

AIRLIFT **Dispatch**

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, April 23, 2004



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

Home free

First Lt. Justin Capper, 17th Airlift Squadron pilot, greets his wife, Jennifer, and their daughter, Kaitlyn, April 16 upon return from his deployment to Southwest Asia. For a story and more photos on the 17 AS return, see page 17.

DIVERSITY

MEO chief emphasizes importance of culture

Page 3

LEGAL ISSUES

Three Airmen found guilty in courts-martial

Page 9

MISSION POSSIBLE!

Charleston departures	5,107	Personnel deployed	429
Maintenance reliability	94.5%	Reservists activated	747
Cargo moved (tons)	21,059	(Jan. 1 to April 20, 2004)	

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

Commander's Comments

Col. Brooks Bash
437 AW Commander

Greetings Team Charleston! I hope you are enjoying the beautiful spring Charleston weather as much as I am. I encourage all of you to take advantage of the warm weather by increasing your fitness activities. We have two new jogging trails, as well as new equipment in the Sports and Fitness Center — give it a try!

Recognition

Air Mobility Command announced its four Outstanding Airmen last week, and our own **Senior Master Sgt. Michael David**, 437th Communications Squadron, is among those who will compete for honors as one of the Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. Congratulations, Sergeant David — we will all be cheering for you at Air Force level!

We also recognize our **437th Services Squadron** for making our Youth Center and Child Development Center programs hugely successful. These organizations received a no-notice headquarters inspection last week, and I understand they passed with flying colors — the youngest members of Team Charleston benefit from these first-class programs.

With tax day now a fading memory, I would like to recognize the people who made our base tax center a success. Thirty-one volunteers, led by **Capt. John Pak**, **Senior Airman Alex Puma**, and **Margo Kucsera** of our base legal office, processed more than 3,500 federal and state tax returns, saving clients nearly \$300,000 in tax preparation fees. Thank you for this outstanding service to our base community. Read more about it on page 8.

Career Advisor

We said farewell this week to **Senior Master Sgt. Matt Harless**, our 437th Airlift Wing Career Advisor. At the same time, we welcome **Senior Master Sgt. (select) Steve Foster** into the position, and know he'll continue the great work Sergeant Harless has done for the wing. Our career advisor is responsible for helping supervisors, first sergeants and commanders put out the right information on the benefits of making the Air Force a career. If you are considering a career move or just have questions about the benefits of maintaining your Air Force career, please make a visit to your career advisor, Sergeant Foster, a priority.

Future

The wing recognizes its first quarter winners in a Quarterly Awards ceremony Tuesday at 3 p.m. These quarterly competitions are a great way to recognize those who shine among our ranks. Mark your calendars, and come out to support your group's nominees and the overall wing winners with enthusiasm.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Darnell Cannady

Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, presented the Spirit Trophy to **Lt. Col. Robert Blue**, 437th Comptroller Squadron commander, and the rest of the comptroller warriors during the 5K commander's fun run April 16. The squadron was given the award for wearing BDU pants, combat boots and a black T-shirt, to allow everyone to run and participate in a squadron retreat ceremony later that day.

Mission

As we honor those who formally win awards next week, it is important for each member of Team Charleston to know your individual efforts combine into an unstoppable whole. The hard work we are doing here is also noticed in our Nation's capitol. We recently heard from a congressman following his base visit, who wrote, "As the United States wages the global war on terrorism, Charleston AFB continues to play an invaluable role in making sure our troops get in, get their supplies, and get out as safely as possible. I am grateful for your service and our nation appreciates your dedication ... you each contribute a supreme gift of incalculable sacrifice few will ever be able to understand. Thank you for your selfless patriotism and sacrifice."

Keep up the great work, and 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.

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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Visual Information

Diversity of troops important to solid force

By **1st Lt. Michael King**
437 AW Military Equal Opportunity chief

"Recognizing and leveraging the benefits of diversity is a mission imperative. In a new era with new threats, successful military operations will continue to demand greater agility, adaptability, and versatility to achieve and sustain success."

Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, and Dr. James Roche, Air Force secretary, made this sentiment in a memo titled "Diversity in Our Air Force," released March 3.

Have you ever been asked to name three prominent Asian Americans? How about naming five prominent female African Americans not associated with sports? Chances are, if you are not part of one of these ethnic groups, or unless you are extremely up to date on diversity in our country, you are probably feeling some sense of embarrassment about your knowledge of our country's diverse contributors.

That being said, I am compelled to ask ... are we fully reaping the benefits of diversity in our force?

As a brief history lesson, masses of immigrants migrated to this great country in hopes that the grass was in fact greener on the other side, but upon their arrival to America, they were faced with the stern face of discrimination time after time.

Nevertheless, each ethnic group, despite their adversities, sought freedom and, in the process,

worth repeating

"By appreciating our differences and letting them work, you will make a difference in your work area, Team Charleston and the Air Force."

1st Lt. Michael King

437th Airlift Wing Military Equal Opportunity chief

helped contribute to making our country the great nation it is today. Furthermore, realizing these contributions and struggles others have endured to help build this great nation demands respect and action.

Only through awareness of the contributions different ethnic groups made after their arrival to our great shores can we truly appreciate their rich cultures. By realizing their triumphs over discrimination and racism, we can make a conscious effort that we will never forget the importance of diversity in our force.

Therefore, if you are aware of someone who is involved in an observance month planning committee, take part, volunteer, and give this special observance the honor and effort that its heritage has earned. Remember, it doesn't have to cost money to contribute. Your time, interest and enthusiasm will ensure every observance month is a success.

Understanding our peers', subordinates' and

supervisors' diverse cultures plays a vital role in our overall mission. Not to say we will overcome all of our prejudices through our newfound knowledge, but through our knowledge, we can become active anti-prejudice people with the ability to be aware of our differences, and not be ruled by them.

Team Charleston provides numerous opportunities to enhance our understanding through numerous events, to include Martin Luther King's birthday, Black History month, Women's History month, Asian Pacific Islander Heritage month, Hispanic Heritage month, the "Days of Remembrance" for the victims of the Holocaust, Native American Heritage month, and the newly celebrated All-American luncheon.

I challenge each of you to be motivated to promote diversity, not for "the bullet," but for the pursuit of understanding by volunteering for these events. Also, if you do not feel your diversity group is adequately recognized, take the initiative and contact our office to pursue options to recognize these contributions. As your Military Equal Opportunity office, we will continue to help ensure all personnel are treated equitably and work environments promote an atmosphere that fosters unity and esprit de corps.

By appreciating our differences and letting them work, you will make a difference in your work area, Team Charleston, and the Air Force. If you have questions or concerns regarding diversity in your work area, please contact the MEO office at 963-3655.

Charleston chat

How do you volunteer for the local community or Team Charleston?



"I volunteer with Big Brothers, Big Sisters, to be a positive influence to a young person."

— Airman 1st Class Michelle Houston
15th Airlift Squadron



"I volunteer with the youth at my church."

— 1st Lt. Keith Tinkham
437th Operations Support Squadron



"I volunteer through my squadron and participate in Airman Against Drunk Driving."

— Senior Airman Aaron Stransky
437th Communications Squadron



"I serve as an assistant scoutmaster for a Boy Scout troop."

— 1st Lt. Aaron Rivers
437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



"I'm involved in the Chiefs' Group and my squadron's Top 4. I also visit military retirement homes."

— Chief Master Sgt. Michael Branum
437th Aerial Port Squadron

CAFB's MSS takes top honors at Air Force

By Senior Airman Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437th Mission Support Squadron was recently recognized as the best MSS in the Air Force.

Maj. Julie Boit, 437 MSS commander, said it's a true honor to be recognized at this level, especially since the squadron's last command-level award was won in 1996.

"Just winning at Air Mobility Command level was a huge honor, but winning at the Air Force level is truly a very rare and special honor both for Team Charleston and the MSS," she said. "It's a well-deserved recognition for hard work and effort, and the best part: it's for each and every person in MSS – it's their award!"

The 437 MSS had an wide-ranging year, from a Unit Compliance Inspection to the repatriation of family members from Turkey

prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Major Boit. The 437 MSS received top ratings for several of its programs in the UCI.

"It was truly an MSS year," she said. "The entire squadron was involved in the repatriation of 1,295 U.S. citizens and 57 pets from Turkey, tirelessly laboring for more than 96 hours to set up support, train volunteers, capture accountability of those arriving, and round up family sponsors, food and supplies."

The Civilian Personnel Flight was named No. 1 in AMC for 'workyear execution' for the second year in a row. Several programs they implemented helped the MSS be the best.

Wilma Mitchell, 437 MSS Civilian Personnel Flight officer, said their flight established a Federal Employee Injury Compensation working group and reestablished an Equal Employment Opportunity Committee.

The Education Flight also had their share of improvements.

"We added Park University with six new degree programs to our Education Center team, and implemented an outreach program to our base's commander's calls to market our five on-base schools," said Major Boit. "Because of wing leadership support, we now have a world-class \$88,000 Weighted Airmen Promotion System testing room for our customers."

The Family Support Center was the first in AMC to implement Heart Link, a orientation program for new Air Force spouses, and the director, Flora Hoss-Mason, was asked for by name to represent AMC at Airlift Tanker Association last year, said Major Boit.

Team Charleston had a big part in this award, said Major Boit.

"This award is truly to everyone's credit, including our families at home that support us every day," she said. "We simply couldn't do our mission without them."

Missing kids, checks and vehicles keep SFS busy

The following are some of the responses by 437th Security Forces Squadron from April 12 to Sunday and are printed to raise awareness of resource protection and safety. Anyone with information regarding these, or any other incidents, can call security forces at 963-3600.

Vehicle accidents

■ The driver of a dump truck didn't lower the truck bed after dumping a pile of rocks and struck a power line when the truck pulled forward. The driver was issued a ticket for inattentive driving resulting in an accident.

■ A vehicle attempting to do a U-turn in front of Rivers Gate struck a star barrier. There was no damage to the vehicle.

■ A vehicle struck a star barrier near the Hunley Park gate. The barrier punctured a tire, separated

the trim from the wheel well, and scratched the vehicle.

■ An eight-passenger van struck a conveyor truck on the flightline as the van attempted to park alongside the truck. The driver of the van was cited for inattentive driving.

Traffic violations

■ There were 14 traffic violations: eight for speeding; five for failure to stop at a posted stop sign; and one for usage of an unauthorized radar detector.

■ A civilian attempted to gain access to base with an expired driver's license. A check on the license showed it had been suspended for unpaid traffic tickets. The Charleston County Sheriff's Office responded, issued a \$648 fine, and set a court date. The driver's base driving privileges were suspended.

■ Two civilians in a vehicle were stopped at the gate when the gate guard noticed the smell of alcohol. CCSO responded and ticketed the driver for driving without a license, ticketed the passenger for open container, and set a court date. The vehicle was towed off the installation.

■ An active duty Airman was stopped for failure to maintain lane of traffic and failed a field sobriety test. The Airman was taken to the 437 SFS for a Breathalyzer test. Security forces issued a citation for driving under the influence of alcohol and released the Airman to his first sergeant.

Crime watch

■ A Base Exchange customer reported a blinker light cover missing from her vehicle parked in the BX parking lot.

■ Two 14-year-old family members were detained for shoplifting a \$99 GameBoy at the BX. CCSO responded and is setting a court date.

■ A civilian called 437 SFS to report that a military member not stationed here had used her rental vehicle to get to the base to catch a flight. The vehicle was never returned or taken to the rental car company. Security forces found the missing vehicle in the passenger terminal parking lot and impounded it after a military working

dog did a sweep on it. The vehicle was later towed back to the rental company.

■ A family member living in base housing reported two personal checks missing. A contract worker found envelopes the family member had put in the mail box the previous night, but the checks were missing. The family member was instructed to notify the post office, and contacted the bank to stop payment on the checks.

■ Security forces received a call from a Florida base to be on the lookout for a former military member discharged for drug use. The individual was driving a 1985 red Jeep he had borrowed from another Airman and never returned.

■ A spouse of an active duty Airman reported her young son disappeared from her porch while she was bringing groceries into the house. Security forces patrols found the wandering child less than 10 minutes later on a fitness track near the house.

■ The lock was pried open on a storage shed in the Ability to Survive and Operate training area. Contents of the shed were apparently intact.

■ A contractor reported his dump truck had been dented.

■ Security forces and a first sergeant responded to a verbal domestic disturbance.

DUI/DWI Statistics

Last incident: 11 days

2004 total: 5

2003 total: 8

Members receiving a Driving Under the Influence must report to the wing commander the following duty day in full service dress accompanied by their supervisor, first sergeant and squadron commander.

AADD
ARMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

963-0437

**Charleston AFB's Airman
Against Drunk Driving offers
free, confidential rides home.**

**20 Saves
this year**

CAFB Airman named AMC's nominee for 12 OAY

By Senior Airman Amy Perry
437 AW Public Affairs

Senior Master Sgt. Michael David, 437th Communications Squadron Mission Systems Flight superintendent, is one of Air Mobility Command's nominees for the Air Force-level 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, announced in a ceremony April 15.

Only four AMC members were nominated for the Air Force-level award: Airman 1st Class Heather Lobalbo, Travis AFB, Calif., Airman category; Tech. Sgt. Michael Hassett, MacDill AFB, Fla., NCO category; Sergeant David, Charleston AFB, Senior NCO category; and Senior Master Sgt. Alexander Perry, Travis AFB, in the first sergeant category.

Twelve AMC members were selected to compete for the awards, and Sergeant David was the only Team Charleston member chosen. He said he was flattered to repre-

sent Charleston AFB.

"I was extremely honored to be chosen," said Sergeant David. "I knew the people I competed against at the wing level and was aware of the great things they had accomplished for the base. In my opinion, anyone of us could have been selected and would have represented the wing well."

Sergeant David's commander knew he had a good chance of winning.

"I certainly expected him to be competitive, but there are a lot of gifted people in AMC, and I'm sure the competition was tough," said Lt. Col. John Keffer, 437 CS commander. "I had every confidence that he was worthy of winning."

"He is simply an outstanding individual the whole way around," Colonel Keffer continued. "He doesn't have a weak area. From taking care of his primary duties as a flight superintendent to taking care of additional duties such as our squadron

Base Realignment and Closure lead, to his base and community involvement - he does it all."

All AMC nominees had to go before boards at Scott AFB, Ill., before the awards ceremony.

"Spending a week with AMC's 12 Outstanding Airman of the Year nominees and their spouses brings you close to one another," Sergeant David. "Just like

in the group and wing level competitions, all nominees are winners and nobody goes away as a loser. Each AMC nominee has excelled on the job, within his community in some form or fashion, and is actively involved on base as well.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

Senior Master Sgt. Michael David, 437th Communications Squadron mission systems flight superintendent mentors a student at a local elementary school. Sergeant David tutors three students for three hours every week.

"However, only four of those nominees have the good fortune to represent all those winners at another level," he continued. "It's a humbling moment when you are announced as one of those people."

CAFB officials announce base economic impact

By Tech. Sgt. Ben Gonzales
437 AW Public Affairs

With a local economic impact of more than two-thirds of a billion dollars, base officials have recently released an economic impact survey calculating the monetary value of the installation.

After a thorough study of base payroll, construction and contracts, the total estimated impact of Charleston AFB for 2003 is \$678.8 million, including approximately \$89.1 million toward the value of off-base jobs created.

This year's survey saw an increase of more than \$129 million from the 2002 survey.

The total payroll for military and civilians working for the base came to \$248.9 million. Total expenditures, which include construction, contracts, material, equipment and supplies, are estimated at \$340.9 million. Not included in the local economic impact is the value of all of the base resources such as aircraft, buildings, land, supplies, equipment and retail sales. The value of all base resources is estimated at \$18.4 billion.

"The base's economic impact in fiscal 2003 is a 23 percent increase over the previous year," said Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander. "The increase is primarily attributable to additional aircraft assigned and the increased pace of operations. With the hostilities in Iraq, we had additional people here to augment our mission, and we still have more than 700 reservists activated at the base."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Darnell Cannady

Helping vein

Sgt. Ediberto Afrenza, medical technician from Fort Bragg, N.C., draws blood from Airman 1st Class Miles Marxer, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, during a Department of Defense Blood Drive at the Charleston Club April 15. The blood drive helps stock the DOD supply, which is used for military members and their families around the world.

DOD reviews CPTS processes

By Tech. Sgt. Pamela Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

The 437th Comptroller Squadron recently hosted the Department of Defense chief operations officer for the financial community and discussed technological changes being made to better serve Air Force personnel.

Richard Gustafson, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Operations and Technology, got a look at how the financial services office does business at Charleston and what changes can be made to improve customer service.

"We wanted to see what they're doing here and how it's applicable to the Air Force world," Mr. Gustafson said. "We are looking to build a bridge between technological and functional areas."

Charleston has recently made some changes that changed the organizational structure to focus more on the customers. For instances, travel vouchers that once took a week to process, are now completed and sent to the member within 24 hours.

"Mr. Gustafson came down to see what transformation initiative we've developed and imple-

mented that has allowed us to provide a superior level of service to Charleston AFB," said Lt. Col. Robert Blue, 437 CPTS commander. "He hopes he can adopt some of those means and methods as a standard throughout the Air Force. Some examples would be the technology we use to send travel vouchers to our customers via E-mail, our customer phone system which has allowed us to answer over 88 percent of our calls, and the budgeting tools developed to support our Senior leaders."

Mr. Gustafson said the Air Force is looking to improve customer service across the board and is adding more customer oriented software.

"We are looking to transform our capabilities without degrading customer service," Mr. Gustafson said. "We want personnel to have access 24/7."

He said one current change that has improved service is the Portal system.

"It changes how the Air Force does business," Mr. Gustafson said.

As the Air Force becomes more technologically advanced, he said this is only the beginning.

"We have power today we didn't have five years ago," Mr. Gustafson said.

CPTS/CC honored by society

By 1st Lt. Shaloma McGovern
437 AW Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Robert Blue, 437th Comptroller Squadron commander was recently awarded a Meritorious Award in the area of Comptroller in a Unit Under a Major Command by the National Society for Military Comptrollers.

This award is given annually to the comptroller who performs exceptionally well on their installation and is submitted by the wing commander.

"It feels good anytime you can bring positive recognition to the wing and your squadron," said Colonel Robert Blue. "Ultimately, the real award is taking care of the people in this wing."

The colonel said he works very hard with other comptroller warriors everyday to provide the best customer service Air Force wide.

"A big thanks to the men and women of the 437 CPTS," he said. "CPTS is a microcosm of the entire wing: Men and women side by side leaning forward to ensure the security and safety of this nation."

It's a bird, it's a plane ... no, it's a Thunderbird

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Andrews
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB is gearing up for its first air show in three years as Air Expo 2004 takes to the skies May 22.

This spectacular event is a way for Charleston and the Air Force to display to the public many facets of military aviation, enhance community relations and assist in recruiting efforts.

Families unable able to attend Saturday's show are able to view the Thunderbirds practicing from 1 to 3 p.m. May 21 in the North Parking Ramp.

Families are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs, sunscreen and water.

Several safety initiatives have been put into place for the air show.

- No recreational vehicles or large commercial vehicles will be allowed to enter the base.

- Personal items must stay with a person at all times. Do not bring backpacks, tote or duffle bags or large purses.

Do not leave these items unattended.

- Coolers, or food and beverages in glass containers are not allowed, but concessions and souvenirs will be available. Do not bring alcohol.

- No weapons, including all knives, weapons, paint, explosives or fireworks.

- No bicycles, roller blades or skateboards are allowed.

- Do not bring dogs or other animals.

- No smoking in the display area.

- Wear comfortable shoes.

With the approval to have the base's first air show since May 2001, the 437th Security Forces Squadron are taking extra precautions to ensure there will be ample security in place to protect the general public, government resources and our people. In order to achieve this, implemented procedures could result in long lines and waiting times. All vehicles, people and possessions are subject to search.

For general information about Air Expo 2004, call the Charleston Public Affairs office at 963-EXPO or 963-5608.

Times up Tax Center wraps up 2003

By 1st Lt. Shaloma McGovern
437 AW Public Affairs

The Charleston AFB Tax Center wrapped up the 2003 tax season April 15.

More than 2,000 Team Charleston clients received the free tax assistance, and were refunded more than \$3 million, which was \$400,000 more than 2002.

The tax center is operated by the base legal office with help from volunteers from each squadron. Thirty volunteers assisted during the season.

"I enjoy helping other Airmen with their taxes and saving them money," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Schaffer, 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron volunteer. "It's a good learning experience, and I would recommend this to any Airman. You learn a lot about the Internal Revenue Service, and it is a great skill to obtain."

This year the tax center offered a new benefit. They filed state taxes for the first time as Charleston AFB.

"We did all 50 states, so Airmen didn't need to go off base to file state taxes," said Senior Airman Alexander Puma 437th Airlift Wing legal office. "This was the first time this benefit was offered at Charleston AFB. This was a challenge at the beginning due to complex state-specific rules and residency laws. However, once we did a few the process ran more smoothly."

Volunteers kept the tax center up and running.

"We had a wonderful group of volunteers," said Margo Kucsera 437th Airlift Wing tax center manager. "It was very successful and really ran smoothly. It's a benefit so why not use it?"

Three CAFB airmen found guilty at courts-martial

By Capt. Bruce Page
437 AW Legal office

Three Charleston AFB Airmen recently pled guilty to illegal drug use, desertion, and various thefts of government and private property.

On Nov. 19, Airman Earl Shepherd, 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, pled guilty at a special court-martial to two instances of theft, for stealing an X-Box game system and various video games and DVDs from a fellow dorm resident. He also pled guilty to two counts of unlawful entry for illegally entering the victim's dorm room.

At trial, Airman Shepherd apologized to the victim, his chain of command and the Air Force for what he described as "very poor choices" he had made. Lt. Col. Lance Sigmon, the military judge hearing Airman Shepherd's case, sentenced him to nine months confinement, reduction to the rank of airman basic, forfeiture of two-thirds pay per month for nine months and a bad conduct discharge. Federal law also dictates that, due to the length of his sentence, Airman Shepherd will forfeit the remainder of his pay as well.

The special court-martial convening authority, the 437th Airlift Wing commander, reviewed Airman Shepherd's case during the clem-

ency process and approved the sentence adjudged by the military judge.

On Jan. 22 and 23, Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Franklin, 437 AMXS, pled guilty at a general court-martial to deserting the Air Force for over five months, wrongful possession of the prescription drug oxycodone, possession of marijuana and multiple uses of marijuana. He also pled guilty to stealing two government-owned computers, a government-owned laptop docking station and a government-owned personal data assistant. He pled not guilty to intended distribution of the marijuana he possessed. However, after hearing arguments and reviewing evidence presented by the prosecution, as well as the defense, including excerpts from Airman Franklin's journal which detailed how to profit by buying marijuana in bulk and selling it in smaller quantities, Col. W. Thomas Cumbie, the military judge, found Airman Franklin guilty of intending to distribute the drug.

During the sentencing portion of the trial, Airman Franklin's father testified that Airman Franklin had been raised in difficult circumstances, and that his family was "thrilled" when he joined the Air Force, thereby gaining an opportunity to improve his situation. The accused expressed remorse during his state-

ment to the court and apologized to "my commander, my first sergeant, and my unit for all the aggravation and disappointment my actions have caused." Colonel Cumbie sentenced Airman Franklin to 40 months' confinement, reduction to airman basic, total forfeitures of all pay and allowances, and a bad conduct discharge.

The general court-martial convening authority, the 18th Air Force commander, reviewed Airman Franklin's case during the clemency process and approved the sentence adjudged by the military judge.

On April 5, Airman 1st Class Jonathan Minchey, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, pled guilty at a special court-martial to stealing dozens of items worth thousands of dollars from the lost and found at the CAFB passenger terminal. Among those items were sleeping bags, bullet-proof vests, and incendiary flares. These items were discovered after a military magistrate authorized 437th Security Forces Squadron investigators to search Airman Minchey's room, when coworkers suspected he had been stealing items from his workcenter.

Lt. Col. Daryl Trawick, the military judge assigned to the case, sentenced Airman Minchey to six months confinement, reduction to the rank of airman basic, forfeiture of two-

thirds pay per month for six months, and a bad conduct discharge.

The special court-martial convening authority, Col. Brooks Bash, 437 AW commander, will review the findings and sentence and any clemency matters submitted by the defense before this sentence is finalized. Colonel Bash has the authority to disapprove a finding of guilty as well as any element of the adjudged sentence, though he cannot change a finding of not guilty to guilty, and he cannot increase the adjudged sentence.

"Courts-martial serve at least two critical purposes in the administration of military justice," said Lt. Col. Rupinder Gill, 437 AW Staff Judge Advocate. "First, they ensure military members who are found guilty under the law are required to pay the price justice demands. Second, they ensure commanders are able to maintain the order and discipline necessary to make our mission happen. It's always a shame to see people so young make such terrible decisions, with life-long impact. However, I hope these trials will serve as reminders to those members of Team Charleston who voluntarily choose to violate Air Force rules and regulations that they will eventually be caught, and forced to pay the price for their criminal actions."

SECAF outlines top priorities, future goals

INCIRLIK AB, Turkey – The Air Force’s top civilian focused on the Air Force priorities, the war on terrorism and future goals during a visit April 14.

“To keep the Air Force effective and efficient, we have to look at what the nation will be asking of us 10, 20 [or] 30 years from now, or next week,” said Dr. James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force. “We have to look at our core competencies and what we expect the nation will ask, and stay focused.”

The secretary emphasized the importance of staying focused during the ongoing battles in Iraq, which raised in intensity lately in places like Fallujah. **(U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service)**

‘BEST’ newsletter keeps civilians current

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas – Less than 10 percent of Air Force civilians get information about their benefits by an online newsletter, and Air Force Personnel Center officials are encouraging more people to participate.

By subscribing to the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team newsletter, Air Force appropriated-fund civilian employees can learn about current benefits, legislative changes and system updates.

People can subscribe through the BEST home page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm, and then click on “newsletter subscription service,” and “subscribe.” This will automatically launch an e-mail with the required subscription information already entered.

Subscribers receive a confirmation notice by e-mail. **(Air Force Personnel Center)**

Leaders approve new civilian-personnel plan

WASHINGTON – Defense Department senior leaders approved plans for the new national security personnel system, an official announced April 14.

The system, authorized by the fiscal 2004 National Defense Au-

thorization Act, introduces changes in the way the department hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires its civilian employees.

While the system is mission-first, it is also employee-centric, and Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England who head the project, said he encourages input from employees. Mechanisms such as Web pages and town meetings not only provide information to the work force, but also allow for feedback.

The plan also calls for “aggressive, but event-driven schedules,” he said. The first milestone is to have a labor-relations draft regulation to the Federal Register by November. **(Air Force Print News)**

Travel cardholders have online-payment option

WASHINGTON – Airmen with gov-

ernment travel cards can now make payments to their accounts online.

The “MyEasyPayment” system allows Airmen with government travel cards to pay off residual or unexpected charges not covered by split disbursement payments, said Josephine Davis, the Air Force banking liaison officer.

The payment system is available at www.myeasypayment.com. To use the system, cardholders need to know the amount they want to pay on the card, the card’s account number and security code, and their checking account and bank routing numbers.

(Air Force Print News)

Servicemembers step up anti-malarial protection

WASHINGTON – It is peak mosquito season in Iraq, and U.S. servicemembers deployed support-

ing Operation Iraqi Freedom are taking steps to protect themselves against malaria.

Servicemembers in high-risk areas are required to take anti-malarial medication. The medication prescribed varies depending on the region, based on the malarial strain present, officials said.

Chloroquine, the medication most commonly prescribed in Iraq, requires only a weekly 500-milligram tablet and has fewer side effects than other anti-malarial drugs, said officials.

Symptoms of malaria include a slow-rising fever lasting several days, followed by shaking chills and rapidly increasing temperature. Victims often feel malaise and suffer from headache, nausea and profuse sweating. The cycle of chills, fever and sweating typically repeats itself every one to three days, officials said. **(Air Force Print News)**



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Szczehowski

Airmen adopt a village

Staff Sgt. Nikole Tipton, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group in Southwest Asia, spreads some American good will at the Kapisa Orphanage in Afghanistan during a visit in April. About 40 Airmen from the group delivered hundreds of pounds of clothing, food and toys to more than 250 children living at the orphanage as part of the group’s Adopt-A-Village program.

Spotlight

Fine Arts and Jazz Festival: Charleston will host a free Fine Arts and Jazz Festival 2 to 3 p.m. May 1 at the North Charleston Fine Arts Center.

Around the base

Enlisted Heritage golf tourney: The Enlisted Heritage council is set to sponsor a golf tournament at 8:30 a.m. today at the Wrenwoods Golf Course. The tournament will be captain's choice. The registration fee is \$20 plus green fees. Mulligans will be sold three for \$5. Beverages are provided and a barbecue lunch will be served immediately following the tournament. For more information, or to sign up, call Master Sgt. Michael Van Sant at 963-4436.

Job Fair: The Air Force and Navy will sponsor a job fair noon to 2 p.m. today at the Redbank Club, Building 942, 2316 Redbank Road on the Naval Weapons Station. For more information call Linda Lankosz at 963-4406.

Beaufort Air Show: Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort hosts a free, air show 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Beaufort, S.C. The event is open to the public. For more information, go to <http://www.beaufortairshow.com>.

Midland Park closure: The area where Midland Park Road intersects Authur extension will be closed Monday and Tuesday. Team Charleston members will have to take an alternative route. The dates are subject to weather changes.

Quarterly Awards: The quarterly awards ceremony is 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Charleston Club.

AADD: The Airman Against Drunk Driving membership meeting is at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Lowcountry Bar at the Charleston Club. Anyone interested in volunteering, or who has been a volunteer in the past, should attend this meeting. For more information, e-mail aadd.charleston@charleston.af.mil.

Promotion ceremony: The enlisted promotion ceremony is 3 p.m.

Charleston Warrior of the Week



Photo by 1st Lt. Shaloma McGovern

Airman 1st Class Jorge Alvarez 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jorge Alvarez is a pneudraulic technician for the 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. His primary duties include making sure the hydraulic systems on the C-17 are fully operational to ensure maximum mission capability.

"I love working with my hands and fixing aircraft and knowing the work I do helps to ensure these aircraft can fly missions all around the world makes me very proud," said Airman Alvarez.

The Loxahatchee, Fla., native came to Charleston AFB after joining the Air Force more than a year ago because he felt it was the right thing to do.

Airman Alvarez was recently deployed more than three months in Baghdad, Iraq.

In the future, Airman hopes to cross-train into air traffic controlling and make a career of the Air Force.

In his spare time he helps set up and volunteer his time during the Special Olympics. He has also volunteered at local schools teaching children about the environment during Earth Day.

He enjoys working with animals of all kinds. He enjoys bringing some of his family's farm animals to children in daycare or elementary schools so they can pet and learn a little about them.

When on leave, he stops by his high school and visits some of his teachers and speaks to the students about life in the military.

April 30 at the Charleston Club. For the first time, all May promotees, to include airmen through senior airmen, will participate in the ceremony.

Essay Contest: The 437th Airlift Wing legal office Booster Club is sponsoring an essay contest May 1 in honor of Law Day. The contest is for 10th through 12th graders and is on "To Win Equality by Law: Brown vs. Board at 50." For more details, call 963-5502.

Special duties: The recruiting team will brief all aspects of military training instructor duties and recruiting 10 a.m. May 11 in Building 503, room 120. Senior airmen through master sergeants with less than 17 years total active service are eligible to apply for this special duty.

Reserve wing selects 21 new majors

The 315th Airlift Wing announced April 15 twenty-one captains will be promoted to major throughout 2004.

Susan Beylotte, 315th Aeromedical Squadron

Ronaldo Christianson, 701st Airlift Squadron

David Cooksey, 315th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Michael Cottone, 317th Airlift Squadron

Benjamin Dubois, 315th Aircraft Control Flight

Cade Gibson, 315 AMXS

Myra Gillespie, 315 AMDS

George Gilliland, 84th Aerial Port Squadron

Paula Heard, 315th Aeromedi-

cal Evacuation Squadron

Mark Johnson, 317 AS

Mark Laverne, 300th Airlift Squadron

Christopher Martin, 315th Mission Support Squadron

David McDonald, 317 AS

Jason Rue, 317 AS

Matthew Rosen, 701 AS

Karen Ruppurbanski, 315th Operations Support Squadron

Thomasena Waller, 315 AES

William Walsh, 315th Airlift Wing

Joann Williams, 315 AES

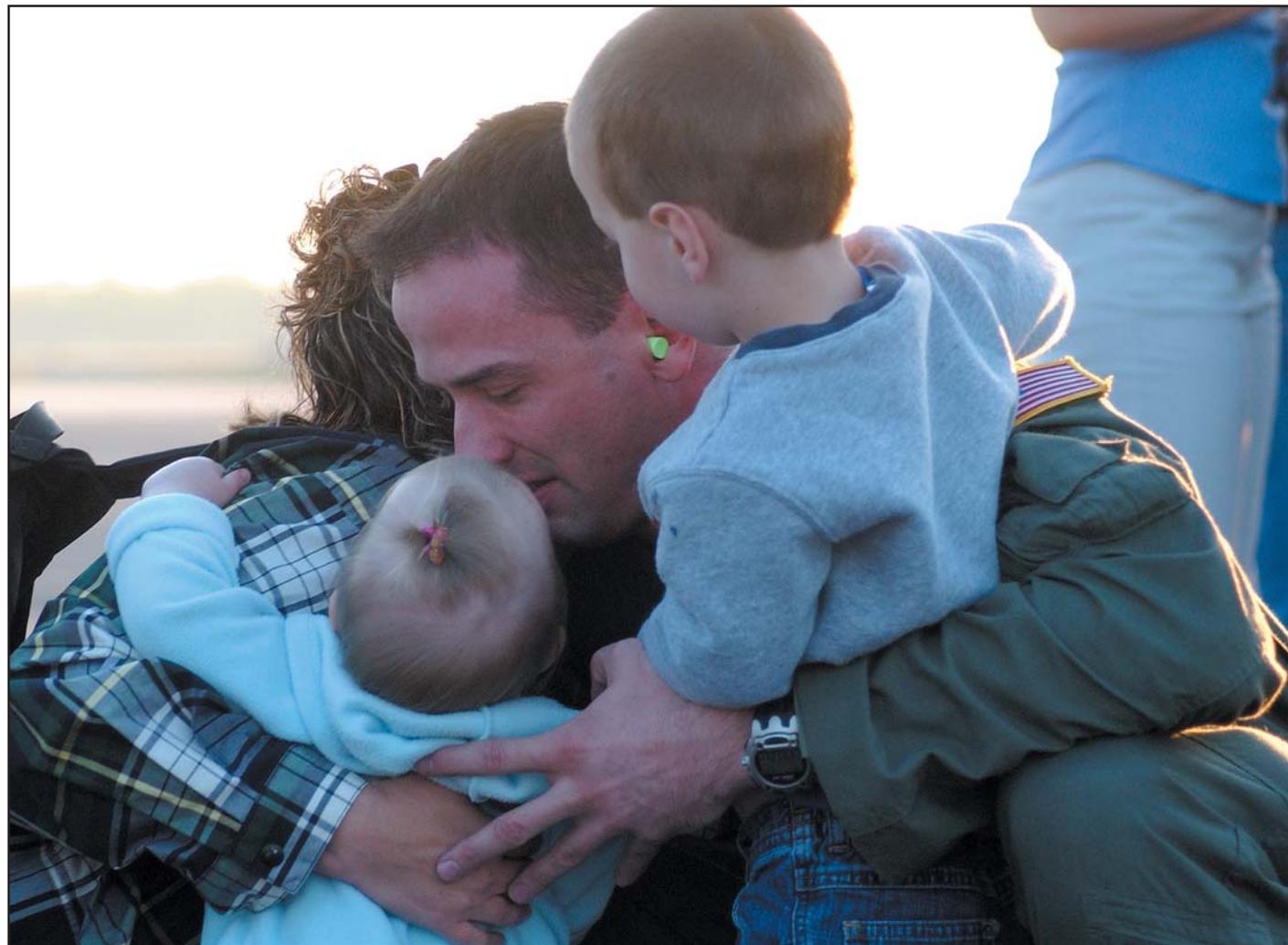
James Wood, 315th Civil Engineer Squadron

Brian Zeman, 53rd Aerial Port Squadron

Photos by
Airman 1st Class
Jason Bailey



Lt. Col. Donald Shaffer, 17 AS commander, visits his wife, Debbie, and holds their son, Kurt, April 16 after the squadron's return.



Capt. Brian Heriford, 17th Airlift Squadron pilot, hugs his wife, Jennifer, and their children, MacKenzie and Austin, upon his return April 16. Dozens of family members met the returning members at sunrise.



Nicole Neal, wife of 17 AS pilot Capt. Beau Neal, and their daughter Kennedy, await his return from deployment April 16 on the flightline.



A C-17 carrying returning members of the 17 AS taxis to a stop at Charleston April 16.

17 AS wings its way home from deployment

By Maj. Linda Pepin
437 AW Public Affairs

Dozens of 17th Airlift Squadron family members and squadron personnel stood on the flightline at sunrise April 16 awaiting the arrival of a C-17 carrying 78 of the squadron's Airmen home from a deployment in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The 17 AS personnel had been deployed for 45 to 90 days to the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Rhein-Main AB, Germany, and to 817 EAS forward operating locations in Southwest Asia.

Angela Tubbs, holding her sleepy 5-month-old daughter Savannah, was awaiting the arrival of her husband Airman 1st Class Michael Tubbs, 17 AS loadmaster, whom she hadn't seen since the end of

February. Mrs. Tubbs said the 7 a.m. arrival had meant an earlier-than-usual morning wake-up, but said she was excited to see her husband, so the early hour was fine with her.

The excitement became more palpable as the aircraft, "The Spirit of the Total Force," taxied to a stop in front of the waiting crowd. "Welcome home" signs emerged, and families waved at the arriving jet.

"Daddy comes home," said 22-month-old Kennedy Neal, daughter of Capt. Beau Neal and Nicole Neal. Pointing to the C-17, Kennedy proudly declared, "Daddy's driving."

With a baby boy due to be born in three weeks, Mrs. Neal is happy to see her husband returning, and said the family will go to the beach or the playground as their first order of business. Kennedy smiled as she added, "Daddy's staying."

Command Performance

First sergeant explains hairstyle regs

By Master Sgt. Diana Ruhlig
437 MOS first sergeant

As you look around the base, take a look at your fellow Airmen. In particular, look at the many different hairstyles we sport. All this looking begs the question – what image do we want to project?

While AFI 36-2903, *Personal Dress and Appearance of Air Force Personnel*, allows for leeway in how females wear their hair and what to use to wear it properly, it does call for some common sense on our part to carry out the intent of the instruction. Table 1.4, Line 5 states hair will be “styled to present a professional appearance. Plain and conservative pins, combs, headbands, elastic bands, and barrettes similar to the individual’s hair color permitted to keep hair in place.” Hair length will not extend below “the bottom edge of the shirt collar at the back of the neck” and “will not exceed 3 inches in bulk or prevent proper wear of headgear.” Women can keep their hair at any length, as long as it’s in regulations. Hair will not contain hair ornaments such as ribbons or jeweled, but will have plain and conservative hair fasteners.

Males are also expected to follow guidelines

of professional and uniform appearance. The hair coloring is to be natural if dyed. The length will be “1 ¼ inches in bulk regardless of length and not exceed ¼ inch at the natural termination point.” The style will have a “tapered appearance on both the sides and the back.” A tapered appearance as defined by AFI 36-2903 is “one that when viewed from any angle outlines the individual’s hair so that it conforms to the shape of the head curving inward to the natural termination point.”

A professional hairstyle extends to the proper wear of your cover or headgear. BDU caps are “placed squarely on the head with no hair protruding in front of the cap.” The flight cap is worn “slightly to the wearer’s right with a vertical crease of the cap in line with the center of the forehead, in a straight line with the nose; the cap extends approximately 1 inch from the eyebrows in the front.” Even if you feel your hairstyle conforms to AFI 36-2903, if you cannot wear your headgear properly, you are not within proper uniform standards.

When it comes to wearing the uniform, what would you choose – compliments about looking sharp and professional or counseling on the proper wear of your uniform?

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 from 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

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.

Today, 7:30 p.m.
“Dirty Dancing” – Diego Luna

Eighteen-year-old Katey moves with her father to Havana. Instead of joining the crowd of wealthy Americans in her new neighborhood, Katy befriends Javier, a poor waiter who also happens to be a great dancer. Katey soon persuades Javier to partner with her in a prestigious national dance competition. (PG-13) 87 minutes

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
“Secret Window” – Johnny Depp

Successful writer, Mort Rainey, is in the midst of a painful divorce, leaving him with a case of writer’s block, when a psychotic stranger, John Shooter, shows up at his doorstep and accuses Rainey of plagiarizing his story and demands satisfaction. (PG-13) 97 minutes

April 30, 7:30 p.m.
“Spartan” – Val Kilmer

Special operations officer Robert Scott and his protege, Curtis, are assigned to find the missing daughter of a high ranking government official. But then their mission seems to come to an abrupt halt when the girl’s death is reported to the media. (R) 106 minutes

WELLNESS TIP

AVOIDING MERCURY

Mercury can be harmful to infants, young children, and pregnant (or nursing) women

Mercury is found in the tissue of large and older fish, such as shark, swordfish, king mackerel and tile fish

The Food and Drug Administration recommends those at risk avoid large or older fish; eat no more than 12 ounces per week of low-mercury fish, such as shrimp, canned light tuna, salmon, pollock, catfish); and watch local fish safety advisories

According to Commissary statistics, Air Mobility Command people buy more than 300,000 pounds of fish each year



Photo by Airman 1st Class Darnell Cannady

And they're off
More than 400 team Charleston members start the 5K "Catch a shooting star" commander's fun run April 16 in front of the Fitness and Sports Center. The next fun run is set for 7:30 a.m. May 14.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Bailey

Hey batter

N.Y Mets batter
Jordan Hughey, son of Master Sgt. David and Sandra Hughey, takes a swing at a low pitch April 17 on the Youth Baseball opening day. Games are set for Saturdays until late May in the fields behind the Fitness and Sports Center.

Sports Shorts

Racquetball playoffs: Racquetball playoffs are underway. Games are set for 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Monday; 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and the championship game at 5:30 Wednesday.

Softball: Intramural softball season opens May 3. Games are set for 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays at the base softball fields. For more information, see squadron sports representatives or call the sports office at 963-4321.

Sportsline: The Sportsline has updated scores, standings and scheduled games. For more information, call the Sportsline, updated daily, at 963-4318.

Tobacco cessation: The Health and Wellness Center starts a new Tobacco Cessation class 4 p.m. Tuesday, and runs for five weeks. Behavior modification, stress management, nutrition information, exercise tips, Zyban and nicotine replacement therapy are offered. For more information, or to sign up, call the HAWC at 963-4007.