

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, January 23, 2004

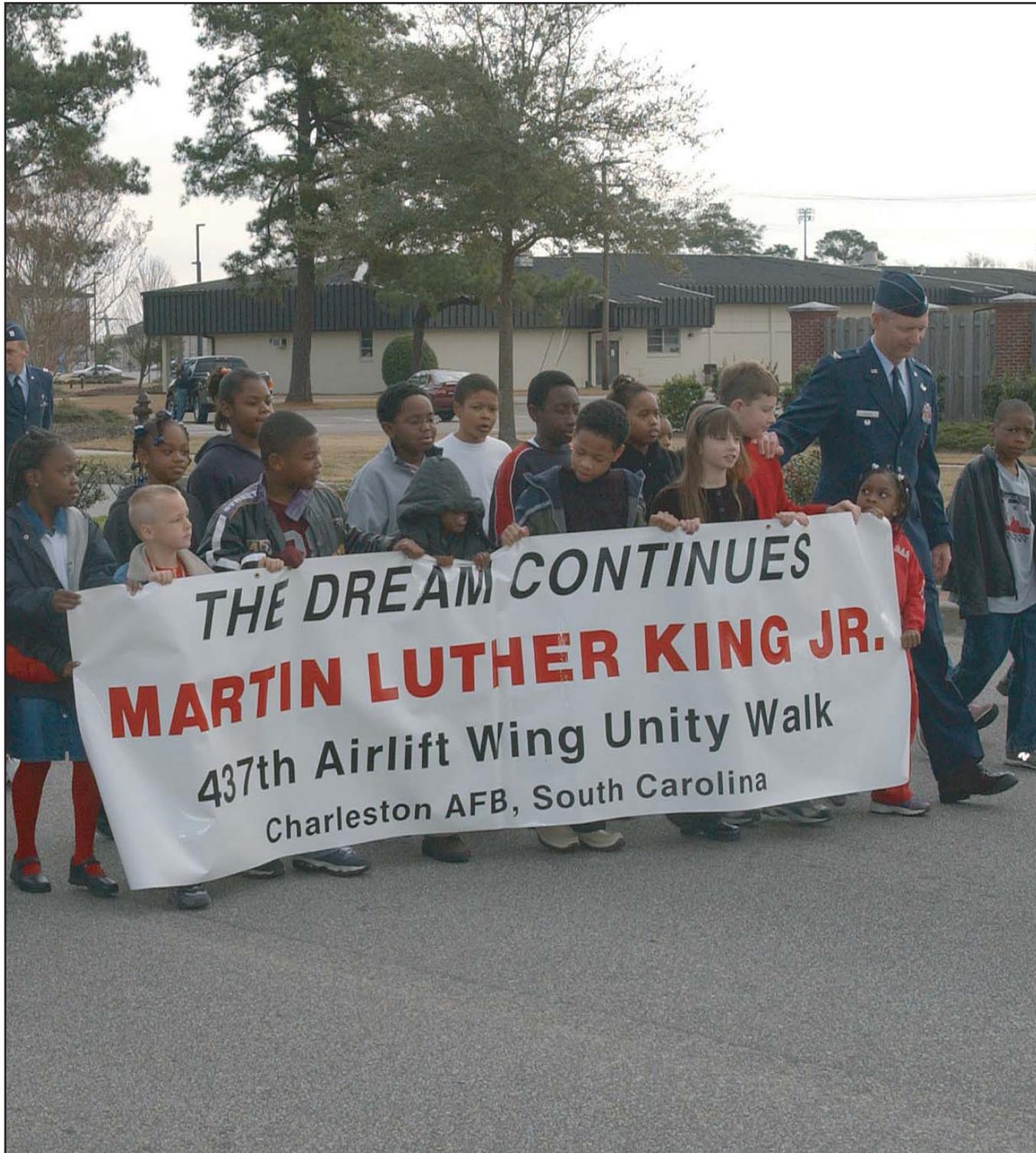


Photo by Airman 1st Class Darnell Cannady

MLK march

Col. Wayne Schatz, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, marches with a group of Team Charleston children in remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr. day Monday. Approximately 200 people participated the march which started at the Charleston Club and ended with a service at the base chapel.

ACTION LINE

Caller discusses hassles of base mail delivery

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PRESIDENT

Bush gave State of the Union address Tuesday

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SEE THE LIGHT

NVGs help C-17 pilots see in the dark



Page 14

HOOPS

Youth basketball dribbles its way to CAFB

Page 20

MISSION POSSIBLE	
Charleston departures	891
Maintenance reliability	92.8%
Cargo moved	3,683t
Personnel deployed	730
Reservists activated	846
(Jan. 1 - Jan. 21, 2004)	



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



I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the **Lt. Gen. and Mrs. William Welser**, 18th Air Force commander, and **Chief Master Sgt. Ken McQuiston**, 18 AF command chief, visit. I was impressed with how everyone pulled together and made the base look great. The people we visited were sharp, focused and made an excellent first impression. General Welser remarked as he was leaving that Team Charleston is fired up and full of true warriors. Great job!

I would also like to thank **Tech. Sgt. Janita Brown**, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, and those who coordinated the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration Monday with a unity walk and worship service. Putting the memorial service together is hard work, but the committee did fantastic and made it a fun event with a lot of participation.

Congratulations this week to colonel-selects **Nancy Dezell, Bob DuLong**, and **Steve Groenheim**. With this promotion, the Air Force has recognized these three officers' great work so far, and is entrusting them with even greater future responsibility. Colonel Dezell and Colonel Groenheim were selected below-the-zone for advancement to their new rank.

Airman 1st Class Kevin Boxberger had a peek at a colonel's day this week as my shadow. With less than 18 months in the Air Force, he was named the 437th Fire Protection Flight Firefighter of the Year for 2003. I'm proud to serve alongside Airman Boxberger, and expect he'll continue to do great things for the Air Force.

The Air Mobility Command Inspector General team was here to evaluate our Ability to Survive and Operate. Approximately 200 people from the

437th and 315th Airlift Wings were evaluated on their ATSO skills. The evaluators graded base personnel on their ability to function and survive in a chemical threat area.

The commanders, chiefs and first sergeants led by example Wednesday by completing the Personal Fitness Test. The chief of staff's focus on fitness and Fit to Fight is an excellent cultural change for us. All units should be out there becoming fit and as long as everyone follows that guidance, everyone should pass the requirements.

With our high deployment rates and operations tempo, many of us are feeling an increase in our stress levels. As commanders, supervisors and friends, we need to look out for one another. Please make sure you have a healthy way to relieve stress – exercise, family time, going to school or improving on your own goals are some examples. If you feel highly stressed, don't let it get the best of you. Let someone know. When stressed, don't let your pride get in the way of protecting your family from yourself.

Col. Karl Young, former 437th Airlift Wing Vice Commander, asked me to include a message from him to everyone who was involved in his retirement ceremony and also everyone who attended:

"I want to sincerely thank you all for the awesome outpouring of good wishes and congratulations you offered me for my retirement last week. Those of you who were able to attend the dinner or ceremony truly honored me by your presence. I know that those who couldn't attend also honored me by your thoughts. Everything was perfect, from the planning and organization of the dinner and ceremony, to the Club's dinner and set up, to the outstanding support for billeting my family, to the thanks and congratulations the gate guards gave me as I passed through their posts.

Your gifts were thoughtful and impressive and showed so much skill and attention to detail. I will be eternally grateful for the craftsmanship that went in to the manufacture of those lasting remembrances of you all. I had an incredible time here with Team Charleston, and an incredible time serving our Air Force and nation for 29.5 years. I cannot imagine doing anything else with my life. Take care of my Air Force, and thank you for the best time of my life ... so far."

Action Line caller disgruntled over mail delivery

Q: I am one of many frustrated residents of Moreland Circle here on the base. It is a rarity if we get our mail before darkness falls, and it gets very vexing. In most cases, bills need paying, checks need depositing, or we have items that need to go out, and when our mail comes so late it throws a monkey wrench into things. Additionally, there were two occasions when our street was passed by and I didn't receive any mail at all.

I have spoken with the people who ought to be able to help. They explained to me that our street is on an "auxiliary route," which means we do not have a regular mail carrier. Apparently, they take turns doing this street. I have talked

and talked until I'm blue in the face, and they still do nothing other than promise to make an effort to get here earlier. Needless to say, this is very frustrating. To say this street is fed up with the mail is an understatement. Is it at all possible for us to get some kind of help in this matter?

A: I appreciate how frustrating it must be to have delays in your mail delivery. Please be assured the people in our communication squadron are fully engaged to address the problem. The U.S. Postal Service is experiencing staffing issues and is short of mail carriers. As you noted, there are no regular carriers assigned to your street. Because your street is on an auxiliary route,

when you do receive mail service it's after a carrier has delivered to other parts of Charleston and can make it to your address before darkness falls. If the area is not well lit, they will deliver first thing the next morning. The U.S. Postal Service is working hard to alleviate this shortage by hiring additional carriers. If problems continue, please contact Tim Shaw, Postmaster, at 760-5340 or 760-5341. Thank you for the call.

- Col. Wayne Schatz
437 AW vice commander

action@charleston.af.mil

963-5581

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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Photo and graphic support provided by 437th Communications Squadron Visual Information

Veteran's final choices show love for blue suit

By Maj. John Thomas
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Reid Wyant is dying. His daughter called me the other day looking for help putting together the items so that he could be buried in his Air Force service dress uniform. He served 30 years as an airman. And it seems he's still one of us.

I got to thinking. What makes a person who has lived life as a civilian since 1980 want to be buried in his uniform?

I like to think maybe Service Before Self gets into your blood. After all, retired Senior Master Sgt. Wyant switched his cancer treatment from Eglin Air Force Base not too long ago because the war was forcing them to cut back care, and he wanted the active-duty people to get taken care of first. "Always thinking of others," his daughter says.

His daughter – her name is Andrae Harris – is helping care for him even as he edges closer to the end. She helps him plan it all out. Arlington National Cemetery was overruled by his wife, who wants him for eternity closer to family. Details like that.

Andrae says she always knew her dad was a hero. He was awarded the Airman's Medal for saving three swimmers' lives "in front of my very eyes, without a care to his own safety." He almost lost his own life doing it, she says.

And that pales in comparison to his courage facing his cancer.

Sergeant Wyant might say it is the friends you find that make the Air Force something you want to be buried with. "I've never known anyone that did not like my dad," his daughter says.

A former commander, Col. Roger Andersen, still visits him at home. "They would both reenlist today," if they could, Andrae tells me.

Reid Wyant's life with the Air Force began when the young Air Force had been around for just seven years. "His uncle was a rear admiral and told him to join the Air Force," Andrae says. Seems his uncle was a smart man.

She says "He caught a bus to Pittsburgh and never looked back."

I think he's looking back now. Looking back on the people he met as a munitions maintenance specialist and first sergeant. Born and raised in Kitanning, Pa., he served in North Africa, in the 1950s; Cambodia, Viet Nam, Laos and Korea in the 1960s. In 1971 he was in Thailand. And he was in plenty of stateside places in between. But no assignment was more important than the move from Denver to Bentwaters, England.

That's where a boy, dirt-poor and often mistreated by his grandfather, a guy who dropped out of school and put his kid brother through college – well, England is where he met his wife, Doreen. To hear Andrae tell it,

her mom's whole family fell in love with him. As much, it seems, as he loved the Air Force.

Upon retirement from his second career he moved from Dallas to near Eglin where he fried fish and chicken for squadron picnics. And where a couple of years ago they first treated him for cancer. And it was to Eglin that he went recently with his family to get all of his affairs together and prepare a final will.

I have never met Sergeant Wyant. But I have worked with people just like him every day of my 12 years in the Air Force. I have served with loyal members of every service. And I am off to Iraq soon to work again with the State Department and other agencies.

People tell me to keep my head down when I go to Iraq.

Instead I think I'll hold my head high, out of respect for people like Sergeant Wyant and all those he represents, like my own dad, and my father-in-law.

When Andrae asked him the other day 'why the service dress uniform for the burial?' he said that is what he has always worn for important events, and he wanted his family to recognize him. His sense of humor is still healthy.

Maybe one day, I will ask to be buried in my service dress uniform, like Senior Master Sgt. Reid S. Wyant wants to be, "with full military honors."

In his case, the honor will be ours.

Charleston chat

Are you still following your New Year's resolution?



"I enrolled in the smoking cessation class and quit smoking."

— Senior Airman David Gibson
437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



"No, I don't even know why I make (resolutions)."

— 1st Lt. Mark Baron
15th Airlift Squadron



"I am continuing my education by attending night classes."

— Staff Sgt. Kenya Stokes
437th Security Forces Squadron



"I am currently enrolled in college and made a budget to live by."

— Senior Airman Darren Cannone
437th Aeromedical Dental Squadron



"I never make them, because they are so hard to accomplish unless it is a day-by-day goal."

— Harriett Barrett
437th Services Squadron

American military rising to tasks of history

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The United States has not come through tragedy, trial and war to falter. Americans are proving the state of the union is strong, and they are “are rising to the tasks of history,” President George W. Bush said in the State of the Union address Jan. 20.

Bush, speaking to both bodies of Congress at the U.S. Capitol, said the government’s greatest responsibility is the active defense of the American people. He said that in the 28 months since the attacks of Sept. 11, there are many who believe the danger is passed.

“That hope is understandable, comforting – and false,” he said. “The killing has continued in Bali, Jakarta, Casablanca, Riyadh, Mombassa, Jerusalem, Istanbul and Baghdad. The terrorists continue to plot against America and the civilized world. And by our will and courage, this danger will be defeated.”

Hundreds of thousands of American servicemen and women are deployed across the world in the war on terror, the president noted, and their efforts make America more

secure. Law enforcement and intelligence officials are examining threats and “their vigilance is protecting America.”

Bush said America faces a choice: “We can go forward with confidence and resolve, or we can turn back to the dangerous illusion that terrorists are not plotting and outlaw regimes are no threat to us.”

Bush said the American military is leading the fight on terror. Service members have now captured or killed two-thirds of the known al Qaeda leaders.

“Thousands of very skilled and determined military personnel are on a manhunt, going after the remaining killers who hide in cities and caves,” the president said. “And, one by one, we will bring the terrorists to justice.”

The United States is also determined to take action against regimes that harbor terrorists or could supply terror groups with weapons of mass destruction, Bush said. “The first to see our determination were the Taliban, who made Afghanistan the primary training base of al Qaeda killers.”

Afghanistan has now agreed to a new constitution, guaranteeing free elections and full participation by

women, and with help from the new Afghan National Army, the U.S.-led coalition is operating against surviving members of the Taliban and al Qaeda.

In Iraq there is a similar litany of success. The regime of Saddam Hussein is overthrown and U.S. soldiers captured him hiding in a hole in the ground.

“Having broken the Baathist regime, we face a remnant of violent Saddam supporters,” the president said. “These killers, joined by foreign terrorists, are a serious, continuing danger. Yet we are making progress against them.”

Coalition forces have captured or killed 45 of the 55 most-wanted former regime members. “Our forces are on the offensive, leading over 1,600 patrols a day, and conducting an average of 180 raids every week,” he said. “We are dealing with these thugs in Iraq, just as surely as we dealt with Saddam Hussein’s evil regime.”

Bush said that building a new Iraq will be hard, but it is worth the effort. In June, the coalition will transition to full Iraqi sovereignty. He vowed that the United States will stand by Iraq as it makes the transition to democracy.

Bush also took on critics who say the coalition in Iraq must be internationalized. “This particular criticism is hard to explain to our partners in Britain, Australia, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Italy, Spain, Poland, Denmark, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, the Netherlands, Norway, El Salvador, and the 17 other countries that have committed troops to Iraq,” he said.

The United States owes a debt of gratitude to those nations and more who have supported the war on terror, Bush noted. “There is a difference, however, between leading a coalition of many nations, and submitting to the objections of a few. America will never seek a permission slip to defend the security of our people.”

Bush said the nation has gone through much in the last three years. “By our actions, we have shown what kind of nation we are,” he said. “In grief, we found the grace to go on. In challenge, we rediscovered the courage and daring of a free people. In victory, we have shown the noble aims and good heart of America. And having come this far, we sense that we live in a time set apart.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Cuomo

General visits

Lt. Gen. William Welser, 18th Air Force commander, poses with members of the 437th Maintenance Group Jan. 14 during a visit to the base. General Welser presented an Air Mobility Command award to the 437th and 315th Maintenance Squadrons ground equipment flight for best in-commission rate from 1996 to 2003. For more information on General Welser’s visit, look in the Jan. 30 edition of the *Airlift Dispatch*.

2005 BRAC process begins

By **K.L. Vantran**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Base commanders in the United States and its territories and possessions have been asked to gather data on their installations in preparation for the 2005 round of base realignments and closures, Defense Department officials said here Jan. 6.

The fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the DOD to pursue one BRAC round in 2005.

The department will use BRAC to eliminate unnecessary infrastructure and to increase military capability and effectiveness, officials said.

Formal data calls, officials said, ensure the department collects and uses the most current data on installations throughout the BRAC analysis. This data call is one of many steps in the BRAC process, officials explained. Others will be added as needed.

Since each installation will take part in these data calls, officials emphasized that does not mean the DOD is considering that installation

for closure or realignment. Questions and data associated with the questions will be available to the public once the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission receives them.

The department published draft selection criteria in the Dec. 23 Federal Register for public comment. Comments are due by Jan. 28. The list of BRAC recommendations will be submitted to the independent BRAC commission by May 16, 2005.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-501, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002), requires that closure and realignment recommendations be based on published criteria that make military value the primary consideration.

The military value includes:

- Current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of DOD's total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness.

- The availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval or

air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the armed forces in homeland defense missions) at both existing and potential receiving locations.

- The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization and future total-force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training.

- and the cost of operations and the manpower implications.

Other considerations include:

- The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.

- The economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations.

- The ability of both the existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions and personnel.

- and the environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management and environmental compliance activities.

Tax season

New breaks are available for military

By **Capt. Denise Bessellieu**

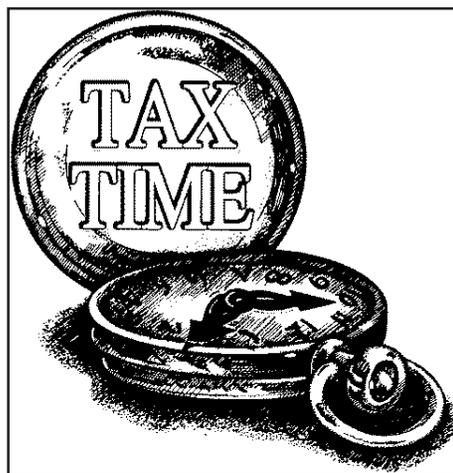
437 AW Legal office

With the start of the tax season, Team Charleston members can take advantage of several new tax breaks.

The Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 provides new tax relief for members of the armed forces and their families.

Some of the most significant changes involve the sale of a home. Others are specific to reservists.

Members of the armed forces may be able to exclude from income a gain from selling the main home, even if residence was not held for the required two years during a five-year period ending on the date of sale. Servicemembers can choose to have the five-year test period for ownership and use suspended during any period a military member or their spouse served on qualified official extended duty as a member of the armed forces. Under the tax code, extended duty means a person was at a duty station at least 50 miles from his main home, or a person



Courtesy graphic

lived in government quarters under government orders. A member is on extended duty when they are called or ordered to active duty for a period of more than 90 days or for an indefinite period.

Example: David bought and moved into a home in 1995. He lived in it as his main home for 2.5 years. For the next six years, he did not live in it because he was on qualified official extended duty with the Air Force. He then sold the home at a gain in

2003. To meet the two-year use test, David chooses to suspend the five-year test period for the six years he was on qualifying official extended duty. This means he can disregard those six years. Therefore, David's five-year test period consists of the five years before he went on qualifying official extended duty. He meets the ownership and use tests because he owned and lived in the home for 2.5 years during this test period.

Servicemembers may be able to claim a refund if tax was paid on a gain from a sale of a home after May 6, 1997. Generally, a claim must be filed for credit or refund within three years from the date the original return was filed or within two years from the date the tax was paid, whichever is later. However, the deadline to file a claim based on this rule for 1997, 1998, 1999 or 2000 has been extended to Nov. 10, 2004. More information on selling a home can be found in Publication 523, *Selling Your Home*.

Beginning in 2003, members of a

Reserve component of the armed forces may be able to deduct some of the Reserve-related travel costs as an adjustment to gross income rather than as an itemized deduction. If a member of a Reserve component of the armed forces travels more than 100 miles away from home in connection with performance of services as a member of the reserves, travel expenses can be deducted as an adjustment to income on line 33 of Form 1040 rather than as a miscellaneous itemized deduction. The deduction is limited to the amount the federal government pays its employees for travel expenses. For more information about this limit, see per diem and car allowances in chapter 6 of IRS Publication 463.

More information can be found in IRS Publication 3, *Armed Forces' Tax Guide*. Go to <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf> to get detailed information on the 2003 tax changes.

For more information or to make an appointment at the base tax center, call 963-1040.

Spotlight

Closure: The 437th Security Forces Squadron Pass and ID section will be closed Wednesday for training. Regular hours will resume Thursday.

Military appreciation: The Charleston Lowgators are having a military appreciation night tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the North Charleston Coliseum. Tickets are \$7.50 with military ID at the coliseum box office. The first 1,000 children will receive Read to Achieve materials. For more information, call 460-1009.

Speeder's alert: The "Fit to Fight" testing loop located on East Jackson, James Drive and Chance Loop behind the fitness center has a new speed limit of 5 mph. This is effective immediately and the new speed limit will be enforced.

Retirement: The 1st Combat Camera Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Joyce Taylor at 10 a.m. Jan. 30 at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Angelo Costanzo at 963-3465.

Around the base

Commander's channel: The commander's access channel is available to all base residents on channel 2. The channel contains information and updates on base events, organizations, and force protection levels. For more information, call the 437 Airlift Public Affairs office at 963-5608.

Awards ceremony: The 437th Quarterly Awards Ceremony is set for 3 p.m. Monday at the Charleston Club. For more information call Master Sgt. Randall Kinser at 963-2156.

Wing promotion: The 437th Airlift Wing Promotion Ceremony is set for 3 p.m. Thursday at the

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Airman 1st Class Matthew Kiefer 437th Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Matthew Kiefer is an avionics integrated system apprentice in the 437th Maintenance Squadron.

Airman Kiefer was recently involved with a team that works with Boeing to improve testing procedures for electronic line replaceable units.

The Indianapolis, Ind., native has been in the Air Force more than 18 months and joined the Air Force because he wanted a meaningful career.

"The working and learning environment is my favorite part of my job," said Airman Kiefer. "Everyone is so willing to pass on their knowledge and expertise."

A future goal of Airman Kiefer's is to earn a bachelor's degree.

"Ever since he arrived on station, he has involved himself in squadron and base activities, while maintaining an exceptional status on his on-the-job training," said Staff Sgt. Doug Berry, 437th Maintenance Squadron avionics flight. "His effort greatly improves the quality of electronic line replacement units that he repairs. This airman exceeds standards in every way possible."



Photo by 1st Lt. Shaloma McGovern

Charleston Club. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. La'Bridget Everett at 963-6774.

Awards banquet: The 437th Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet is set for 6 p.m. Feb. 3 at the Charleston Club. The cost is \$17.50 for club members and \$19.50 for non-members. For more information or tickets, call a squadron first sergeant by Tuesday.

Induction: The Chiefs' Induction Ceremony is set for 6 p.m. Feb.

7 at the Charleston Club. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Lawrence Strother at 963-4591. Tickets are \$20 for club members, and \$23 for non-members. For tickets, call 963-5497 by Jan. 23.

Scholarships: In 2003, the Air Force Aid Society awarded \$5.25 million in college education grants to Air Force dependents, \$31,500 of which went to Charleston AFB dependents. Sons, daughters or spouses could be eligible candidates. Visit the Air Force Aid Society Web site at www.afas.org for information on how to apply for the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program.

Pioneer Bible Club: The Protestant Base Chapel is starting a Pioneer Bible Club for children aged 3 to 10. To volunteer or sign-up children, call the base chapel at 963-2536.

Mileage club: The Charleston AFB Mileage Club is a program designed to motivate participants toward mileage goals positively impacting cardiovascular fitness. Incentive prizes are offered with each mileage goal achieved. For more information, call 963-3347.

N.Y National Guard: The 109th Airlift Wing, Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional guard vacancies in the following career fields: 1A2X1, 1C3X1, 1N0X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 3C1X1, 3C3X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A1X1, 4A2X1, 4D0X1, 4N0X1, 4P0X1, 4T0X1, and 6C0X1. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson, 109 AW/DPR, Wesley.Ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil; DSN 344-2456; or 1-800-524-5070.

To submit information considered for News Briefs, send an e-mail to dispatch@charleston.af.mil with subject: **NEWS BRIEFS**; or send a fax to **963-5604**, ATTN: **NEWS BRIEFS**. Submissions must be received no later than close of business Friday the week before publication.

Development changes affect chiefs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is transforming the way it manages and develops chief master sergeants as part of a servicewide change in professional development.

“In February, our senior leadership agreed to move the management of chief master sergeants from the Air Force Personnel Center to the Air Force Senior Leader Management Office, recognizing our chief master sergeants as senior leaders,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray.

This change provides the same focused, deliberate development of our chief master sergeants that we use with our colonels, general officers and high-ranking civilian employees, the chief said.

Other enhancements to chief development were announced Jan. 12 by Gen. John Jumper in a chief of staff sight picture.

Those initiatives include establishing a new professional military education course, openly cross flowing chiefs from overage career fields to shortage career fields, establishing an assignments rotation policy for special duties and staff positions, raising the retainability requirements for sewing on the highest enlisted rank, and reviewing how the Air Force uses its senior enlisted members.

“Beginning this fall, we will bring a new level of professional military education, for the first time since the early 1990s, for chief master sergeant-selects,” said Chief Murray.

All new chief master sergeant-selects will attend the new course, currently being developed, the chief said. The goal is to give them a broader view of their responsibilities and a strategic view of the Air Force. **(Air Force Print News)**

Veteran hiring increases

WASHINGTON — Hiring of military veterans across the federal civilian work force increased in fiscal 2002, the government’s director of personnel said recently.

In fact, hiring of veterans in the federal work force was up more

than 19 percent over the previous fiscal year, said Kay Coles James, U.S. Office of Personnel Management director, in her agency’s most recent annual report to Congress.

The employment of veterans within the federal government and in private industry is appropriate, because “the many freedoms we enjoy as a nation did not come freely,” Ms. James said. “They were earned through the lives and selfless sacrifices of our veterans.”

In explaining the 19.2 percent increase, the OPM report showed 47,510 veterans were hired government-wide in fiscal 2002, compared to 39,874 hired the year before.

About one out of 10 veterans hired in government during fiscal 2002 worked in professional occupations, the report said, while 25.8 percent of new veteran hires worked in administrative jobs and 19 percent took blue-collar jobs.

According to the report the Defense Department hired 21,657

veterans in fiscal 2002, representing 45.6 percent of all new veteran hires across the federal government that year. **(American Forces Press Service)**

Federal Group Life Insurance rates rise for some

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — Some Air Force Federal Employees Group Life Insurance participants will see an increase in premiums in January.

Civilian employees in the Option B 70-80 or older age bands are slated for the increase the first full pay period of the new year, said Janet Thomas of the center’s civilian Benefits and Entitlements Service Team.

Additional information is available at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/fegli.htm or by calling BEST counselors weekdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time at 800-616-3775. **(Air Force Personnel Center)**

Hold off embroidering Air Force logo

WASHINGTON — Air Force clothing office officials are asking airmen to wait a few weeks before having their lightweight blue jackets embroidered with the Air Force logo.

“We’ve had an overwhelmingly positive response in regards to placing the logo on the jacket,” said Libby Glade, Air Force clothing office chief. “However, we have also received numerous questions from embroidery vendors and private individuals about the logo. We are revising the technical data to obtain an embroidery software format to ensure a high-quality, consistent appearance.”

A contractor is currently working on a digitized pattern, which will be available online at www.af.mil/airforcestory by the first week of February, Ms. Glade said. This pattern should be compatible with 90 percent of the embroidery software programs used by vendors. **(Air Force Print News)**



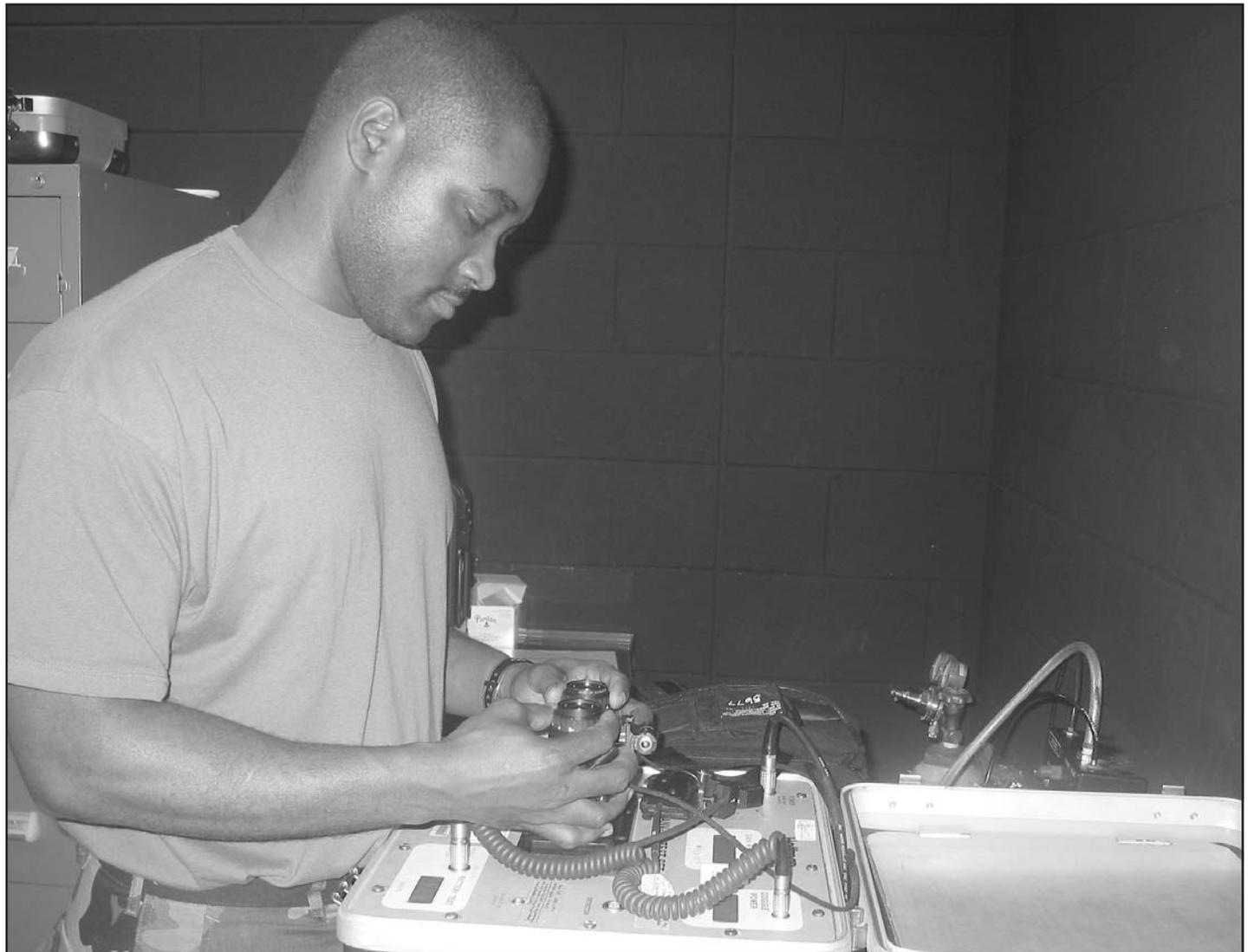
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lisa Zunzanyika

Thank you

An Iraqi boy waves goodbye to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven Keith, 447th Air Expeditionary Group, after he delivered clothing, food and other items donated by airmen at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq.



Maj. James Copher, 437th Operations Support Squadron Life Support officer, attaches a set of night vision goggles to his helmet.



Staff Sgt. Horatio Fox, 437th Operations Support Squadron Life Support technician, conducts maintenance testing on a pair of night vision goggles. Technicians inspect NVGs every 180 days.

Life Support gives gift of sight with NVGs

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Shaloma McGovern
437 AW Public Affairs

Imagine landing a 500,000-pound C-17 on a tiny strip in the middle of a dark forest. It's so dark you can barely see your hand in front of your face, so you might as well be landing the huge plane with your eyes closed.

With the assistance of night vision goggles, it's not impossible. NVGs open up the capability to fly nearly anywhere at night. With night vision goggles, C-17 crews have made a difference in wartime and humanitarian missions.

"NVGs are new to the Air Force. Since 9-11, all aircrews have been trained and qualified to use them during any flight," said Master Sgt. Rick Scholl, 437th Operation Support Squadron Life Support flight line section NCOIC.

"They allow you to go into an airfield where no one knows you are coming until the aircraft touches the ground," said Capt. Jeffrey Matre, 15th Airlift Squadron aircraft commander. "Without NVGs, we would be completely blind."

The life support section is tasked with maintaining this vital piece of equipment. Due to the

technical functions of NVGs, the staff receives specialized training at Luke AFB, Ariz.

"When Operation Iraqi Freedom began, we trained Charleston AFB and McChord AFB, Wash., teams prior to their entry into the area of responsibility," said Senior Airman Matthew Harms, 437th Operations Support Squadron aircrew life support journeyman.

"NVGs affected the mission by allowing us to operate more stealthily into airfields in the combat theaters," said Lt. Col Steve Shope, 15th Airlift Squadron commander. "They let us see at night without lights at the forward operating airfields. Many of those aren't even equipped with adequate lights, but we can now operate there because of NVGs."

The night vision goggles allow the pilots a 40-degree field of vision. They are able to land in the dark utilizing this vital piece of equipment, said Airman Harms.

"NVGs are a very technical piece of equipment. There are few pieces of life support equipment that can save a crew member's life and, if not properly maintained, can actually cause an accident," said Airman Harms. "Our job is to maintain the NVGs

and to teach the aircrews how to properly use them."

Every time an aircrew returns from a trip and every 180 days, the NVGs are retested and calibrated, according to Airman Harms.

"We're better off with NVGs because they enhance our night operating capability," said Colonel Shope. "There are many locations too dangerous to fly into at night with unaided vision. The amplified vision allows us to see the hazardous terrain and see other aircraft without exterior lighting. In combat, lights are targets, and the NVGs allow us to leave our exterior lights off. They are a huge boost to safer flight operations. We've used them about 50 percent of the time during wartime and humanitarian missions."

Operating Enduring Freedom was the first use of night vision goggles in a C-17 formation drop.

"We really depend on the NVGs to accomplish the mission and support Operation Iraqi Freedom," said 1st Lt. Tim Ryan, 15th Airlift Squadron, C-17 first-pilot. "Life support is an essential key to the success of Team Charleston in ensuring the NVGs are working properly and all aircrew members are trained and current."

Command Performance



Photo courtesy of 437th Communications Squadron Visual Information

Flag customs

On Charleston AFB, there are no specific requirements for the 7 a.m. reveille. During retreat and the playing of the National Anthem at 4:30 p.m., everyone outdoors is required to stop and salute the flag and everyone driving is required to stop their vehicles.

WELLNESS TIP

The Dangers of Ephedra

- E** Elevated blood pressure, rapid heartbeat
- E** Nerve damage, muscle injury
- E** Psychosis
- E** Memory loss
- E** Heart attacks, stroke, seizures
- E** Death

For more details, visit the Health and Wellness Center or Nutritional Medicine

SIDEBAR

- The Food and Drug Administration will soon ban sales of the dietary supplement
- Consumers should not assume that "natural" means "safe"



SOURCE: AMC Command Surgeon Office

InfoGraphic by Tech. Sgt. Mark Diamond

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.

Today, 7:30 p.m.

"Stuck On You" – Matt Damon

Walt and Bob are conjoined twins, one of whom has dreams of making it big in Hollywood. When they arrive in town, they're cast on a television show starring Cher. She's bummed about being relegated to television until her show becomes a hit. **(PG-13) 119 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

"The Last Samurai" – Timothy Spall

Tom Cruise plays a 19th century American military officer who travels to Japan to organize and teach the emperor's troops during a time of feudal conflict on the island. As he learns more about the samurai, the traditional protectors of feudal lands, he comes to understand and appreciate the complicated system of honor under which they live. **(R) 154 minutes**

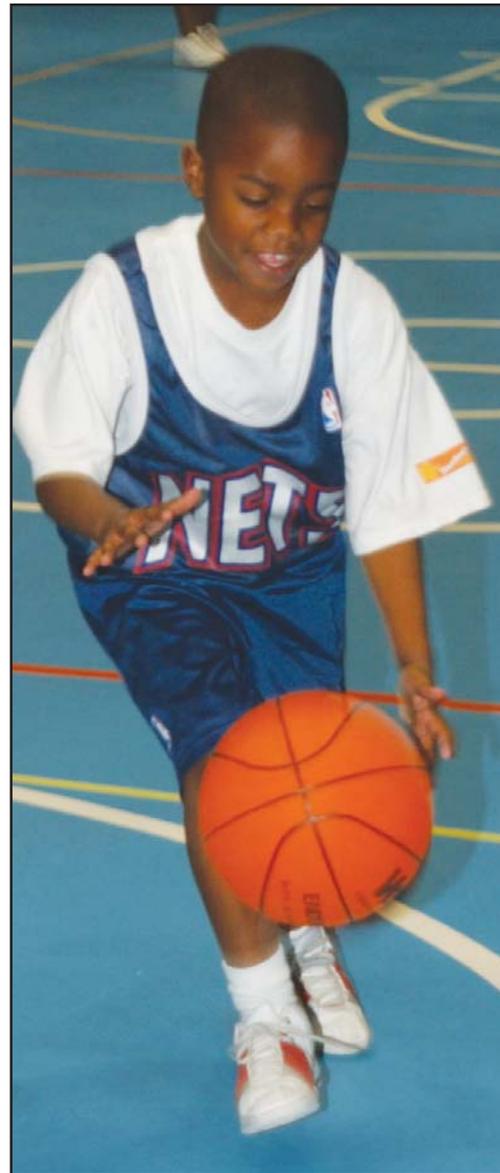
Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.

"Paycheck" – Ben Affleck

Michael has his memory erased by his employer as a security precaution once he's completed special projects. **(PG-13) 115 minutes**

Youth sports

Team Charleston children hoop it up



Left: Emmanuel Bennett, son of Beverly Bennett, 437th Communications Squadron, dribbles down court during the 7- to 8-year-olds game between the Nets and Hornets Saturday.

Below: The 7-to 8-year-olds Nets gather before their game for a motivational cheer with their coaches, David Hughey, 437th Maintenance Group and Richard Thomas, United States Navy.

Above: Alex Tangen, son of Raymond Rightmier, 437th Maintenance Operations Squadron, attempts to keep the ball away from Kalyn Judkins, daughter of Keith Judkins, 437th Logistics Readiness Squadron, during the game between the Raptors and Magic.



Right: Zachary Burns, son of Randy Karels, 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, attempts a steal from Susie Walker, daughter of Isiah Walker, 437th Medical Group, during a 7- to 8-year-olds youth basketball game.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Darnell Cannady