

COMMENTARY

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Charleston troops continue to impress

By Col. Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

I really enjoyed the chance to have breakfast, both with the chiefs and the colonels Tuesday, and then at the airmen's breakfast Thursday. We had about 25 young airmen out there, and it was good listening to their perspective on things.

I also had a chance to go to the Airman Leadership School class and sit down and talk to them. What a great bunch of motivated folks there! I think they enjoyed the course and learned a lot, and they had some good questions for me. Congratulations to all who graduated Tuesday evening.

During my orientation with the 437th Medical Group, I met the many outstanding professionals from the dental clinic, the medical support squadron including Mr. Bob Frazier and several others at outpatient records, and the medical operations and aerospace medicine squadrons. I met folks at places like public health, outpatient records, flight medicine, logistics, family practice, Tricare, immunizations and the Health and Wellness Center. I was very impressed with the entire medical group as well as their facilities.

I particularly enjoyed seeing one office in the dental clinic which a young airman, Airman 1st Class Brenda Barnhart, had decorated with smiley faces.

There was another young airman, Airman 1st Class Devon Scott in pediatrics, who told me how she really likes her job—how busy they are, but how much she's enjoying it. That was pleasant to hear.

1st Lt. Tracy Glenz and the bioenvironmental engineering folks gave me a good rundown on what they're doing over there. They've done a great job with the quantitative gas mask fit program.

Maj. Rosemary Richardson and Master Sgt. Bruce Brinson gave me a great tour of the HAWC, and I even had a chance to "rest" for a minute in the relaxation room. If you want to go relax, it's a great place to go for it!

I began orientations with the operations group last week. I saw a lot of the 437th Operations Support Squadron and the OG Standardization and Evaluation division.

I had a chance to sit down with two very experienced pilots in Stan/Eval, Maj. Tim Diemer and Maj. Ken Burch, and talk about a lot of the issues we're dealing with related to the C-17 weapon system.

I met with the folks in the current operations flight who are doing a day-by-day, minute-by-minute great job manag-

ing the missions that we fly here. The whole office was very busy, as usual, when I was up there. Capt. Rob Carpenter, the bookie for the week, took a minute to brief me on what's going on, amongst the chaos he was dealing with at the time. They're doing a great job up there.

I had a chance to meet Maj. Rick Oddo and his folks in the training flight, and some of the folks who work in special operations, Maj. Vince Logsdon and Maj. Steve Groenheim. They're doing a great job as well.

At the life support flight, Senior Master Sgt. Mike Freebury gave me a great tour of the facility and a chance to meet some of the good folks over there. There was an airman, Senior Airman Candy Guinn, who just came in from Osan AB, Korea, where she worked fighters. I convinced her that she'll do great with heavy aircraft, and that she's going to love it here in Charleston.

Last Friday was a good day hosting Maj. Gen. Nick Williams. He gave a good brief over at the theater on Expeditionary Aerospace Force issues. Then we came back to the office and Col. Ron Richardson and Lt. Col. Maureen Cunningham chaired a meeting to talk with him about some of the more salient issues that are happening operationally and logistically in the C-17 business. We had a great brief from Maj. Johnny Roscoe on night vision goggles.

Special thanks to the folks from the communications squadron who helped out with both Maj. Gen. Williams' briefing in the theater and on Sunday supporting the 315th Support Group change of command.

The Top Dollar team "wowed the crowd" at wing standup Monday with their video and warrior outlook. Five members from the comptroller squadron and two from contracting are training to compete in events such as an obstacle course, 9 mm shooting, and self aid and buddy care at the Air Mobility Command Top Dollar competition in June.

I had the opportunity to fly with the C-141 Rodeo crew Monday evening. Lt. Col. Henry Steenken, Maj. Mike "the Rock" Zech, and their crew did a fabulous job. They'll head to Pope AFB, N.C., May 6 for the week-long AMC Rodeo competition, and I know they'll bring back some silver.

I'm looking forward to getting on the road today with some of our folks to learn more about the C-17. I'm headed out on a mission to the Pacific with Capt. Paul Stevens and his crew from the 17th Airlift Squadron for about a week.

When I return from the Pacific, I'll be back out to finish up my orientations with all the great folks from the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet.

Gate closure

Thanks to all the callers for taking the time to call the Action Line in reference to traffic issues associated with the Dorchester Gate closure.

With help from the Charleston County Sheriffs Office and the Department of Transportation, the following improvements have been made:

- The light near the Commissary Gate was adjusted so Hunley Park traffic will have a longer green light. This, combined with opening Alaska Avenue near Cross County Road, should help people get on base quicker.

- Two message boards have been set up on Dorchester Road, north of the Commissary Gate. One sign informs base traffic to get in the right lane and one will tell base

Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base 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.



traffic to turn at Alaska.

Civilian police on base

I'm concerned about civilian police patrolling the base and giving out tickets. We live in base housing and I've seen them drive like they're on the main highway. Civilian police should have no business patrol-

ling on Federal property.

The Charleston County Sheriffs Department was invited onto base by the 437th Security Forces Squadron and is fully supported in their initiative to crack down on those who won't follow traffic rules.

Many housing residents expressed concern about speeding in base housing

at the last town hall meeting. Their concerns were heard. You're correct that the base is federal property, however we don't have exclusive jurisdiction. Ours is a proprietary which means civilian authorities are authorized entrance at any time.

Just remember that only those who break the law have anything to fear when being pulled over.

Anyone wishing to log a complaint about the conduct of a specific civilian police officer may call the respective departments. The North Charleston Police Department police numbers is 554-5700 and Charleston County Sheriffs Office is 554-4700.

Dangerous or unsafe driving on base can be reported by calling 963-3600.