

## COMMENTARY

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AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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## 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

## Base and union leaders work together

By Col. Rusty Findley  
437 AW commander

Base leaders and union officials met June 13-15 to develop a strategic plan to enhance labor management relations and develop a comprehensive game plan that identifies several jointly developed goals to better meet the base's mission. We had a good three-day strategic planning session that was conducted with the assistance of the Federal Labor Relations Authority that was led by Linda Norwood, the acting director for the FLRA Atlanta Regional office, and Gail Hitchcock, a dispute resolution specialist.

The discussions were very productive and we've committed to a number of goals and an aggressive timeline to implement them. It was a very positive atmosphere and we came up with a number of ideas to strengthen the relationship that exists between the union and management here. See the article on page 2 for more details.

We hosted about 20 members of the local clergy for a tour, lunch and a number of briefings June 13. This was a new initiative by our chaplains office to give local churches a better understanding of what the Air Force is about since so many of our people attend services in their local communities. We gave them a chance to meet with our young airmen and they left impressed! A special thanks to Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Novotny for his community outreach effort.

The wing staff held its annual picnic at Short Stay Recreation Center in Monck's Corner June 16. A special thanks to Staff Sgt. Bryan Wilson, 437th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate office and the booster club members that had planned the event. The picnic featured a number of games and activities, to include a pie-in-the-face contest to raise funds for future events. Winning the most votes for a pie were Lt. Lauren Lowy from Wing Plans, followed by yours truly, and then Master Sgt. Matt Harless from the 437th Comptroller Squadron. We had a great time and it was a welcome rest for everyone on the wing staff who gives their all each and every day.

It is a busy week coming up; unfortunately, I have to go TDY. Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, will pick up the stick and run things in his usual outstanding manner.

As mentioned last week, we had the 15-person Mobility 2000 Team brief our forces on Tuesday. We are the first

base to be visited and they spent a good deal of time going over many of the upcoming changes to the flight dispatch system and how the Tanker Airlift Control Center will revamp its procedures in the upcoming months. It was a good opportunity for us to participate in the process of change and provide them plenty of good feedback. This initiative will reap major benefits for us all in the future and we are glad that they visited the busiest wing in the Air Force.

I am really sorry that I missed the Tops in Blue performance in the North Charleston Performing Arts on June 20th. From the feedback that I heard, we had an excellent crowd and I understand that everyone was very impressed by their high-energy performance. We had a number of our community partners attend the performance and they got a chance to see this outstanding 35-person group perform. They got a great chance to see many of our young men and women and saw firsthand their many talents. See the related article on page 11 of the *Airlift Dispatch*.

We bid farewell at noon today at the C-17 nosedock to a really great leader in the wing, Lt. Col. Maureen Cunningham, 437th Logistics Group deputy commander. She played a key role as the senior LG representative when our forces deployed to Ramstein AB, Ge., and moved Army forces into Tirana, Albania, for Operation Allied Force. She did great things for us and we will miss her expertise and guidance. We wish her the best as she moves to Stuttgart, Ge., as the branch chief of the Logistics Information System, Program and Mobility Division, European Command J-4-PM.

The African American Heritage Council's second annual Juneteeth Fashion Show is being held this evening at 8 p.m. at the Charleston Club. Fashion models will model clothes from local area merchants. Tickets are \$10 and the proceeds will benefit Jenkins orphanage in North Charleston and various scholarship funds on base. Please support this worthy event.

We hosted a two-person team from the DoD Explosives Safety Board to assess our ability to safely store, transport and handle explosives on Wednesday. The team visited representatives from the 437 LG, 437th Aerial Port Squadron, and the 437th Support Group as part of their inspection every three years. As usual, we did well according to the team. A special thanks to everyone for making safety their number one priority. It's great to be part of the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet.

## Safety concerns

*I would like to address safety issues in the new park in Hunley Park housing.*

*It's a beautiful park and we love to go there; however the trash is never picked up, and the trash can is always full and infested with ants. The park is covered with Fire Ant mounds.*

*We've tried to contact the sanitation people and have the park added to the pick up route, but it's not being done. I wish someone would put it on their route and keep it maintained and clean.*

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The playground has been added to the grounds maintenance contract and the contractor has been out to the playground to clean. The trash container will be emptied twice a week and the housing

## 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.



office has requested treatment of the fire ants.

If you see anyone littering or causing problems, call the 437th Security Forces Squadron at 963-3600.

## Showing respect

*I was driving on base at 4:30 p.m. when I heard the national anthem playing and pursuant to custom and tradi-*

*tion regarding retreat, I stopped my car. Not only was the oncoming traffic totally oblivious, the traffic behind me started passing me - and you could hear the music inside your car!*

*As the Anthem finished playing, I even noticed a GOV attempting to pass me. I recall being taught military customs and courtesies in*

*basic training and it's not like retreat plays at a different time every day.*

*The improved sound system on base may not reach to Rivers Gate, but you can definitely hear it clearly at the blast fence (Spot 88).*

*Disrespecting the flag not only displays a lack of integrity, it's an insult to those who've died protecting that flag and the freedoms we enjoy today. It's also an insult to those of us who take pride in what we do.*

*It's disappointing that some people today cannot take a few minutes out of their lives and render some simple respect. Those Team Charleston members who choose to willingly ignore retreat should be ashamed of themselves.*

A reminder for all to show the proper respect to our flag.