



Blue Angels coming to CAFB

The Blue Angels Navy flight demonstration squadron announced it will perform May 19 at the Charleston AFB Air Expo 2001. The Blue Angels have scheduled 66 shows at 34 locations in the United States and Canada during the 2001 season. The team's home base is Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. The Blue Angels' aerial demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines in the FA-18 jet. The six pilots perform approximately 30 maneuvers in a demonstration. The entire show runs about one hour and 15 minutes. The annual air expo is free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.charleston.af.mil or www.blueangels.navy.mil.

Movers

continued from page 1

437 APS Phase II instructor. "The crew can get their needed crew rest, while APS loads the aircraft. It allows us to move on to the next plane quicker while the aircrews meet their requirements."

The RAF is slotted to lease four C-17s from Boeing, starting May 2001, and the training here was to prepare them to train more movers in Britain. Fitzgerald and Bock completed an additional 18 days of training at Altus AFB, Okla., prior to their training at CAFB. They will not only be instructors for the RAF, but evaluators as well.

The movers went through two weeks of classroom training where they learned math computations, center of balance and other things needed to properly load and unload a C-17.

"After the classroom training, they had to pass a test," said Cozart. "They needed an 86 to pass. The lowest score was a 93. One of them even scored 100. They all did extremely well."

While the movers are already certified to load many different aircraft, Vaughn said this experience is a little bit different because they will build their own program.

"The movers basically do everything themselves," said Vaughn. "They're not used to having a loadmaster. They can take this experience home and set up a new program to fit their needs."

Following the test, the movers had to perform a practical, hands-on evaluation loading and unloading a C-17.

"They had to perform a pre-flight aircraft inspection, do all the planning and physically load the aircraft," said Maj. Daren Baker, 437 APS operations officer. "Only the best and brightest have been involved in the Phase II program since it started. This was no exception. We have 318 cargo specialists. Only 17 of them are certified in Phase II."

Fitzgerald, who will now be an RAF evaluator, said he enjoyed the training opportunity and he feels confident working with the C-17 on his own now.

"I've had a really good

time," said Fitzgerald. "I've learned a lot in the time period we've had. Everyone involved in the program gave us any help we needed. It was a 100 percent effort."

As far as cultural differences, Bock said the classroom environment was the same as Britain's, but the language barrier was noticeable.

"We're two nations separated by the same language," said Bock laughing. "We were able to figure things out very quickly and I think we've learned more than we expected to in the short time we had in the classroom."

Baker said Charleston was selected for the opportunity to train the movers because of the outstanding Phase II program here.

"An AMC Phase II program inspector said in June that CAFB has the best Phase II program he's ever seen," said Baker. "We hope we are selected again for this type of training should the opportunity present itself. The military and civilian partnership in the squadron have made this program a success, and Phase II will continue to be successful."

315 AW staff sergeant brings holiday food to on-duty cops

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

A staff sergeant assigned to the 315th Mission Support Squadron has been bringing holiday meals to Charleston AFB security forces members for over six years.

Every Thanksgiving and Christmas, Charlene Lowe delivers dinners with all the trimmings to the Dorchester Gate, Rivers Gate and 437th Security Forces Squadron control center.

"I just want to let them know they are cared about and their hard work is appreciated," said Lowe.

"Everyone who knows me knows I care about people."

Lowe said she started bringing the meals to the posts for many reasons, but most importantly because of a promise she made to herself.

"When I was in basic training over the Thanksgiving holiday, the Arnest family from Lackland AFB, Texas, took me and my friend in for dinner," said Lowe. "They treated us like we were part of their family. Since then, I promised myself in some way to return the favor. A lot of times the security forces work shifts and they don't get to eat with their families, or they just don't have time to cook. They give up their holidays to

keep us safe and this is just something small I can do in return."

Lowe also said her younger brother John Lowe III is active duty Air Force, and other families share their home with him when he can't make it back to Charleston for the holidays.

"This was first my Thanksgiving away from home other than Basic Training," said Airman Jesse Macos, 437 SFS. "It was very nice of her to bring us food because we have to work. She came from her house and did all that work just to be nice."

While Lowe delivers the food on her own, she doesn't take all the credit for preparing it.

"My mom helps with the cooking," said Lowe. "For Thanksgiving she made the potato salad and the sweet potatoes — the best. Sometimes mom gets on me a little because I rush through dinner to get the plates ready to deliver, but I'm blessed to have a great mom who supports me in this."

As for Christmas, Lowe and her mother are planning to cook turkey, ham, chicken, stuffing, gravy, rolls, sweet potatoes and potato salad.

"God has been so very good to us and it's great to have someone to share it with," said Lowe smiling. "It's really nice to have someone else to make a plate for."



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith
(Right) Sgt. Mik Gidney, Royal Air Force, shakes hands with Staff Sgt. Timothy Vaughn after successfully completing the practical evaluation of the Phase II Program.