

## COMMENTARY

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AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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## Nine-ship demonstrates our "go-to-war" capabilities

By Col. Rusty Findley II  
437 AW commander

Team Charleston once again demonstrated we are the premiere airlift wing on the face of the planet when we launched nine C-17s Aug. 17 as part of our wing training. The ability to launch this many aircraft and practice our large formation airdrop and low-level routes is critical to our "go-to-war" mission. Despite a very high, on-going operations tempo, maintainers, aerial porters, aircrews and many others across the wing came together to make this training happen. What a huge accomplishment! The mission commander of the nine ship was Lt. Col. Fred Cianciolo and the lead planner was Capt. Andy Ormiston. It was a great

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effort by the entire logistics group community to ensure this mission was a success. It was a great team effort by the whole wing and a personal thrill for me to be a part of the formation.

We hosted about 60 members of the Charleston Lions club Tuesday for a luncheon and tour of a C-17 aircraft. In meeting with them, they have a great appreciation for what you do for our country and they expressed that appreciation to me many times.

I was also grateful for the opportunity to speak with the Officers Spouses

Association Tuesday evening. It was a great opportunity to meet spouses who support our active duty and Reserve members everyday. I appreciate the worthwhile activities they do, and the many other private organizations, that benefit Team Charleston. Keep up the good work!

The air expo is almost upon us. Maj. Petra Sharrett, airshow director, and the expo committee are plugging away to make this year's annual open house our best ever as

Charleston's award-winning C-17 will take center stage. Although the airshow is not until Oct. 14, the Sept. 1 deadline for squadrons interested in concession stands is almost upon us. Please call John Hattel at 963-3815 if interested. As mentioned last week, the airshow committee needs volunteers to help out with a variety of projects.

Special congratulations to our recent graduates of the Senior NCO Academy at Robins AFB, Ga. Kudos to Senior Master Sergeants Karl Nichols and Johnny Hamilton and to Master Sergeants Janet Osborne and Faye Ellison. Col. Don Gallion and Chief Master Sgt Harvey Hampton stood in for me at the graduation ceremonies.

It was my honor to award the command's top honors to Air Mobility Command's best historian. Master Sgt. Dennis Pinner received the 1999 AMC Excellence in Wing History Program award. Pinner consistently wrote outstanding wing histories and was deployed as the Balkan Combined Air Operations Center Historian in support of Operations DELIBERATE FORCE and JOINT GUARDIAN. It is difficult to serve in one-person deep shop and Pinner has demonstrated how to do that better than most.

I also was pleased to present the 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron with the Blood Drive Trophy, awarded to the squadron who had the highest participation rate during the last blood drive. The base donated a total of 150 pints of blood during the last drive and the American Red Cross depends on Team Charleston for their generosity. We continue to be one of the largest contributors to the Red Cross. Thanks to all who donated blood. The next basewide blood drive is scheduled for Oct 4.

The base is hosting the South Carolina Selective Service System conference for regional directors Friday through Sunday. A special welcome to retired Maj. Gen. Earle E. Morris Jr., director of the South Carolina SSS. Thanks to the wing protocol shop, as always, for taking great care of these visitors.

Have a great weekend at the premiere airlift wing on the face of this planet!



Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

**Maj. Douglas Taylor, 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron commander, accepts the Blood Drive trophy on behalf of his unit, as Candace Oliver, American Red Cross representative, looks on.**

## Tee time trouble

**I've been trying to get an early tee time during the weekends for a couple months now. On Wednesday mornings at 7 a.m. (earliest weekend tee times can be booked) the earliest times available are after 10 a.m. Any given Saturday or Sunday it seems the same people are teeing off early in the morning. I'm wondering if the process of issuing tee times is fair.**

Thank you for your patronage and concern. Active-duty personnel assigned to Charleston AFB

and golf course members may reserve tee times three days in advance. All others must wait until two days in advance. Reservations are made by phone or in person with the staff alternating between the two. When the staff takes the first tee time on Wednesday, 7 a.m., the tee time reservation list is clear. They issue an average of eight to ten tee times per minute and within a three-minute period, the staff has issued 24 to 30 tee times. The most requested tee times are between 7 and 9 a.m., which allows only 16 tee times available for prime time play. On any

## 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](mailto:action@charleston.af.mil).

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.



given Wednesday morning, at least 15 people are waiting outside the clubhouse to reserve tee times, with most of these folks arriving around 5:30 a.m. Wrenwoods Golf Course has

a policy in place that we feel is fair and equitable. If you have a suggestion to improve the current policy, please call the Wrenwoods Golf Course Manager, Karen Harrell, at 963-4174.