

COMMENTARY

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AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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Rodeo teams impress; leadership changes coming

By Col. Rusty Findley II
Commander, 437th Airlift Wing

I was at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., watching our folks perform during the Rodeo 2000 competition last week. As I've said many times, the teams did a fabulous job. The excitement, professionalism, and just plain old-fashioned hard work of the teams competing in events like the obstacle course or getting our jets ready to fly made me extremely proud.

Likewise, their performance in the air was similarly spectacular. The proof is the fact that Team Charleston came back with many awards, five for the 437th and another five for the 315th. That's a darn good showing and it was a lot of fun to watch them give their all for Team Charleston. If you haven't done so already, please be sure to congratulate them for their hard work.

I am still continuing my orientations. I am almost done, but was fortunate to get a chance on Tuesday to spend some time with members of the 437th Aerial Port Squadron. Staff Sgt. Thomas Drumm showed me some pretty interesting stuff, including the 105 mm Howitzer cannon that is used for airdrop training. They have two howitzers and one is named "Baker's bazooka," named after Maj. Daren Baker, current commander of the 437th APS. I also saw a Container Delivery System and Heavy Equipment load as well as some parachutes for airdrop loads. There are some great motivated folks in our APS.

Tuesday was a banner day for a more personal reason. My family arrived from North

The proof is the fact that Team Charleston came back with many awards, five for the 437th and another five for the 315th.

Dakota and I am pretty excited about having my wife, Sandy, and two daughters here after finishing out the school year.

I had the pleasure and honor of speaking to members of the 4th Ferrying Group on Saturday. They truly are some great Americans. Tom Brokaw was right when he called folks like these, members of our "Greatest Generation."

The 4th Ferrying Group, formed in Nashville, Tenn., June 7, 1941 ferried aircraft around the world for the war effort. They singlehandedly developed an air route system of 184,000 miles on every continent and had ferried more than 300,000 aircraft of 100 different types. They also ferried millions of tons of cargo many of these flights. It was truly an honor for me to address these individuals and learn firsthand about many of their accomplishments.

Please extend my appreciation to Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones, Public Affairs, for arranging for the group to tour the base last Friday. Thanks to the 14th Airlift Squadron aircrew who helped out on the tour: Capt. Chris Hornburg, 1st Lt. Dan Rohlinger, Senior Airman James Lewis, Airman First Class Steven Martel, and Airman Jennifer Walthour. A big thanks also to Airman First Class Deborah Kolbe, 437th Communication Squadron, for the audiovisual setup for my speaking

engagement.

The members of the 4th Ferrying Group all had great praise for our group of Americans here in the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet.

We are pleased to host Air Marshall Timothy Jenner, deputy commander in chief of Strike Command in the British Royal Air Force, yesterday and today. Air Marshall Jenner is here to learn more about the C-17 and Team Charleston. As announced by the United Kingdom recently, they have arranged for training and logistics support in support of a direct commercial lease of four Boeing C-17A Globemaster III cargo aircraft. As usual, we hosted him in true Team Charleston style and he came away with a greater appreciation of what we do and how well we do it!

This week we start some of the farewell activities for Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Bruch, who will be leaving us shortly to become the new command chief master sergeant for Lt. Gen. Lance W. Lord, Air University commander at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He has really done a fabulous job taking care of the folks at Charleston Air Force Base and we're going to miss him. We wish him and Christina the best of luck as they head down to AU.

On the other hand, we will soon welcome Chief Master Sgt. Harvey Hampton and his wife Crystal as the new com-

mand chief. I know he'll be anxious and ready to learn all that he can about Charleston Air Force Base and will make great contributions. Please give him your full support.

We also say farewell to Col. Ron Richardson and his wife Kit, 437th Operations Group commander, as his change of command is scheduled for May 26th at 10 a.m. in the C-17 nosedock. Ron and Kit have given their heart and soul to the 437th and have done an absolutely superb job. Ron has personally taken it upon himself to teach me a lot about what is going here in terms of the flying mission. He has done a great job in getting me up to speed and I am going to miss him immensely.

Colonel Richardson is headed to the Air Staff at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as the deputy director for Joint Matters and the senior Air Force planner. He'll be responsible for coordinating the Air Force positions taken on Joint matters.

Col. Bob Allardice will replace him. Colonel Allardice and his wife Susan are coming from Washington, D.C., where he served as the Chief of the Expeditionary Air Force (EAF) Implementation Division. In this role, he was responsible for developing policy and guidance to lead the Total Air Force toward an expeditionary force. Colonel Allardice comes to us with all types of energy and will be ready to fall right into Colonel Richardson's footsteps and continue to do great things with our operations group.

Once again thanks to all of you for all you're doing each and every day ... it's great to be a part of this great team.

Armed Forces Day: Gen. Robertson salutes the troops

By Gen. Charles T. "Tony" Robertson Jr.
Commander in Chief,
U.S. Transportation
Command

Commander, Air Mobility
Command

Scott AFB, Ill -- The third Saturday in May our nation recognizes Armed Forces Day.

USTRANSCOM's great Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen,

Marines, Coast Guardsmen and department of defense civilians continue to perform a role central to the protection of freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution.

USTRANSCOM and its transportation component commands, Air Mobility Command, Military Sealift Command, and Military Traffic Management Command stand vigil twenty-four hours a day, year round, to

ensure our citizens continue to enjoy the liberties we inherited from our forefathers.

Our national defense strategy in this new century will demand that we maintain strategic dominance throughout the spectrum of operations. The men and women of USTRANSCOM will carry on our contribution to this end by ensuring the defense transportation system remains highly re-

sponsive to the needs of warfighters and peacekeepers alike.

We know that the great wars of the last century demonstrated that democracy carries with it a burden of vigilance and dedication. I salute each of you as you work to ensure that burden is met with extraordinary commitment and perseverance. (AMCNS)