

Distinguished visitors get a close look at Team Charleston

by Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop, Jr.
437 AW commander

We are certainly into our busy "visit" season with a huge increase in the number of distinguished visitors coming to view Team Charleston. More work, but also a great opportunity to point out many of our accomplishments and hopefully garner support for future improvements to our facilities and weapon systems.

Among those recently stopping in: Col. "Rusty" Findley, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander and "soon to be" 437th Airlift Wing commander, and 23 civic leaders from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. During their visit, they learned about the C-17 and its capabilities and were truly impressed with everyone they came in contact with. I received plenty of praise and want to pass along a thank you to everyone that was involved with their visit.

On Tuesday, an Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation team of about 30 inspectors from 21st Air Force arrived for a 10-day look at the profi-

ciency of our flying crew force and to examine standardization and evaluation programs within the 437th Airlift Wing. Maj. Gen. John Hopper Jr., 21st Air Force commander, will be here next Friday for the team's outbrief. General Hopper is also scheduled to return Feb. 10 as our guest speaker for the national prayer breakfast.

Col. Ted Bowlds, program director for the C-17 Program office at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, also arrived on Tuesday to discuss C-17 issues. He also had an opportunity to have a user interface with the Operations and Logistics Groups. We welcome the opportunity to talk about our experience with the C-17 and lay the groundwork for continued future improvements.

On Sunday and Monday, we host Gen. Hans Peter Von Kirchbach, chief of staff for Germany's Federal Armed Forces and four other senior officers for their first visit to Charleston Air Force Base. Other senior officers include Maj. Gen. Wolfgang Schneiderhahn, assistant chief of the

Federal Armed Forces for Political-Military Affairs and Operations and Brig. Gen. Peter Goebel, German Defense Attache. This visit will give them an insight into the C-17 and its capabilities as well as a chance to meet with the wing's senior leadership. It is truly an honor that Charleston was chosen as one of the visit sites for Germany's senior military leadership and an indication that the reputation we've earned is truly known worldwide.

On Sunday, we also begin hosting five members of Headquarters Air Mobility Command safety office who will conduct a program evaluation of the wing's overall safety program, to include our flying, ground and weapons safety programs. The team will work closely with unit safety representatives and is scheduled to depart January 28.

I'd also like to underscore that in the last month, we've had or will have had five different congressional visits. On Sunday, 2nd District Congressman Floyd Spence will tour North Auxiliary Airfield. With each of these

visits, we are looking to garner congressional support for a number of projects around the base, to include renovations to Hunley Park and our runway at North Auxiliary Airfield.

One final visit I would like to share with you was a visit last week from retired Maj. Gen. William H. Carpenter, a former mobilization augmentee to the Commander in Chief of Military Airlift Command, who was here to capture some of the "best practices" from the 315th and 437th Airlift Wing interfaces.

In his comments to me and Col. Ed Stickler, 315th AW commander, General Carpenter said that at Charleston, we have set the standard and have allowed the Associate program to mature to a point they could have only dreamed of when they started the Associate Reserve Program in late 1963. A tremendous team with great spirit and cooperation that truly embodies why Team Charleston has been so successful. Failure and success is not defined by what we as individuals do, but what we can accomplish working together!

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



I am calling in reference to state troopers on a federal installation. I think this is opening the door to animosity and confusion for military personnel.

I have heard of instances of state troopers checking identification cards at the gates, a woman being ticketed for \$100 for failing to do a five second count at a stop sign, even though she came to a complete stop. I am also concerned about state troopers in unmarked cars on base, this brings up a lot of security concerns. I understand the SPs are over-

worked and undermanned, but there must be a better solution. Where will it stop? When state troopers are in control? This is a federal installation!

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to clarify why the County Sheriff's Department was invited onto Charleston AFB and to reiterate my concern for the safety of base personnel.

At the recent Town Hall meeting, many of our housing residents expressed concern over speeders in housing and we have had numerous other complaints about crosswalk safety and general traffic safety. I heard their concerns.

In order to take action to alleviate the traffic violations, the Security Forces asked for support from our local Sheriff's Department. As you know, Security Forces manning is not sufficient to provide a wide presence for strictly law enforcement duties. You are correct that the base is a federal installation, but we do not have exclusive jurisdiction. Ours is proprietary and as such the civilian authorities are authorized entrance at any time.

Keep in mind that only those who break the law have anything to fear from the sheriff's department. I fully support the initiative to crack down on those who refuse to follow traffic rules in place for our safety. The woman you refer to as being ticketed for failure to

stop for five seconds was already contacted by the security forces commander and she has the opportunity to contest the ticket in court, just as she would any moving violation she received off base.

If military members have any difficulty with the Sheriff's Department officers, they should contact the security forces commander.

I am calling about the automatic refill for the dispensary. The computer has been more or less inoperative for at least two or three months as far as I know, and I had to get my medications this morning. They were nice enough to take care of me since the computer was down.

I'm not sure if there shouldn't be either command support to get that thing operational or a congressional. Thank you. I would appreciate a call.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns about the pharmacy's refill call-in-system.

The 437th Medical Group pharmacy strives to provide a user-friendly and efficient refill prescription service to our beneficiary population. Unfortunately, our efforts have been hindered over the past few months due to numerous breakdowns of this
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Airlift DISPATCH

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