

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, November 14, 2003



Photo provided by Air Force Services Agency

Tops in Blue

Tops In Blue vocalists Airman 1st Class Jeanette Lagania, 437th Airlift Wing Command Post controller, Airman 1st Class Erika Moreno, Minot AFB, N.D., and Senior Airman Jamie Coffey, Scott AFB, Ill., sing during a recent performance. The "Soaring with Eagles" Tops In Blue performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. For a story on Airman Lagania, see Page 14.

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Active-duty military are veterans too

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SMOKEOUT

Team Charleston provides way to quit

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BASKETBALL

All Armed Forces team prepares for WMB

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MISSION POSSIBLE!	
Charleston Departures	16,857
Maintenance reliability	93.9%
Cargo moved	118,628 t
Personnel deployed	684
Reservists activated	968

(Jan. 1, 2003 - Nov. 11, 2003)

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

COMMENTARY

Commander's Comments

By Col. Brooks Bash
437AW commander

Hello Team Charleston! I have been TDY quite a bit lately, which has given me time to reflect on how truly lucky I am to be your commander. Charleston AFB is simply an outstanding place to live and work. Without doubt, the historic location and weather are unequalled. Additionally, we are directly supporting our nation's fight against terrorism with the world's greatest airlifter, the C-17. In the past year, we supported the largest C-17 stage operation ever and smashed every operational record worth tracking. But, most importantly, the people of Team Charleston, active, reserve, civilian and contractors, are the best I've ever had the privilege of working within my career – period. Thank you for all that you do.

Congratulations

Congratulations to command candidate and senior development education selections. The U.S. Air Force Command Screening Board candidate list identified four of our officers eligible for **group or wing command** opportunities. Congratulations to **Colonels William Bender**, Mobility Wing; **Christopher Coley**, Mobility Group; **Rowayne Schatz**, Mobility Wing; and **Maria Dowling**, former Civil Engineer Squadron commander, Mission Support Group. In addition, congratulations to **Majors Chris Kulas**, 17th Airlift Squadron; **Chris Richardson**, 15th Airlift Squadron; and **Andrea Rupp**, 437th Maintenance Operations Squadron, for being selected for senior development education.

Civil Engineer Awards

Congratulations to the **Fire Protection Flight** for winning the Air Mobility Command Chief Master Sgt. Ralph E. Sanborn award, and **Jeffrey Feltner**, for winning the AMC Civil Engineer Manager of the Year award in the civilian technician category.

Veterans Day

I would like to say thank you to Team Charleston members who participated in the Veteran's Day parade and other events in the surrounding communities. The Charleston community shows us tremendous support every day, and it is appropriate for us to show our appreciation. Veteran's Day is a day to remember all the veterans who sacrificed in the name of freedom and also for those still serving today. We especially send out our thoughts and prayers to more than 700 Team Charleston members currently deployed in the fight against terrorism.

Mobility Exercises

You may find yourself asking why we need to practice deploying when we are deploying daily. We must practice large-scale deployments to ensure we can meet our maximum wartime deployment mission. Indeed, Charleston AFB was given Inspector General credit for our past efforts, yet we will next be evaluated in early 2005. Therefore, we have a mobility exercise planned Monday through Nov. 21. There are more than 100 people participating in the exercise that will evaluate initial responses and Ability to Survive and Operate. The 437th Airlift Wing is planning a series of four exercises in preparation for our big exercise in January 2005.

Tops in Blue

I encourage everyone to attend the Tops In Blue concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. The event and parking are free! Last year, we had a packed house and the audience was not disappointed. It was great. This year, we have a special treat at the Tops In Blue performance. Our very own **Airman 1st Class Jeanette Lagania**, 437th Airlift Wing Command Post, will be one of the singers. Come out and show support for her!

Great American Smokeout

The Great American Smokeout is fast approaching. For those who smoke and want to quit, I encourage you to go to the Health and Wellness Center and participate in their Smoking Cessation classes. For those who do not smoke, help your fellow co-workers who do smoke to stop. Quitting smoking is not easy, but the long-term health benefits are well worth the effort.

Turkey Trot

The Thanksgiving fun run is coming up at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 21 in front of the fitnesscenter. At the last run, we had more than 400 people show up. With the competition heating up for the Spirit Trophy, it will be interesting to see who will win it this time. Also, I ask that you each please bring a new toy to deposit in the Toys for Tots box which will be at the fitness center prior to the run.

Safety

Fantastic job keeping safe on Halloween! We had no incidents that weekend, so let's continue to be safe for the upcoming holidays. For those of you with children, be extra vigilant for their safety during the holiday season. Holiday decorations, traveling, new toys, and visiting homes that may not be child-proof can put your children in danger. Remember to be safe out there.

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.

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.



Col. Brooks Bash
437 AW commander

Dispatch

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Military are veterans, too

By Maj. Dani Johnson
Minot AFB Public Affairs

"I am a veteran." Four words that still seem so strange for me to say.

In my mind, veterans have always been the men in their American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars caps who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It hasn't been the airman or officer you see playing with a young child in the park or have over to your house for a barbeque.

In September I returned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from a five-month deployment to Baghdad, Iraq, and Camp Doha, Kuwait, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I didn't think much about the term "veteran" as I quickly outprocessed there and headed here for my new assignment.

Now that I'm in my new office, I've had time to reflect on the past year and what being a veteran means.

During the time I was deployed, I was shot at and found out that, if I had to, I could defend myself and was lucky I didn't have to. I worked longer hours and was more fatigued than I ever thought I could be and still accomplished the mission.

One of my most memorable experiences was when Saddam's sons were killed July 22. I was the public affairs operations and plans chief in the joint operations center for Head-

worth repeating

"Not once ... did I think, 'When I leave here, I will be a combat veteran.' I did what I had to do with the resources I had available and left knowing that I gave everything I had and made a difference."

—Maj. Dani Johnson
Minot AFB, N.D., Public Affairs

quarters Coalition Joint Task Force-Seven. Upon notification of the possible deaths, I was in charge of developing and coordinating all the guidance and preparation for the upcoming press conferences.

I will always have in my memory the image of me at a laptop with five Army colonels and an Army brigadier general hanging over my shoulders 'helping' me write the commanding general's opening statement. Within 24 hours, we held two live international press conferences. It was a team effort all around. It took everyone, across all specialties in two operations centers, to prepare the general for every possible question and to inform him of the details of the operation.

Since I was on the coalition headquarters staff, I also learned much about our sister services and coalition partners. I learned that no matter what pattern is on our uniforms or

the accent in our English, we were all brothers and sisters in arms together for a common cause – to rebuild Iraq, bottom line.

Not once during that time or any other time during the deployment did I think, "When I leave here, I will be a combat veteran." I did what I had to do with the resources I had available and left knowing that I gave everything I had and made a difference.

I'm not the only veteran here or at other bases. A veteran is an airman guarding the flightline, a captain flying the B-52H Stratofortress and an NCO working on the communication lines in the missile field.

It includes many others across the base and the Air Force who are too numerous to mention here, who served recently in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Look closer at that senior NCO and lieutenant colonel; they are probably veterans of operations Allied Force and Desert Storm. Some here might even be veterans from the Vietnam War.

Don't forget our civilians either. Many of them are prior military, and served during times of conflict.

All of us have a reason to thank those who came before us. (I hope you didn't) forget to thank the ones standing next to you this Veteran's Day.

Because I am a veteran. **(Article provided by Air Force Print News)**

Action line

Callers discuss clogged drains in housing, civilian meals

Q: I live in base housing and ever since the contractor connected our house to the new sewer system, a strong sewage odor has been present inside and outside our house. The odor is very strong and extremely nauseating. It is present four to six days a week at varied times during the day and night.

I have small children and I am very concerned with health problems that may occur from inhaling the fumes. The children have been complaining of headaches and stomach aches quite frequently lately. I am also concerned that sewage may eventually backup into the drains in our house. We have tried pouring chlorine bleach in the drains and burning scented candles to elimi-

nate and mask the odor, but these are only temporary patches. Housing maintenance personnel came out to check it, but said there is nothing they can do because it's something done by the contractor and they don't know what's causing it.

A: Thank you for bringing this situation to our attention. The contractor who worked on this particular project has reviewed the situation and your particular house was not included in the renovation. However, the work accomplished in your area should have improved the sewage flow. The military plumbers were sent to investigate and discovered an extensive sewage backup which affected several houses and caused a strong odor. The line has since been cleared, and it is flowing

much better now. If you have additional questions or comments, please contact 437th Civil Engineer Squadron's Service Call at 963-5027, and we will gladly work the issue.

Q: Why can't civilian workers have the opportunity to eat in the chow hall? I'm a shift worker, and we work around the clock. I think in our situation, we should be able to eat there. Most of us are ex-military, some not retired and some retired.

A: Thank you for your concern regarding Department of Defense civilians having access to the Robert D. Gaylor Dining Facility. The dining facility's primary mission is to provide meals for active duty dorm residents. Charleston AFB policy allows officers

and DoD civilians to eat at the dining facility for the midnight meal, 10:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., provided they are on duty. This provision is in place due to the lack of eating establishments on or near base which are open during this timeframe.

However, during regular hours, we invite you to try the Charleston Club, Golf Course, Bowling Center and AAFES establishments for your dining needs. Additionally, officers and DoD civilians are authorized to eat in the dining facility on Federal holidays, Easter and the Air Force Birthday.

-- Col. Brooks Bash
437AW commander

For submissions to the commander's action line, e-mail action@charleston.af.mil or call 963-5581.

NEWS

Team Charleston help airmen quit smoking

By 2nd Lt. Shaloma McGovern
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB is cutting back on smoking Thursday, by implementing an Adopt-a-Smoker program and tobacco cessation classes to promote the Great American Smokeout.

The third Thursday in November has traditionally been the Great American Smokeout, when millions of Americans stop smoking for at least a day.

"Each year, millions of Americans try to quit and for each quitting attempt, many are successful," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Scott Norris, 437th Medical Group medical staff chief.

"I tell my patients if they could change one single thing to improve the quality of life it should be to quit smoking. If you don't succeed, try and try again because with more attempts to quit smoking the success rate goes up," he continued.

"The Great American Smokeout gives smokers a chance to put down their tobacco products for 24 hours and build confidence within themselves," said Tech. Sgt. Janet Clayton, 437 MDG Health and Wellness Center NCOIC. "They can prove they can give up their

nicotine addiction for one day, and then in-turn build on that to make a lifetime choice of being tobacco free."

The HAWC is promoting the Great American Smokeout by offering Adopt-A-Smoker program. A non-smoker can adopt a smoker for the day and help them with their struggles of giving up tobacco.

The non-smoker and the smoker sign a contract at the HAWC. The contract allows the non-smoker to shadow the smoker and ensure that no tobacco products are consumed that day. To help with this process, the HAWC will provide a survival kit for anyone who fills out an adoption contract. The survival kit contains toothpaste, a tooth brush, gum and a candy packet.

Although Adopt-a-Smoker program is set for Thursday, squadrons have begun showing their members how to quit.

Tech. Sgt. Russell Gardner, 437 AMXS flight line expeditor, volunteers his time to be a tobacco cessation instructor and holds weekly classes.

"The program is going great," said Sergeant Gardner. "Our class is ran by AMXS members for AMXS, and the response has been very positive."

Great
American
Smokeout

Charleston AFB
Adopt-A-Smoker
Program

Kick the Habit Nov. 21

Call 963-4007 for
more information

Graphic by Sean Erbe

"If you save your money for the future, you call it an investment," continued Sergeant Gardner. "Consider your health an investment for the future."

For more information about the Great American Smokeout, Adopt-a-Smoker program or to sign up for the next Tobacco Cessation class, call the HAWC at 963-7004.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

Inspection

Airman 1st Class Brandon Keith, 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight technician, hooks up a moosehead to the hydrant to fuel a C-17. The FMF is one of three finalists in Air Mobility Command competing for the William N. Penton Award, which is given to the best fuels flight.

AROUND THE AIR FORCE

Team helps get news to America without delay

WASHINGTON – Senior coalition leaders in Iraq are about to increase their ability to keep America informed.

Two state-of-the-art ultracompact satellite terminals — along with a two-person team to set them up and get them working — are on their way to Iraq. Starting in late November, the satellites will beam up-to-the-second news feeds and video footage back to the United States.

Plans include making the feeds available to military news broadcast outlets, such as the American Forces Radio and Television Service News Center and American Forces Network, as well as to commercial television outlets. The Defense Media Center, located at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., is providing the equipment and manpower support.

With these terminals, senior U.S. officials will get “the word” back to the United States without delay, no matter where they happen to be in Iraq, said Allison Barber. She is the special assistant to the acting assistant secretary of defense for public affairs. **(Air Force Print News)**

Program offers business opportunities to vets

WASHINGTON – The Veterans Affairs loan program, long known for helping veterans get their own home, is now helping them obtain their own business.

Veterans can now go from “defending the American dream to owning it,” said Don DeBolt, president of the International Franchise Association, which sponsors the Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative program.

The VA “is very high on finding business opportunities for former military (members), and franchising is one of the areas (identified) to look at,” Mr. DeBolt said.

Businesses participating in VetFran have agreed to help veterans acquire franchises by providing “best-deal” programs and financial incentives not otherwise available to other investors, Mr. DeBolt said. Veterans can acquire business franchises with down payments of 10 percent or less of the initial franchise cost, which can range from \$45,000 to \$150,000.

A wide range of franchises are avail-

able including food services to hotel and automotive services. VetFran has 113 companies participating in the program, Mr. DeBolt said.

To learn more about franchise opportunities, visit the VA’s Center for Veterans Enterprise Web site at www.vetbiz.gov. **(Air Force Print News)**

VA launches new ‘Kids Page’ Web site

WASHINGTON – Department of Veterans Affairs officials announced the launch of “VA Kids” on Nov. 5. The new Web page is designed to help young people understand what it means to be a veteran.

“The ideals of military service and patriotism can be unfamiliar to some children and young adults,” said Anthony Principi, VA secretary. “The VA Kids Web page supports President (George W.) Bush’s initiatives on education and volunteerism by providing an entertaining and informative way for young people to learn why veterans are special.”

One section of the site targets students in kindergarten through fifth grade, another for students in sixth through 12th grades, and a third for

teachers. The site also has information about VA, Veterans Day, scholarships, student volunteer opportunities, events for disabled veterans and links to veteran-related sites.

For younger students, the site has interactive activities such as puzzles, coloring pages, matching contests and age-appropriate language to describe a number of patriotic topics.

The older students’ page has information on volunteer programs, scholarships and more sophisticated educational resources, games and reference links.

The teachers’ section contains links and suggested classroom activities.

People can visit the site at www.va.gov/kids. **(American Forces Press Service)**

Civilian health-care premiums increasing

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas – Air Force civilian health-care plan premiums are expected to increase an average of more than 10 percent in January. That means employees with ‘self-only’ coverage will pay about \$5 more per pay period and those with ‘family cov-

erage’ will pay \$11.95 more.

Employees will have the opportunity to review and update plans during the Federal Employee’s Health Benefits program’s open season, Nov. 10 to Dec. 8.

The number of health-plan carriers is also increasing by 17 for a total of 205 options available for employees to choose from in 2004, said Janet Thomas of the benefits and entitlements service team, or BEST, at the Air Force Personnel Center.

Other changes include two new “consumer-driven” plans allow employees to manage their own health-care needs and health dollars. Also, nine health-plan carriers are dropping out of the Federal Employee’s Health Benefits program this year.

Office of Personnel Management officials released guides comparing costs, benefits and quality indicators. Those guides are available online at www.opm.gov/insure/health/index.asp. Individual plan brochures will be available soon, officials said.

More information is available online www.opm.gov/insure or at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm. **(Air Force Personnel Center News Service)**

Photo of the Week



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Whittington

S.C. senator becomes military judge

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. — Col. James Van Orsdol (right) helps Lt. Col. Lindsey Graham don a judge’s robe in a courtroom Nov. 4, after Colonel Graham was sworn in as a new judge for the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals. Colonel Graham, an Air Force reservist, is a U.S. senator from South Carolina in civilian life. Colonel Van Orsdol is a former chief judge for the court.

NEWS BRIEFS

Spotlight

CORRECTION - Gift wrapping: A meeting to assign dates for the BX gift wrapping fund raiser at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Mission Support Group Conference Room, Bldg. 1600. Any organization wishing to participate in the BX gift wrapping fund raiser must send a representative to the meeting. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Carla Sharman at 963-2202.

Retirement: The 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Barb Guest at 2 p.m. today at the Logistics Readiness Squadron, Bldg. 610. For more information, call Troy Pery at 963-4884.

Around the base

Red Cross Dental Assisting: The 437th Dental Flight is now accepting applications for the next Red Cross Dental Assisting class beginning in January. This program includes a short academic phase followed by a hands-on dental assisting training with a qualified dental assistant. Some duties include preparing a dental treatment room to treat patients, taking and recording vital signs, preparing dental materials for use, passing instruments and medications for restoring teeth, assisting in cleaning and sterilizing dental instruments and some administrative tasks. The program lasts approximately six months, with a 40-hour workweek starting at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. with holidays off. Applications can be picked up at the dental clinic's reception desk. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Zelma Garcia at 963-6842. The deadline for submitting applications is Dec. 4.

Hockey: The Charleston AFB hockey team will play the Navy team at 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the North Charleston Coliseum. The game will take place prior to the Stingrays military appreciation night game against the Mississippi Sea Wolves at 7:30 p.m. Discount tickets are available at the outdoor recreation center for \$7 each. Those attending the CAFB game must have a ticket for the Stingrays game. Tickets will also be available at the coliseum on the evening of the game.

Charleston Warrior of the Week



Photo by Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer

Senior Airman Erin Brock 437th Airlift Wing Staff

Senior Airman Erin Brock is a chaplain assistant at the Base Chapel. Her responsibilities include handling any publicity for the chapel.

"I get the word out on top of making sure the chaplains have all the support they need to do their job," she said.

Airman Brock said the best part of her job is visiting the troops and seeing people smile.

"It gives me a sense of accomplishment, and there is nothing better than making people happy," she said.

The Syracuse, N.Y., native joined the Air Force to travel the world, meet new people and to further her education. In the future, she plans to become a paramedic or a physician's assistant.

Airman Brock has been in the Air Force for four years and at Charleston AFB for three.

"I like Charleston because the people are nice and friendly," she said. "I also like the fact that Charleston is rich in history."

In her off-duty time, Airman Brock likes to relax and have fun with her friends and family.

The Charleston Team is also holding tryouts for new players. Those interested in playing must own all their own equipment. For more information, e-mail Staff Sgt. Jason Smith at Jason.smith88@charleston.af.mil.

Parking renovations: Several parking lots will be restriped Saturday through Sunday. There is no parking in any spaces in these lots that weekend. Vehicles left in the parking lots will be towed off base at the owner's expense.

The following parking lots or areas will be painted:

- The entire parking lot for Wing Headquarters, Bldg. 1600
- The entire parking lot for the Union Office, Bldg. 636
- Faded portions of the parking lot for the Skills Center, Bldg. 637
- The entire parking lot for Housing Maintenance, Bldg. 1597
- Hunley Park Entrance
- River's Gate Entrance
- All handicap spaces in the commissary parking lot
- The entire parking lot across the street from the Base Theater

■ The entire parking lot across the street from Civil Engineer, Bldg. 661

For more information, call the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron at 963-5006.

MSS: The Mission Support Squadron will be closed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday for an annual Thanksgiving Dinner. For more information, call Capt. Adrian Hageman at 963-4539.

FEHB open season: The Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season begins runs through Dec. 8. Charleston AFB will have an FEHB open season fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday at the Family Support Center. The FEHB guides are available at www.opm.gov/insure/health/. For more information, call Tammie Jones at 963-4474.

NAHM: There will be a Native American Heritage Month picnic at the base picnic from 3 to 6 p.m. on Thursday. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. For more information, call Master Sgt. Brian Miller at 963-4085.

Housing office: The Housing Office will be closed Nov. 28. In case of emergencies, call the Fire Department at 963-3777.

AADD: Volunteers are needed to set up Airman Against Drunk Driving here. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail Senior Airman Aaron Stransky at aaron.stransky@charleston.af.mil, or Airman 1st Class Amy Perry at amy.perry@charleston.af.mil.

Recycle: America Recycles Day is Saturday and is designed to remind everyone that recycling works, and everyone has an important role to keep it working. Charleston AFB recycles scrap metal, C-17 and other vehicle tires, used oil, antifreeze and other solvents, construction and demolition debris, white goods (stoves, refrigerators, etc), batteries, fluorescent bulbs, wood pallets, electronic waste, cardboard, glass, plastic, aluminum, yard waste, and mixed paper. For more information, call the pollution prevention program manager at 963-2690.

FEATURE

Command Performance

Charleston airman to dazzle crowd

By 2nd Lt. Kristy Miller
437 AW Public Affairs

One of Charleston AFB's very own airmen will 'wow' the crowd during her Tops In Blue performance at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center.

Airman 1st Class Jeanette Lagania, 437th Airlift Wing command post controller, has toured with Tops In Blue since March, but singing has been a major part of her life since she can remember.

"Everyone in my family sings and I grew up doing choir, voice lessons and music productions in school," Airman Lagania said.

Born and raised in Perry, Ohio, Airman Lagania joined the Air Force to follow in the footsteps of her older brother. She said her initial interest in Tops In Blue sparked during basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas.

"Everyday during (physical training), I used to see them (Tops In Blue) going to the production center across the street," she said. "Right before we graduated basic, we got to see one of their shows. They were amazing, and when I saw them, I realized I wanted to do that."

Airman Lagania was selected to be a Tops In Blue performer after competing with almost 300 other applicants in a series of auditions. Tops In Blue is a year-long permissive TDY, and Airman Lagania said she has enjoyed every minute of it so far.

"I have had absolutely amazing experiences," Airman Lagania said. "It was way more than I knew I was auditioning for. We just came back from overseas and to be able to do shows in several locations over there was just great."

Out of all of the locations Tops In Blue travels to, Airman Lagania's favorite performance so far was in Los Angeles.

"The entire street was covered

with people, and it was our largest crowd," she said. "People actually stood on the street for our entire two-hour show. It was early on in the tour so that was a huge accomplishment."

For most of the Tops In Blue performers, real satisfaction comes not only from a great performance, but from the audience's reaction to the performance.

"It's like taking people on a vacation," Airman Lagania said. "We've heard from so many people from different shows that it's like coming and forgetting everything about life. Especially when it's in the desert, it just takes people to a different world."

Even though the performance is the same each time, the new people in the audience make every show a little different.

"It is so much fun and it never gets old," Airman Lagania said. "People who have seen the show several times say it just gets better and better."

As exciting as every performance is, Tuesday night's is perhaps one of the most exciting for this Charleston-based superstar.

"I am thrilled to be coming back to Charleston," said Airman Lagania. "The whole time we were flying in Iraq and overseas, we flew on a lot of C-17s and a lot of them were from Charleston. It made me look forward to getting home. I can't wait to see everybody and show my squadron what I've been doing this whole year. I can't wait to give a great show for everyone."

Airman Lagania said she signed up for six years with the Air Force and plans on staying in longer. She also said she definitely plans on trying for another Tops In Blue tour.

"I would like to thank Col. (Brooks) Bash (437th Airlift Wing commander) for allowing me to do this. He has been extremely supportive through everything and I am very grateful he has allowed me to do this."



Photo provided by Air Force Services Agency

Airman 1st Class Jeanette Lagania, 437th Airlift Wing Command Post controller, is a vocalist for Tops In Blue. They are scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center.

Tops In Blue history

Tops in Blue is celebrating its 50th year of entertainment history and is one of the oldest and most widely traveled entertainment groups of its kind. This world-renowned production is an all-active duty Air Force special unit made up of talented amateur performers selected for their entertainment abilities. The group's mission is to perform for military personnel and their families throughout the world.

Since its first world tour in 1953, the group has also performed on film, produced albums and appeared on national television with legends such as Ed Sullivan, Bob Hope, Alabama, Barbara Mandrell, BOYZ II MEN and many others. They have performed the entire halftime shows for the 1981 Garden State Bowl and Super Bowl XIX.

Tops in Blue was among the first entertainment groups to travel into the most forward location in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Qatar and Kyrgyzstan.

Tops in Blue has featured more than 1,700 airmen and performed more than 7,000 shows during the past 50 years.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amy Perry

FOD Walk

A Team Charleston pilot scopes the ground for foreign objects Nov. 6 during the wing semi-annual Foreign Object Damage Walk. FOD is responsible for millions of dollars in damage to aircraft a year.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive
Office: Monday-Friday, 9 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* - 4:15 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass. *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church. Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. Daily Mass is canceled until April 2004.

Protestant Services: *Sunday* - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service and 11 a.m. Children's Church. *Sunday* - 5 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service. *Wednesday* - noon Protestant Bible Study.

For information on other faith groups, call the Base Chapel at 963-2536.

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 the start of the 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.



WELLNESS TIP

HOW CLEAN IS YOUR WATER?

Water-borne diseases kill seven million people yearly including more than two million children

-  1.4 billion people do not have safe water sources and are subject to water contamination threats, including typhoid, cholera and rotavirus
-  Many countries lack adequate sanitation practices and capabilities
-  Air Force Global Reach Laydown/Preventative Aerospace Medicine teams ensure safe water sources for airmen at deployed locations
-  It's recommended that units fund bottled water when local sources of fresh water cannot be relied on



Graphic by Sean Erbe

Today, 7:30 p.m.
"The Fighting Temptations"
 - Cuba Gooding, Jr.

Cuba is a smooth New York ad executive who loses his job and has nowhere to turn. His luck changes when he discovers he's going to receive a nice inheritance from a wealthy aunt who recently died. But when he returns to his hometown in Alabama to collect the cash, he uncovers the catch: First he must organize a successful gospel choir. That's easier said than sung, because he can't find any talented singers until he meets sultry jazz singer Beyonce. **(PG-13) 123 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
"Out of Time" - Denzel Washington

Matt Lee Whitlock is chief of police in small Banyan Key, Fla. He's respected by his peers and loved by his community. But when Banyan Key is shocked by a double homicide, everything Matt Lee thought he knew starts to unravel, and he finds himself in a race against time to solve the murders before he himself falls under suspicion. Matt Lee has to stay a few steps ahead of his own police force and everyone he's trusted in order to find out the truth. **(PG-13) 113 minutes**

SPORTS & FITNESS

Five CAFB pilots run Marine Corps Marathon

By 2nd Lt. Jennifer Andrews
437 AW Public Affairs

Five Charleston AFB pilots joined more than 18,000 runners in the 28th Annual Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 26 in Washington, D.C.

Capt. Jill Dulaney, 17th Airlift Squadron, finished in 4:45:26; Capt. Scott Anderson, 17 AS, finished in 3:49:48; Capt. Jake Raser, 17 AS finished in 3:09:09; Capt. Meg Martin, 16th Airlift Squadron, finished in 3:33:34; and Capt. Adam Walsh, 16 AS, finished in 4:07:08.

"All of us have our own individual reasons for running the race, but I think we could all agree the course, being in D.C., and supporting the Marine Corps were a big part of picking this race," said Captain Raser.

The Marine Corps Marathon is also called the "Marathon of Monuments" because of the scenic course runners take past Washington landmarks. The course started in Arlington, Va., and wound through Crystal City, past the Pentagon before leading into the District of Columbia via the Key Bridge into Georgetown and Rock Creek Park. The course also took runners by the Kennedy Center before entering the Mall Area and passing numerous monuments and memorials, such as the Lincoln,

Jefferson, Korean War and Vietnam Veteran's memorials; Washington Monument, and the U.S. Capitol.

Captain Anderson said he believes training is the key to successfully running a marathon.

"Train, train, train," said Captain Anderson. "You can't just wing this."

The marathon is dubbed "The People's Marathon" because just about anyone can sign up to compete, and there are no qualifying times, just a registration deadline.

Captain Dulaney thought a marathon would be a challenge.

"The time commitment is a challenge," said Captain Dulaney, whose training routine is running four to five times per week with a longer run each weekend. "It takes a long time to run all those miles. Training on the road is difficult, too."

"I ran my first marathon for an excuse to go home to San Diego when I was at the academy," said Captain Raser. "I've gotten back into them now because it's the only sport I can really commit to since I'm on the road so much."

The first military female to cross the finish line was Army Maj. Jacqueline Chen, a podiatrist at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in

Germany, who completed the marathon in 3:07:36. Army Staff Sgt. Gerardo Aliva, stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., was the first U.S. military male to cross the finish line in 2:33:01.

The Marine Corps organized the marathon in 1976 to promote its commitment to physical fitness. It hosted about 1,200 runners the first year. Today, the 26.2 mile amateur race is the sixth-largest marathon in the United States and the 10th largest worldwide.

Marathon Records

Marine Corps

- Men: 1987 Jeff Scuffins 2:14:01
- Women: 1990 Olga Markova 2:37:00

American Record

- Men: 2002 Khalid Khannouchi 2:05:38
- Women: 2003 Deena Drossin 2:21:16

World Record

- Men: 2002 Khalid Khannouchi 2:05:38
- Women: 2003 Paula Radcliffe 2:15:25

Guru's picks

Two-time winner claims prize

By The Gridiron Guru
"The Best" pigskin prognosticator

Michael "Iron Chef" Cook blew away all of the competition on his way to capturing his second crown of the year. With the rest of the field struggling in a weekend full of upsets, Cook posted a very impressive mark of 11-3.

Cook's nearest competitor was "Jesse" James Blakey who put together a very respectable record of 9-5. Be sure to stop by Public Affairs to pick up your prizes.

The Guru would also like to recognize Jeffrey "Out Of" Stockdale who was the only person to correctly pick the Chargers upset of the now Struggling Minnesota Vikings.

The Oakland Faders top the list of Stink-Out-Loud award winners this week. In a post game inter-

view, Raiders owner Al "Just Win Baby" Davis said, "We couldn't run, block, pass or tackle, other than that, I thought we played a good game."

This week's cellar dweller award is shared by several people. Jesse "The Body" Hardy, Debbie "Aim High" Morillo and Garrett "Lou" Reed all posted identical records of 4-10. The Guru awards all three of you a Week 10 dunce cap and is granting you permission to enter again next week to try and redeem yourselves.

Next week I will be unveiling the current Top 10 list at the halfway point of the season. The race is very tight, and the list is sure to include yours truly and not Ben "Speedy" Gonzales, who constantly wants to know how the Guru is doing! Now on to my Week 12 "bet your house, car and kid's lunch money" picks!

Gridiron Guru's Week 12 picks

Sunday, Nov. 23

Carolina @ Dallas
Indianapolis @ Buffalo
New England @ Houston
Pittsburgh @ Cleveland
San Francisco @ **Green Bay**
St. Louis @ Arizona
Oakland @ **Kansas City**
Washington @ **Miami**

Detroit @ **Minnesota**
Jacksonville @ **N.Y. Jets**
New Orleans @ **Philadelphia**
Seattle @ Baltimore
Chicago @ **Denver**
Cincinnati @ San Diego
Tennessee @ Atlanta
Monday, Nov. 24
N.Y. Giants @ **Tampa Bay**

Monday Night total points: ____
Guru's Monday night points: 40

*The Gridiron Guru's picks are in bold and italics.
Send your picks to swami@charleston.af.mil only.
Include your name, phone number and any comments in the e-mail.
Picks can no longer be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office.
Picks must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 21, 4 p.m.*

USA Team prepares for the World Games



Photos by Staff Sgt. Ricky Bloom

The All Armed Forces Basketball Team huddles to pray before their game against Charleston Southern University Nov. 7. The All Armed Forces team arrived at Charleston Nov. 4 to choose the members that would be attending the World Military Games in Catania, Sicily. The WMG is the second largest world sporting event aside from the Olympics.

Cory Nelson, a first lieutenant from Los Angeles AFB, Calif., gets ready to go for a shot in a recent scrimmage against Liberty Blazers Saturday on the Starlifter Courts in the Fitness and Sports Center here. This is Nelson's first chance to be on the Armed Forces team.



Top: Craig Marcelin, an Army sergeant from Heidelberg, Germany, runs past his defender during a recent scrimmage against Charleston Southern University.

Left: Jelani Nix, a Marine corporal from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., shoots for two during a recent game against the Liberty Blazers.