set at the "secret" CIA training facility called the Farm at Camp Peary in Virginia, a young agent trainee suspects his instructor of being a double agent for the Chinese government. **(PG-13) 105 minutes**

SPORTS & FITNESS

Aerobics program offers fitness with attitude

Volunteer instructors take fitness to a new level for treadmill-weary workout buffs

By 2nd Lt. Kristy Miller
437 AW Public Affairs

The Fitness and Sports Center at Charleston AFB provides more than just treadmills and weight machines to its members.

For those who require extra motivation to reach their optimal

level of fitness, the fitness center provides a wide variety of aerobic fitness classes, all taught by volunteers.

"People come to get that extra push," said Tech. Sgt. Denese Bellamy, an aerobics instructor for the past 15 years.

Bellamy is an instructor with

nearly three years of experience at Charleston AFB. The NCOIC of administration and training at the 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Bellamy is also seven months pregnant. She said the fact that she is pregnant seems to motivate the people who attend her classes.

"People don't want to be beaten by a pregnant woman," Bellamy said, "so it makes them work a little harder."

Bellamy said her classes are geared toward an intermediate to advanced level, but said she would never turn anyone away. The main goal is to have fun so people enjoy themselves and want to come back, she said.

"The first time is a little confusing, but it is repetitive so you learn quickly and your brain just takes over," said Debbie Evans, a teachers assistant who has been attending classes for the past five or six years.

Many people who participate in the aerobics program enjoy it because it provides a social aspect to increasing their physical fitness. Fast, upbeat music pumps up participants and gives them more energy.

"The majority of my people have been coming for years," said Barbara Lang, an instructor at CAFB since 1994. "You make good friendships."

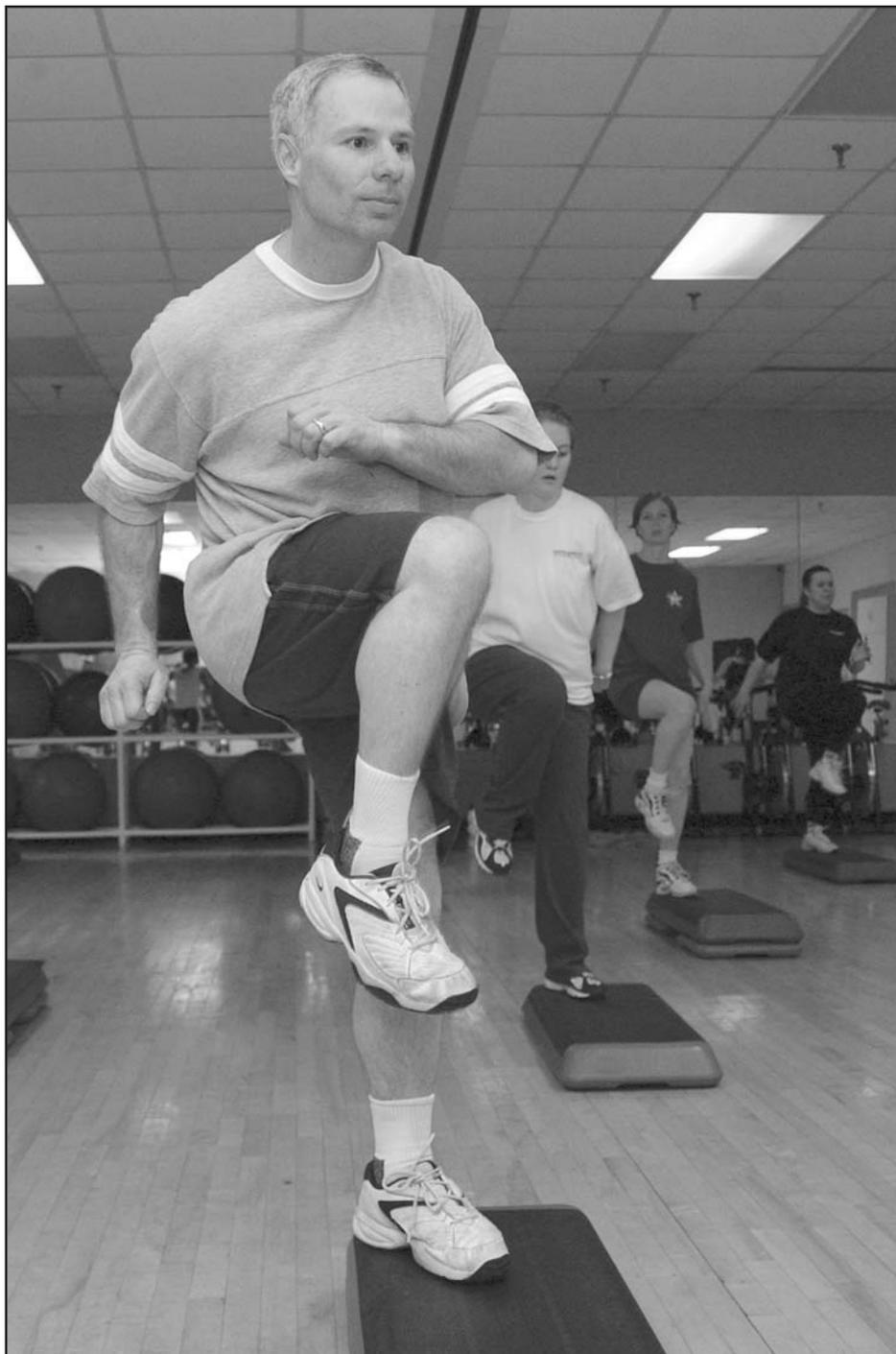
Most of the classes incorporate several types of training, including kickboxing, weight training and step. All of the classes are designed to assist members who participate in the Self-Directed Fitness Improvement Program, Monitored Fitness Improvement Program or Weight and Body Fat Management programs.

All of the classes offered by the fitness center are free and are taught by volunteers only.

"We teach because we have a genuine love for it," said Chiquet Nicholes, an instructor for the past eight years.

All of the instructors are certified by the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America. To maintain their certifications, instructors undergo testing every two years. They are also required to maintain adult Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation certification.

For more information on aerobics classes, call the Sports and Fitness Center at 963-3347.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Richard Wolverton keeps up with his aerobic workouts, and also gets a chance to spend time with his wife, Barbara Lang, one of the Fitness and Sports Center's volunteer aerobics instructors.



Barbara Lang, volunteer aerobics instructor, leads her class through a pumped up workout at the Fitness and Sports Center. Lang started leading aerobics classes in 1994 and said many people in her class have been coming for years. Aerobics classes provide a social aspect to fitness and are set to fast, upbeat music to get the heart pumping.