



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Release No. 09-12
September 27, 2002

LOGISTICS GROUP WINS 4TH CHIEF OF STAFF TEAM EXCELLENCE AWARD

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – The 437th Logistics Group took home its fourth Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award at the Air Force Association conference in Washington, D.C., Sept. 17.

The 437th Logistics Support Squadron Logistics Training Flight, along with members of the 315th Airlift Wing and 437 LG, developed Electronic Testing and Evaluation of Student Testing to train C-17 maintenance students throughout the Air Force.

The eTEST is a replacement for the old paper-based maintenance testing, said Richard Hutchinson, 437 LG process improvement chief.

The paper-based testing required members of Team Charleston's 437 LSS LTF to manually send out tests across the globe to keep C-17 maintainers up-to-date with training requirements.

Team members presented their process improvement to five judges in front of 10-foot screens with a narrator and four speakers who explained different aspects of eTEST, said Tech. Sgt. William Harmon, 437 LSS LTF distance learning center manager.

"There were 21 competing teams," said Harmon. "We weren't allowed to see the other presentations, so we had no idea how we did."

Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, presented the awards.

"The announcer named the first winner, and it wasn't us," said Harmon. "As he continued to name the second, third and fourth winners, we were getting very nervous. After the fourth winner was named, Gen. Jumper got up and started to leave. The announcer quickly told him there was one more award to be handed out. Then the announcer named eTEST as the fifth winner, and we all jumped up and hollered. We were definitely nervous."

The team allowed Staff Sgt. Mike Kretser, 437 LSS LTF webmaster, the youngest NCO on the team, to accept the award, said Hutchinson.

Hutchinson said every team in the LG that has won the award allowed the youngest member to accept the award. The LG went to the 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2002 AFA conferences for the Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award, and each time they won.

Hutchinson said the comments he received from the judges were that they were impressed with the backlog the Internet-based testing eliminated.

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eTEST presenters included Capt. Jeff Olsen, 437 LSS; Master Sgt. Tony Trodglen, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron; Tech. Sgt. William Harmon, 437 LSS; Tech. Sgt. Ken Spinler, 437 LSS; Tech. Sgt. Michael Ferguson, 315th Aircraft Generation Squadron; Staff Sgt. Brandon Cleary, 437 LSS; Staff Sgt. Mike Kretser, 437 LSS; Staff Sgt. Darek Malone, 1st Combat Camera Squadron; Richard Hutchinson, 437 LG; and Rick Wood, 437 AGS.

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