

## COMMENTARY

## 0-6, E-5 promotions announced

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AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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By Col. Rusty Findley  
437 AW commander

The Logistics Management Institute visit went very well last week, and we continue to receive high praise from our senior leaders for our support of their visit. I've heard great feedback from everybody. Once again, I'd like to thank the many project officers and Team Charleston members who played a part in the visit - thanks for all your hard work.

I was pleased to host 23 honorary commanders for a special 437th Support Group orientation visit Sept. 8. About half of the honorary commanders also played in the Airlift Tanker Association golf tournament later that same afternoon. Both events were very successful. Many of the honorary commanders commented positively on the behind-the-scenes tours of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, fire department demonstration, firearms simulator training, security forces working dog demo and tour of the Network Control Center. Many of the 437th Support Group squadron commanders also participated in the tours, and that added a very nice touch. I was pleased by the good turnout at the luncheon by the rest of base leadership and want to pass along my thanks to everyone for giving this important program your best effort. A special thanks to the project officers: Capt. Jon Bakonyi, 1st Lt. Beth Szucs, Rose Alexander, and Betsy Papizan. I hope to have the honorary commanders out again very soon.

We were very fortunate to have several promotees selected on a recent supplemental board that was announced Monday by the Air Force Personnel Center. Congratulations to the following individuals selected for staff sergeant: Kory Aschenbrenner, Timothy Beers, Richard Bennett, Corey Bostic, Allen Boyd, Roger Braun II, Eric Cicogna, Denise Crosby, Aaron Jennings, Matthew Pahula, Harry Pollock and Christopher Vinyard.



Photo by Lt. Col. Ed Memi

Col. Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, and Sam Lyons (left), honorary 437th Airlift Wing commander, observe a demonstration by the fire department.

We also had several of our senior leaders selected for promotion to colonel. Congratulations to Lt. Col. Maureen Cunningham (former 437th Logistics Group deputy commander), Lt. Col. Henry Haisch (437th Logistics Group deputy commander), Lt. Col. Craig Armstrong (437th Airlift Wing Director of Wing Staff) and Lt. Col. Rory Kinney (former 1st Combat Camera commander). We did quite well on this last promotion board. Congratulations to all for their accomplishments.

A special congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Schoenrock, 437th Mission Support Squadron, who was recognized as the John Levitow Award recipient for the NCO Academy Class 00-6 graduation Sept. 8 at Robins AFB, Ga. Congratulations also to the following graduates: Technical Sergeants Nelson Montayre, George Brown, Michael Heckendorf, David Sopshter, Joseph Marsh, Jenee Wright, James Painter, Todd Tuel, Kenneth Blaylock and Alfred Gregg.

I went to Washington D.C. Tuesday to watch our 437th Contracting Squadron members receive the 2000 Federal Acquisition Award. Accepting the award were Donna Barber, Ellen Maggard and Lt. Col. Paul Braunbeck from the 437 CONS. It was a great honor for the base to receive this award for their truly innovative approach to getting some of the best housing in the Air Force renovated. Kudos to everyone in 437 CONS who played a role in this major renovation project. See the article on page 2 for details.

I also had the distinction of attending the Chief of Staff Team Excellence

Award ceremony at the Air Force Association Convention Tuesday. As many of you know from previous columns, we had a team competing as a result of improvements they made to the maintenance debriefing system. Needless to say, our buttons were busting when the narrator announced our team as one of the five winners for the Air Force. It was great to see our great young folks on stage with the Chief of Staff, Gen. Michael Ryan, receiving this prestigious award. Congratulations to all the team members on a great job and this very well-deserved honor. Our team was comprised of: Majors Mark Camerer and David Kral; Capt. Jake Verhoef; 2nd Lt. Catherine Barker; Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Stament; Staff Sergeants Monica Herring, Joseph Clark and Jon Taylor; Senior Airman Melanie Streeter; and Airman 1st Class Mike White. The facilitator was Richard Hutchinson

Today, the Ralph E. Johnson Veterans hospital and the base will host a luncheon event at the base picnic grounds to honor and recognize former prisoners of war and remember those listed as missing in action. Our security forces squadron will also provide a military working dog demonstration for the attendees. Let's remember those who did not return from past conflicts and recognize the tremendous sacrifices POWs made for our country. We owe them all a great deal of gratitude.

We hosted a visit by Gen. Charles "Tony" Robertson, commander-in-chief of U.S. Transportation Command and commander of Air Mobility Command, Wednes-

day and Thursday. Robertson attended a National Defense Transportation Association conference in downtown Charleston on Thursday. We only had a short time with him when he arrived Wednesday afternoon. We showed him our Hunley Park housing renovations. I appreciate everyone pulling together to make sure our base looked its best. He was pleased with what he saw on base.

The Enlisted Dining-Out is all set to go on Saturday, 6 p.m. at the Charleston Club. The guest speaker is Chief Master Sgt. Charles Whalum, commandant of the Senior NCO Academy at Gunter Annex, Ala. The dining out committee, led by Master Sgt. Tracy Brewster, has put a tremendous amount of time and effort into making this dining out memorable and enjoyable. Each attendee will receive a commemorative coin, and the cost of the event has been kept low to ensure maximum participation. For those who've waited until the last minute, there is still time to sign up today. Call Brewster at 963-3071 for your ticket. I look forward to seeing many of you at this event.

On Monday, Sept. 18, the Hispanic Heritage Committee will host its annual kick-off luncheon at the Charleston Club, 11 a.m. The cost is only \$8 for a sumptuous Spanish meal and authentic music. The luncheon will also feature retired Chief Master Sgt. Joe Parsons as the guest speaker. Parsons is a member of the Governor's Council for Hispanic Affairs. Please contact your group representative today to sign up. I hope to see a lot of you there—it should be a great time.

I'd like to conclude my comments by thanking everyone for their hard work everyday at the premiere airlift wing on the face of the planet. Thanks for the great work during our recent surge period and special thanks for your continued help with the many distinguished visits planned in the upcoming weeks.