



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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CHARLESTON AFB SECURITY FORCES PERFORM ANTITERRORISM MEASURES, BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL POLICE

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – Several members of the 437th Security Forces Squadron, along with Lt. Col. Vic Sowers, 437th Support Group deputy commander, worked side by side in an antiterrorism and force protection initiative recently.

The group rode all-terrain vehicles around the entire perimeter of both Charleston AFB and the Charleston International Airport Aug. 8, looking for damage, signs of tampering, illegal dumping or excess vegetation near the fence line.

“Most of the times we ride with the Charleston County Aviation Authority Police,” said Capt. Brady Goebel, 437 SFS operations officer. “Other times, we ride with the wing, group or squadron commanders to give them an up-close look at portions of the installation others don’t get a chance to see.”

Although several areas that needed improvement were identified during the ride, the real benefit to this venture is establishing rapport with Charleston AFB’s runway neighbors, continued Goebel.

“It is imperative we have a working relationship with local police departments,” said Goebel. “The Charleston County Aviation Authority Police are our close allies.” Sergeant Nick Mahieu, CCAA Police, said a good working relationship benefits the CCAA Police as well.

“It’s easy to plan for contingencies, but when you see first hand how facilities are laid out and the terrain surrounding them, it makes it much easier to plan for an incident,” said Mahieu. “Working with the Air Force security forces gives us a great advantage.”

The benefits of preparing together are apparent when planning for an emergency like an aircraft missing the runway, said Goebel. Emergency responders would be able to arrive in a shorter amount of time since they know how to respond. It’s easy to look at a base map and see the dirt roads that lead to the clear zone at the end of each runway, but to see first hand and actually travel the roads can dramatically cut response time.

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Goebel said the work between the agencies also helps with security measures.

“We’ve discovered our video cameras can look at the airport’s ramp, and the airport’s cameras can look at our ramp,” said Goebel. “If something develops, both sides of the flightline can put another set of eyes on the situation, increasing the odds of a successful resolution.”

Although specific dates or the frequency of these perimeter checks are not disclosed, Goebel said future joint checks will be conducted, furthering an already great relationship with CAFB’s neighbors to the east.

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