

Awards continue to roll in; Gospel Extravaganza impresses

By Col. Karl Young
437 AW vice commander

Charleston continues to win awards. Special congratulations to Jay Hundley, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron for being named as the Air Mobility Command nominee for the 2000 National Society of Professional Engineers Award.

According to a command message, Jay Hundley was selected because he actively promoted the use of innovative construction techniques to replace the base's failing sanitary sewer system. The same message also praised him for his partnering efforts that delivered \$49 million in a family housing renovation project ahead of schedule and under budget, and for his participation in the Charleston Symphony Chorus and the metropolitan civic orchestra.

We also got to honor three more of the base's finest. Headquarter Air Mobility Command provided medals (special coins) to thank Master Sgt. Robert Yawn and Tech. Sgt. Joey Topping from the wing's information assurance office and Barbara Bennison from the 437th Operations Group for their efforts. All three work with protecting and securing infor-

mation assets to include computer and operations security.

To receive this honor from AMC, all three competed at a basewide board and were nominated to the command for this recognition. The wing has an exceptional Information Assurance program. We received a passing grade (pass-fail standard) from HQ AMC during their annual compliance inspection in the first week of February, which was also Information Assurance month.

Our program was evaluated in five areas: communications security, computer security, emissions security (all electrical equipment gives off signals that can be intercepted), security awareness training and secure telephone.

We have many excellent people working in the Information Assurance area to ensure our assets are always protected and secured. My thanks for their hard work everyday! We all share in the responsibility to ensure our information systems remain secure.

I recently had the privilege of participating in the base's Gospel extravaganza, sponsored by the African American Heritage Council. The extravaganza was my first concen-

trated exposure to Gospel music. I like all kinds of music and was amazed at how much everyone was enjoying themselves, from the smallest child to the oldest adult in the audience. The groups were "awesome" and our own Lt. Col. Tony Thompson, 437th Comptroller Squadron commander, was one of the lead singers in the base choir. Congratulations to the AAHC and its president Capt. Clifford Colley from the 437th Aerial Port Squadron and the project officer 1st Lt. Delfrieda Hudson from the 437th Comptroller Squadron for this outstanding event.

I will be with Lt. Col. Maureen Cunningham, 437th Logistics Group deputy commander, for my orientation to the group today and I hope to meet many of you during that time or during other visits in the coming weeks. If you see me in your squadron areas, please don't be shy and say hello. My goal is to meet as many of you as possible.

We continue to host a number of distinguished visitors. We'll be hosting Lt. Gen. John "Mike" McDuffie, U.S. Director, Joint Staff Logistics, J-4 from the Pentagon as he meets with four of his counterparts from the German Air Force. The J-4 group is

hosting a conference in Charleston to discuss common logistics issues between Germany and the United States. During the conference, they will discuss the lessons learned from Allied Force, East Timor, strategic mobility, and how they can interact better with industry. They chose Charleston because of the C-17s prominent role in airlift operations and our great partnership with Boeing.

The honorary commander's program got off to a great start with the luncheon last Friday. We have 61 community leaders participating in the program. I heard lots of good feedback on the program and we expect the program to gain momentum with time.

The Charleston Chamber of Commerce president has already announced intentions to host the honorary commanders and their respective commanders at a Charleston Chamber of Commerce function in the near future. Already we've begun to expand the program! Our hope is that the honorary groups, along with us as military partners, can actively work to promote our mutual interests. Special thanks to all whom participated in this program.

Have a great week.

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



Rude movers

I was recently TDY when my wife had difficulties with our contract movers. My wife had power of attorney and handled the move. Packing day went okay, but my wife noted that the movers were careless. They failed to repack a number of boxes we had in the garage. They damaged a wall and bannister in our old house. The real

problems started on delivery day. Apparently some of the inventory labels had fallen off the boxes. The foreman asked my wife to sign the first inventory sheet. She initially refused because there were unlabeled boxes that could not be accounted for. He got angry and raised his voice with my wife, attempting to intimidate her into signing it. She gave in that time, although she had not seen all of the items on the list.

She also had to ask him to leave the room while she was writing an unfavorable critique about him and his crew. He was hovering over her in another attempt to intimidate her into writing a favorable critique. At the end of the day my wife refused to sign the final inventory because they had not unpacked all of the boxes as she asked them to, therefore she had not seen all of the items. The foreman again got angry and began to argue with my wife, again trying to intimidate her. She finally told them to leave, because she was afraid of them.

The bottom line is the foreman raised his voice with my wife, who is five months pregnant. My wife was extremely upset, so much so that she called her doctor that night because she was afraid the stress

may have affected the pregnancy. Luckily, she was okay.

I expect you to cancel this company's contract, and ensure that the government no longer does business with them.

This is just a partial explanation of what happened.

Moving as a result of PCS is often a stressful period, even without encountering problems with household goods. We are very sorry your move was further complicated by your household goods carrier. You certainly took the appropriate steps by notifying the traffic management office, so they in turn could have their quality assurance representatives on scene. We are happy to note that the carrier replaced the onsite crew with a different crew, and actions were taken to ensure that this type of service was noted as unacceptable and would not be tolerated. Unfortunately, Charleston AFB does not have jurisdiction over contract carriers. These matters

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