

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT Dispatch

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By Col. Karl Young
437AW vice commander

We conducted a force protection exercise that involved most of the base on Tuesday. The 437th Security Forces Squadron began on Sunday practicing their procedures. The Inspector General led exercise tested our force protection plans and readiness as we went through the various threat condition levels. It's been awhile since we practiced these procedures and it was a good idea for us to dust off the checklists and refine our procedures.

There is always the possibility that we could become the target of terrorists and we need to remain vigilant, even if we are not actively involved in an ongoing contingency. Security of this installation is not just the responsibility of security forces, but everyone's. The exercise allowed us to hone our procedures to better protect our facilities and aircraft, but more importantly to protect our people in the event of a terrorist attack.

On a lighter note, the field graders and the Top-3 senior enlisted members squared off against one another in a no-holds barred softball tournament Thursday.

More details will follow in next week's paper, but my hope as of Wednesday (press time for the base newspaper) is that the field graders will dominate the match and emerge victorious. But, I realize I run the risk of eating my words in making such a prediction. There is one prediction that I know will come true and that's everyone had a good time and that we can count on a rematch at some later date. These events promote esprit de corps and they give everyone a chance to relax for a few hours from the wing's busy personnel tempo.

The DoD Bone Marrow drive held Tuesday was a complete success as more than 330 people donated one small vial of blood and became registered in the national database should someone ever need a bone marrow transplant. A special thanks to Captains Heather Logan, of the 437th Staff Judge Advocate office and David Lincoln from the 437th Medical Group. Please also thank your squadron representatives who have done a great job in gathering volunteers for this worthwhile cause. Their precious gift may someday save someone's life.

Roadrules

On Midland Park road, as you are coming from Rivers Avenue, there is a sign that reads "NO TRUCKS - LOCAL AFB DELIVERY ONLY."

This sign is 200 yards before you get to the railroad crossing. Another sign should be placed next to the sign on Arthur Drive that states you are entering Charleston AFB. Then the security police should enforce this.

The heavy trucks that use Arthur Drive as a short cut to Midland Park Road and etc. are what is causing the road at Arthur Drive

Exercise tests our readiness

civilian employees on Monday, July 3rd, this holiday period should prove to be restful and enjoyable. I also want it to be safe for our people. We're in the middle of 101 critical days of summer and now is the time to apply the concepts of operational risk management in everything that you do.

If planning a trip, take time to ensure your vehicle is mechanically sound, wear your seat belt, don't speed or drink and drive and take frequent rest breaks. If out on the water, ensure you wear the right safety equipment, use common sense and watch out for the crowded waterways. The key is to mission plan those activities so that injury or accidents are avoided. All it takes is one careless misstep or risk and your life could change forever.

I ask all supervisors and commanders to ensure their people understand the importance of minimizing the potential for accidents and to provide the appropriate safety briefings at the right level. I ask everyone to be cautious during this busy holiday period when the potential for an accident is always much greater.

Last week, Col. Rusty Findley was TDY to a Global Engagement V conference at the Science Application International Corporation in McClean, Va. The conference provides some background information to help prepare him for duties as the director of mobility forces and for various contingency operations.

This week, Colonel Findley is TDY to the senior leader orientation course in Washington D.C. This course is designed to prepare general officers and their civilian equivalents for duties associated with that rank.

He's personally frustrated to be TDY for so long, and in his heart, he'd rather be back here with the outstanding men and women of Team Charleston. He is anxiously hoping for a break in his TDY schedule in August. He does return July 7 for about a week and a half before he heads back on the road again. Meanwhile, I'm here enjoying life and I can't stop smiling!

A special congratulations to the graduates of Airman Leadership School class 00-D on June 22 and to Senior Airman Russell A. Lang, 437th Medical Support Squadron, who earned the Sgt. John L. Levitow award and the Academic Achievement Award.

With minimal manning for military members and a liberal leave policy for our

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.

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.



and Midland Park to be torn up.

The 437th Security Forces Squadron is working with the Charleston County Sheriffs Office and local court to ticket and prosecute offenders. The sheriffs office also con-

tacted trucking businesses in the local area to remind them of the traffic restrictions.

People are encouraged to call security forces at 963-3600 to report traffic violations (location, time/date, tag number, driver

description). They will relay information to appropriate agencies.

The following is a list of commonly used phone numbers to address concerns:

- Security Forces.....963-3611
- Base Exchange.....552-5000
- Commissary.....963-5695
- Housing Office.....963-3859
- Med. Group Information.....963-6700
- Family Support Center.....963-4406
- Education Office.....963-4573
- Charleston Club.....963-3914
- Services Squadron.....963-3821
- HAWC.....963-4007
- Youth Programs.....963-5684