

## COMMENTARY

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AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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# CAFB Top Dollar team competes, 437 MDG aces inspections

By Col. Rusty Findley  
437AW commander

Our Top Dollar team represented the command during the Air Force level competition at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., Dec. 8 through Tuesday. I am very proud of our combined 437<sup>th</sup> Contracting and Comptroller Squadron teams. They prepared very hard for the competition, and that practice showed when I visited with them Tuesday. It was exciting to see their pride, passion and professionalism at work in the competition.

There were many of our Air Force senior leaders watching our team compete. Congratulations to each team member for their accomplishments.

I could not be any prouder of our 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group's outstanding performance with their recent inspections by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and Health Services Inspection. These inspections occur once every three years and can find serious deficiencies, but not in our 437 MDG.

In fact, both inspection teams rank us in the highest categories, which certainly speaks volumes about the quality of the healthcare that our people enjoy.

I watched over the course of the last three months as the 437 MDG prepared for this inspection while continuing to deliver top-notch care. They passed this mandatory test with flying colors and that is



Col. Rusty Findley, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, talks with members of the processing line during the base-wide exercise Wednesday.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith

a strong testament to the teamwork in the 437 MDG and Col. Regina Aune's leadership. A special thanks goes to Capt. Shelley Lovelady, the 437 MDG project officer, for all her hard work in preparing the staff for this important inspection. See the article on Page 1 for more details.

As a result of unforeseen delays, I am disappointed that we will not be opening the new dining hall in time for the Christmas meal as had been originally planned. We needed some additional time to make sure the facility is right before opening it. I'm confident that very soon our outstanding airmen will get a world-class facility that is conveniently located next to the dormitories. The new facility will have about 15,000 square feet of floor space and is designed to accommodate 630 people. It's a great facility

and is nearly finished. There will be more to follow on the grand opening within the next few months.

The mobility exercise went well this week, and I can see a tremendous improvement in the way everyone approaches a large deployment. The Unit Deployment Managers are working very hard to ensure their people are ready to deploy. Everyone has a responsibility to do everything possible to ensure they are ready. It is a true team effort and I appreciate the hard work by everyone. We've walked quite a ways since the last exercise in November. We must keep the momentum going for our much larger mobility exercise in January. It will be a good test of our abilities to deploy, survive and operate in a bare-base environment.

We have an upcoming visit by the commander of Air Education and Training Command, Gen. Hal Hornburg and Mrs. Hornburg, Dec. 19-20. Gen. Hornburg will be visiting the AETC 373<sup>rd</sup> Field Training Detachment here. He'll also have an opportunity to fly on one of our C-17s and interact with many of our people. He will meet with our Company Grade Officers at breakfast in the Charleston Club Dec. 20, 7:30 a.m.

The FTD provides a "one-of-a-kind" C-17 maintenance training facility, and the general will get to see the many unique training devices that they use to train our airmen. It is certainly a world-class facility, and one that General Hornburg has been looking forward to visiting. The FTD provides a great service for our maintenance community, and the general will get to meet some of the professionals working there.

I am having a blast at the many Christmas parties I'm attending. It is always a pleasure to get out and meet with the many fine men and women who make this wing the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet. It has, quite frankly, been a lot of fun, and I appreciate all the invites.

The holidays are the time of year for family and friends to celebrate and be joyous; however, we must remain vigilant by continuing to always think safety first in our daily activities and routines, i.e.; whether it's at work, Christmas shopping, or trips out of the local area. Take some well-deserved, needed time to rest and relax during the holidays, but remember that safety is everyone's business. Have a great Air Force weekend!

## 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.

