



# News Release

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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### **CHARLESTON AFB WILL NOT HOLD A 2002 OPEN HOUSE**

**CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.** The base annual military open house, Air Expo, will not be held for the 2002 calendar year because of increased operations and personnel tempos in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Charleston is now entering the seventh month of providing worldwide air mobility for the forces engaged in OEF, in addition to the deployed military operations in Southwest Asia and other places with ongoing military commitments. A large number of wing people are deployed, and those who aren't deployed have been working long hours to keep the base running. The base has flown almost 1,500 missions moving forces and equipment in support of OEF since the Sept. 11th attacks on America.

The widely popular Air Expo last year drew more than 175,000 people. Officials regret rescheduling the open house to 2003 because of a shortage of people to support an event of this magnitude. The base currently has about 700 people, not counting aircrews, deployed in support of OEF and have seen no indications of a lessening of the base's worldwide deployment commitments.

South Carolinians will, however, have an opportunity to attend two other open houses. Shaw AFB, located near Sumter, S.C. is planning an airshow Oct. 19 that will feature the USAF

Thunderbirds. MCAS Beaufort will also host the U.S. Navy Blue Angels for an airshow on April 27-28. Both shows are within easy driving distance of the Charleston area.

Base officials emphasize that they fully recognize the importance of Air Expo to military recruiting and to community appreciation and understanding of the base's mission. Charleston is already planning for an open house in 2003.

**(For more information, contact Capt. Krista Carlos at 963-5589 or 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Jennifer Andrews at 963-5537)**

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