

Dispatch



AIRLIFT

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Air Force exceeds 2000 recruiting goal

The Air Force said that it is winning its "war on recruiting" by reaching this year's goal with the recent signing of the 34,000th enlistment contract in Mt. Vernon, Ill.

With 26,070 new airmen sent to basic training since the beginning of the fiscal year, the Air Force has enough contracts with new recruits to enter basic training by Sept. 30 to meet its annual goal.

"Locally we've come up to 100 percent of our recruiting goal," said Master Sgt. Robert Colbourne, Charleston area Air Force recruiting flight chief. "We're a little short on our entry to active duty goal, but we're on track and shouldn't have any problems making it up."

Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters said, "This is a great accomplishment for not only our recruiters, but for the entire United States Air Force. We made recruiting a top priority this year and are pleased to see the initial fruits of our labor. However, we won't let up; we will continue to work hard to reach both our future recruiting and retention goals."

Last year, the Air Force missed its recruiting goal for the first time in 20 years. An increase in the number of recruiters, targeted enlistment bonuses in hard-to-fill areas and months, and a first-ever paid television-advertising campaign contributed to

this year's success.

"There's a great awareness about the Air Force, especially in the Charleston area," Colbourne said. "The new advertising campaigns have helped and we've put more recruiters on the street." In addition to increasing its overall manning, the Air Force deployed 100 recruiters from headquarters and staff positions for 90 days, recalled 170 former recruiters to serve 120 days on temporary duty status and deferred assignments for nearly 100 recruiters. This boosted its number of "on the street" recruiters from fewer than 900 last fall to approximately 1,300 current recruiters.

"Our front-line recruiters and the entire Air Force recruiting team are doing excellent work," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan. "They've responded to the challenge and we are extremely pleased with the quantity and quality of our new recruits. We will continue to make recruiting and retention a top priority."

Even with 34,000 sign-ups in hand, recruiters are still hard at work recruiting additional candidates in anticipation of possible cancellations and to begin filling an expected 34,600 new jobs for next year.

"I think we're at a turnaround stage," Colbourne said. **Recruit**, page 2



White out

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Moore, 437th Security Forces Squadron anti-terrorism program manager, puts the finishing touches on Entry Control Point 3. The ECP was moved Aug. 1 as part of a new system to help TDY flightline workers easily identify ECPs and improve flightline security measures.

Senior Airman Jason Smith

By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith 437 AW Public Affairs

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Sam Parish, the eighth chief master sergeant of the Air Force, visited Charleston July 26-28.

While visiting the base, Parish presided over an informal ceremony on a C-17 and was the guest speaker at the senior noncommissioned officer induction ceremony.

Both events gave him the opportunity to talk to Charleston's enlisted

Retired CMSAF visits Charleston AFB

members and give them his take on military life.

"This is not the same Air Force I joined," Parish said. "The mission's changed; the uniform's changed. Virtually everything's changed except the titles." "There have been more changes in the past 10 years than there have been in 44, but I think this is the best Air Force in history."

Parish joined the Air Force in December 1954, made his way through

the ranks and was selected as Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force in August 1983.

"As a young NCO, my focus was not on promotion, retraining or retirement," he said. "My focus was on being the best at what I do. If I did that, I knew my supervisors would take care of me."

Parish said it's not the responsibility of supervisors and senior NCOs to try to keep people in the Air Force.

"We need to make things available for airmen to make a conscientious decision about their future," Parish said. "Airmen should take a broad look at what civilian life offers compared to military life because a lot of military members don't realize how good they have it."

"Even with the high operations tempo, life in the Air Force is not a bad way," Parish said. "It allows us to be unbelievably independent and gives us options we wouldn't have see **Chief**, page 2