

COMMENTARY

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AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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21 AF commander impressed with Team Charleston

By Col. Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

The visit from Maj. Gen. Nick William's, 21st Air Force commander, and Mrs. Williams, went exceptionally well. We showed him what we are all about, namely our pride, professionalism and passion in what we do. He had an opportunity to thank many of the young men and women who make up this impressive team. He left very impressed and thankful for all we're doing.

A special thanks to our project officers Capt. Shawn Whitaker and 1st Lt. Ryan Vander Veen, 14th Airlift Squadron, and our always-great protocol staff for their efforts.

Four members of the Air Mobility Command Inspector General staff inspected four different Special Interest Items for the command and Air Staff this week. We fared extremely well on most of those areas, with the exception of one area where we still have some work to do. I'm confident we'll take the inspector's feedback and have the fixes in place before long.

I appreciate many of the squadrons working hard to meet our deadline of 100 percent testing for the ergometry test before the year end. Jason Ham of the Health and Wellness Center has been doing a great job getting our folks tested. We are a little behind-the-pace from last year, with approximately 92.5 percent of the workforce tested to date. It will take some effort on our part to test the remaining members, but I'm sure we'll get there if everyone does their part.

The annual tree lighting drew a large crowd, and it

was truly a lot of fun for families. We were fortunate to have the Youth Services choir to get us in the holiday spirit. Despite the Christmas chill in the air, it was especially festive for the approaching holidays. I was pleased with the turnout for the tree lighting ceremony and enjoyed the sing-along songs.

I was honored to participate in the Flying Crew Chief induction ceremony Tuesday. This was our second Flying Crew Chief ceremony and was a great opportunity to recognize the outstanding performance of our crew chiefs. Before awarding someone the designation of flying crew chief, they must become highly qualified in their career field and possess special skills to operate, troubleshoot and maintain the world's greatest airlifter, the C-17 Globemaster III.

Each Flying Crew Chief was presented with a special certificate, patch and coin. Congratulations to the FCCs, Tech. Sgt. Shannon Lawrence and the following senior airmen: Marcus Parker, Dustin Silberling and James McBath. All are from the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron. These young folks are doing a great job for their country.

Likewise, it was my pleasure to recognize our outstanding Diamond Sharp recipients for November this week. The following individuals were recognized: Staff Sgt. Crystal Ferguson, 437th Maintenance Squadron; Staff Sgt. Luke Bell, 437th Services Squadron; Senior Airman Michael Gosselin, 437th Security Forces Squadron; and Airman 1st Class Ryan Thompson, 437th Aerial Port Squadron.



Photo by Capt. Tracy Velino
Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, receives a flu shot from Master Sgt. Bruce Brinson, 437th Aeromedical Dental Operations Squadron medical technician.

We receive our out-brief today on the results of our two inspections of the 437th Medical Group, namely the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and Health Services Inspection. As mentioned last week, the 437 MDG spent a great deal of time preparing for these two inspections. I'm sure we will hear some good news on the results of these two very important inspections.

I appreciate many of the wing's outreach efforts to bring the community onto the base, primarily through our public affairs office, and to provide many area youth groups and educators with tours of the base. These types of activities, as well as the many speaking engagements, help spread the good word about our people, often pay big dividends for our local recruiters and help the public to better understand our mission. There are countless ways for you to make an impact.

I'm a big fan of Team Charleston and can always find the time to let the public know about the premier airlift wings on the face of this planet. For example, I had the chance to speak at three community service organizations this week alone.

We all need to do our

part to tell our story in the local community. Fewer and fewer people have served in the military, and the gap has widened. By being active in our community, we can close that gap and increase the public's understanding, and increase their support of our great airmen!

We saw off our Top Dollar team on Wednesday and hope for them to bring back the gold in the Air Force competition. The combined team of 437th Contracting Squadron and 437th Comptroller Squadron folks will represent AMC in the competition this week at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss. The team spent many weeks preparing for this competition, and I'm confident they will return with several Air Force level awards.

Next week, we're going to make great progress as we shore up our mobility processes in anticipation of our much larger MOBEX in January. Be prepared to put in a couple of days of long hours and hard work. This exercise will make us better able to perform our wartime mission.

I'm really having fun visiting the Christmas parties and meeting all of you. I'm looking forward to the many holiday events. Please be safe out there and have fun.

Action Line

Q: The tennis courts at the Outdoor Recreation Center have a switch box for the lights. It has been padlocked. With the time change and it getting dark earlier, we are unable to play tennis. The center said that it was locked because people are playing late at night which disturbs the campers.

A: Thank you for question regarding the tennis courts. Unfortunately, the courts are located in our family campground and just recently, we received several complaints from our camp users concerning late night usage of this area. While we are aware of the needs of our campers, we are also aware of

the desires of our patrons who would like to play basketball and tennis after dark. The light box will remain locked, but a key will



be available from our camp host in camping space # 22. We request that all patrons who use the courts at night turn off the lights at 10 p.m. and return the key to the camp host. Hopefully, this solution will prove agreeable to all our patrons. Again, thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.