

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

Editorial Staff

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

Chief, Public Affairs
Lt. Col. Edmund Memi

Editor
Senior Airman Jason Smith

Associate editor
Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith

Photo Support
Base Visual Information Center

Air Expo 2000 will wow the crowds

By Col. Rusty Findley
437 AW commander

Air Expo 2000 is Saturday and the many months of extensive preparations and planning should give the public a better appreciation of what we are all about. It should be a great time for family and friends. Maj. Petra Sharrett, Air Expo 2000 director and 15th Airlift Squadron aircraft commander, and the Air Expo team have put together a great schedule of events. I'm excited about meeting the public and telling them about our Air Force. Public support is a necessary ingredient for what we do and the Air Expo is the perfect opportunity to build upon that support. For some members of the public, this is their only opportunity to set foot on the base and learn about the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet!

We had a great time in the softball match Oct. 4 between the Top 3 senior enlisted members and the colonels. I have to congratulate the Top 3 for their victory. I knew we were in trouble when I saw the guys on the team in spandex "pro" uniforms. It was a tight game, but in the end they got us, 14 to 9. It was a lot of fun for all. Thanks to Senior Master Sgt. Carl Hunsinger for suggesting that we play. We are waiting for the next challenge!

I had a great chance to host about 50 members from the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce "Leadership Charleston" for a mission briefing and base

tour Oct. 5. As explained in last week's column, Leadership Charleston is comprised of future business leaders who meet for 10 months to discuss community-wide issues and learn more about local businesses and government. I enjoyed meeting many of them and it was a unique opportunity to discuss the important role we play in our nation's defense. Many had never visited the base before and they were surprised to learn just how busy we are doing our nation's business. The feedback that I got from them is that they truly appreciate everything that you do day-to-day.

I went to McGuire AFB, N.J., on Tuesday and Wednesday to participate in the 21st Air Force change-of-command ceremony. Lt. Gen. (sel) John Hopper Jr., has done a great job for 21st Air Force. I hate to see him go, but am glad to see him get promoted and move on to become the vice commander of Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB, Texas. We welcome the new 21st Air Force commander, Maj. Gen. Nick Williams, the former Air Mobility Command director of Operations at Scott AFB, Ill. We look forward to hosting Gen. Williams at Charleston in the future.

The Air Expo 2000 golf tournament on Thursday was a complete success as expected. About 100 golfers participated in the annual tournament. The event is held to thank the many corporate and business sponsors of our



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

Col. Rusty Findley, 437th AW commander prepares for a force out at second base during the Top 3 vs. Colonels softball game Oct. 4. The Top 3 won the game 14-9.

annual air expo, whose support is essential. A special thanks to Senior Master Sgt. Bill Couture, 15 AS, and the golf course staff who arranged for the tournament.

I will meet with the new Company Grade Officers Council president, 1st Lt. Randy Ackerman, and their vice president, 2nd Lt. Charles Rock today.

In the past, membership in the CGOC has been waning and we are hoping that membership could be improved through an aggressive campaign to reach out to the more than 400 company grade officers who are eligible to join.

The CGOC have their first general membership meeting Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. at the Charleston Club. They are trying to get the CGOC going even stronger, but they can't do it alone without the active participation of our company grade officers. If you are interested in joining, please contact Rock at 963-5520.

Next week, we are gearing up for a visit by the Base Appearance Team. The base looks very good day-to-day and everyone does their part to pitch in. Visitors often compliment

us on how good the base looks. This is the time of year where we need to take that extra minute to make it look even better. See the article on page 1 for additional details.

Oktoberfest, the annual Junior Enlisted Block party, will be held Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. between the dormitories near Arthur Drive. Free food, drink and entertainment will be provided to all E-6s and below. There will be lots of door prizes and it should be a great time. Master Sgt. Matt Harless, base career advisor, and his Oktoberfest committee have organized this year's event. Matt also recently returned from the career advisor course and I'm pretty excited about this new wing position. Additional details will be provided in an upcoming issue of the *Airlift Dispatch*.

The Hispanic Heritage Fiesta has been rescheduled for Nov. 3, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be a wide variety of entertainment followed by a dance afterwards. It is a chance to finish out our month-long celebration of Hispanic heritage.

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.

