

## COMMENTARY

## Exercises test our procedures

## About the paper

AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

Published by Diggle Publishing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 437th Airlift Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service.

Contents of the *Airlift Dispatch* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or Diggle Publishing, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. All photos are Air Force photos unless identified otherwise.

## Deadlines

The deadline for submitting news stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceding the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

## Advertising

Classified advertisements may be referred to Diggle Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 2014, Charleston, S.C., 29465, Phone: (843) 849-1778 or fax 849-0214. Classified advertisements are free, with the exception of personal business ads, for active duty military members and their spouses, retirees and Reservists.

## Address/Numbers

Editorial content is prepared by the 437th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 223.

Phone: (843) 963-5608

Fax: (843) 963-5604.

Mail to:

437 AW PAI

102 East Hill Blvd.

Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154

or send to:

[dispatch@charleston.af.mil](mailto:dispatch@charleston.af.mil)

## Editorial Staff

437 AW Commander  
Col. Vern M. "Rusty"  
Findley II

Chief, Public Affairs  
Lt. Col. Edmund Memi

Editor  
Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith

Associate editor  
Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

Photo Support  
Base Visual Information Center

By Col. Rusty Findley  
437th Airlift Wing Commander

I recently returned from Phoenix Rally, a meeting of all the commanders in Air Mobility Command. It was an excellent opportunity for the various functional experts from the headquarters to brief us on their programs. There was some good information exchanged. The command is in good shape and attuned to the needs of the bases and our airmen. Gen. Charles "Tony" Robertson, Jr., commander of U.S. Transportation Command and AMC, and many of the command's senior leaders are certainly listening to the feedback that our airmen are providing. The message that they shared with us was that they would do all that they can and will make a great situation even better. The flag is flying pretty high in the command! We just need to continue on our journey and raise it a little higher to make our Air Force even better for you who do the work. We have great support from AMC to make that happen.

Once again, Team Charleston came through when we hosted the U.S. TRANSCOM congressional staffers for a visit last week. They were extremely impressed with Charleston and had only good comments about their visit here. Special thanks to the project officer, Maj. Kevin Edenborough from the 15th Airlift Squadron and our protocol staff led by Kathy Nichel.

I want to personally thank Col. Ed and Linda Stickler of the 315th Airlift Wing for all that they have done over the years. As many of you may know, Col. Stickler's change of command is scheduled for Sunday, June 11. I speak for



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Allen

Purple Dragon will include an 11-ship C-17 formation dropping paratroopers, heavy equipment and supplies. The exercise begins Sunday at Pope AFB, N.C.

everyone when I say we're going to miss his guidance and leadership. The relationship between the 437th and 315th Airlift Wings has been the model relationship for other Reserve Associate wings to emulate. I was told before I got here that the relationship was great and I am convinced in the short period of time that I have been here that the relationship could not be any better. We can attribute this relationship to the strong and vibrant leadership of Col. Stickler and Linda. The Sticklers will remain in the local area for awhile and will stay actively involved in the community.

This month is certainly shaping up as one with some good exercises. One example is our play in the Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise called Purple Dragon. Charleston AFB will be the lead wing in the Purple Dragon exercise from June 11-23. Col. Glenn Mackey, 437th Operations Group deputy commander, will serve as the director of mo-

bility forces as we practice with the Marines and Army in airdropping about 3,000 paratroopers, heavy equipment and supplies. We've got 11 C-17s from Charleston flying with other aircraft and personnel from virtually every wing in the command. We look forward to some quality training as we practice getting their forces on the ground in minimal time and hone our wartime skills.

We also practiced our hurricane procedures on Monday and Tuesday during an Inspector General-led exercise that drew heavily on the lessons learned from past hurricanes and disasters. It was an extremely worthwhile exercise, especially for many of the new people in the wing, to include myself. It was great to get everybody involved from the individual work centers to the Crisis Action Team. We practiced the way we would respond if a severe hurricane forced us to evacuate the base and our aircraft. The lessons learned from last summer where three hurricanes threatened the area and Hurricane Hugo in 1989 were used as a baseline in planning our exercise.

It is a good idea for everyone to think through what you would do if required to prepare for a hurricane and to evacuate. With the start of the hurricane season and based on where we live, now is the time to stock up on those essential items and discuss any personal evacuations plans that you may have. Hope for the best, but

prepare for the worst for the 2000 hurricane season. History can repeat itself and you need to have your own personal checklist to follow.

We had a great town hall meeting on Tuesday and I am always glad to see that our people care about the community in which we live. These can be important forums for us to exchange ideas and share information with one another to make Charleston a better place to work and live. We'll be getting back to those who had questions. Thank you all for what you do everyday here at the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet!

Congratulations to all those smiling technical and master sergeant selects as the promotion results were released Thursday (see page 3). The Air Force percentages for promotion set an all-time high record. As evidenced by the higher rates, tremendous opportunity for advancement exists in today's Air Force for those willing to put forth that extra effort on the job and prepare for promotion tests.

I am very proud of our people who did so well on this last testing cycle. We had 110 people selected for technical sergeant and 80 make master sergeant on this testing cycle. The increased promotion rates seen in the last few years are partly a result of the return to a stable force structure and end-strength levels following years of drawdown. Congrats again and keep up the good work!

## 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.

