

IN THE NEWS

Air Expo 2000 offers plenty of fun for kids

By Lt. Col Ed. Memi
437AW Public Affairs

It spins, blinks its eyes, has a siren, flashes its lights, moves about on the ground, plays music, talks to kids and will be a featured attraction at the kiddy section of the flightline for the Air Expo 2000, Oct. 14.

The "it" is "Andy," a 1/12 scale robotic ambulance that talks to kids about safety. Andy is the only robot of its kind in the Low Country.

The Low Country Regional Emergency Medical Services Council in North Charleston operates the remote control robotic ambulance. The EMS folks will also be out in full force to assist in emergencies during the airshow and several will be dressed as clowns to entertain children and educate them about safety and emergency services.

"Most kids think the ambulance is talking with them," said Richard Campbell, director of education for the Low Country Regional EMS Council. "They love him. Many hug Andy and pet him. Our main goal is to promote injury prevention. We also provide coloring books, junior paramedic badges and other items that kids would enjoy. We want our children to understand ambulances and not to be afraid of them."

The air expo will also feature many

other exhibits and demonstrations geared toward children during the daylong show. Among one of the more interesting exhibits geared towards children, is a 437th Services Squadron sponsored event called Stepping Stones to Aviation. This program allows children to experience the sensation of flight by providing a series of on-hand exhibits such as miniature aircraft.

"Children will be able to climb into our realistic airplane simulators, pedal down our authentic colorful runway and taxi into controlled airspace," said Wendy Varhegyi, 437th Services Squadron marketing director.

During the training session, children will learn airport terminology, procedures, pre-flight instructions and communications protocols. Upon completion of training, each child will receive a certificate of appreciation. The airport simulation is geared toward children from pre-school to age 8.

"This hands on program brings children and parents together to learn about aviation and have fun," said Varhegyi.

The expo will have two aircraft

simulators called a T-6 and M-4 for older kids. For anywhere from \$5 to \$9, a child or adult can choose to fly in virtually any type of aircraft that they choose. "It is so realistic that you will feel like you just flew in a real aircraft," said Varhegyi. "Riders can enjoy all of these thrills and experience the sensation of weightlessness while fully harnessed in NASCAR type seat belts."

The T-6 is a one-of-kind thrilling ride that features 17 installed programs, Dolby Surround Sound, DVD quality picture, full wind effects and has 26 degrees of motion simulation. The Twin M-4 ride allows riders to choose from a P-51 Mustang, a WWII fighter jet soaring through the mountainous terrain and ending in the Mojave Desert, a jet interceptor, locking the enemy in the crosshairs, or a mission life force, hurling through space at 25,000 miles per hour through meteor showers and human-eating plants.

The 437th Security Forces Squadron will have a weapons training simulator with displays of weapons and vehicles, to include a HUMVEE

and two Military Working Dog demonstrations to be held on the flightline during the air expo. In addition, area police departments will have exhibits and displays for children to view.

The 437th SFS will also have the "red man." "The red man is a security forces member who is dressed up in red padding from his feet to his head and a person will attack him with a collapsible police baton," said Master Sgt. Gregory Arceneaux, superintendent of installation security for the 437 SFS. "Children will have a chance to take a shot at the red man with the baton."

The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron will hold a demonstration of their Explosive Ordnance Disposal robot and display various types of munitions for kids to learn about the dangers of unexploded ordnances. The Air Force recruiters will bring their F-16 jet replica go-cart for kids to examine. The base fire department will also have one of their trucks out for the kids to climb on-board.

Sparky the Fire Dog and McGruff the Crime dog from the base will also be on hand for the children. Also, Charlie the RiverDog, Cool Ray from the Sting Rays hockey team, Sly and Francie from the Swamp Fox arena football team and two animal mascots from the South Carolina Aquarium will be on hand.



Closeout

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work is completed so we know how much money we have left to spend. We work closely with Dayton Operating Location to make sure the bills are paid correctly."

Delk said the effort to close out the fiscal year is a joint effort between RAs, contracting, supply and headquarters, and they all work together as one team. "Things come to a very high operations tempo, but there is some excitement as everyone pulls together to make sure it happens. We spend on those items the base needs, whether that is upgraded computers or mission essential items."

The supply squadron works to ensure the funds for the Transportation Working Capital Fund are spent for items such as aviation fuels. They also make sure all back-ordered parts are received before the end of the fiscal year. "We try to get as many as possible back-ordered items received by Saturday or they have to be rolled over to the next fiscal year," said

Susann Fairchild, funds manager for the 437 SUPS who has been involved in fiscal closeouts for about 30 years. "Our people in stock control work closely with the item managers at the depots to get our back-ordered items in."

The supply squadron will have about 15 people working into the late hours of Saturday to process any orders, should fallout funds become available," said Fairchild. "If finance gets the money and we can fund items on the base's wish list, than it's pretty exciting. Unfortunately, we have received minimal fallout the past two years for base supply items and that is kind of a letdown for us."

"We're down to crunch time and we also have to get ready to award contracts that start off Fiscal Year 2001, which begins Sunday," said Barber. "We can't have contractors working if the money and contract has not yet been awarded."

As a reminder, Barber stressed that people who use cellular telephones at work need to make sure their forms are ready to go at the start of the fiscal year.

Red Cross counts on base blood

By 2nd Lt.
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437 CS

Across the United States, an American is in need of blood approximately every two seconds. At Wednesday's blood drive, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the old Chapel, Charleston AFB donors can save up to three lives with a single unit donation.

The need for blood is at a critical level nationwide, especially after summer months typically exhaust the already limited supply. The American Red Cross recently felt the consequences on the local level when low blood reserves were blamed for delaying a liver transplant operation at the Medical University of South Carolina. The recipient's transplant was prevented because there simply was not enough blood.

According to Charleston Donor Recruitment representative, Candace Oliver, the current blood appeal, which started in June, will be gradually alleviated by local blood drives at high schools, col-

leges, churches, community organizations and military installations.

"This appeal is one of the worst we've seen, especially as modern medical procedures require more blood usage," Oliver said. "Charleston AFB donates more frequently and contributes more than any other military organization. Over the years, the base has been very supportive."

Thousands of accident victims, hemophiliacs and patients undergoing treatment for Cancer, Leukemia and Sickle Cell Anemia are among those who depend on the six million blood donations that the Red Cross receives annually. However, only five percent of healthy adults who are eligible to donate blood actually roll up their sleeves.

"The number one reason people don't donate is because they weren't asked," Oliver said. "People are always scared of needles, but there is a patient in the hospital praying for a needle to give them life."

The process of donating

blood, which includes a preliminary history-screening interview, may take between 30 and 60 minutes. While many dread long waiting lines, the Red Cross will send a full staff to accommodate donors as quickly as possible in the hope of increasing the base's overall contribution. In addition, Wednesday's drive will feature movies playing throughout the day, prize giveaways and complimentary refreshments for all donors, as well as a trophy awarded to the unit with the highest percentage of participation based on assigned personnel.

At the most recent blood drive Aug. 2, 142 donors contributed with the 437th Communications, Comptroller and Maintenance Squadrons having the greatest unit turn-outs.

For information about the upcoming blood drive representative, the American Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or 2nd Lt. Celeste Rodriguez at 963-6188.