



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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16TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON TO BE REACTIVATED

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – Charleston will gain 382 people in Fiscal 2003, in part because the 16th Airlift Squadron will reactivate in July, creating a fourth active-duty C-17 squadron for the base. The Low Country will see a gradual economic boost from the arrival of 289 military, 12 civilians and 81 Reservists.

The 16th AS will consist of 41 personnel (in Fiscal 2002), to include pilots, loadmasters and a civilian, and will build up to full strength by September 2003 with an additional increment of 97 positions (for a total of 138 people), said Tech. Sgt. Derick A. Rosen, manpower operations group manager. The base is expected to receive nine additional C-17 aircraft deliveries in Fiscal 2003. The base will have a total of 54 aircraft by May 2003.

The mission will be the same as the other C-17 squadrons, to include airlift, airdrop, airland and aeromedical operations in support of global contingencies.

To help maintain these additional aircraft, the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron will receive 171 military positions and the 315th Airlift Wing will receive 12 civilian and 81 drill positions.

Besides this reactivation, the FY 03 Force Structure Announcement explained several

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realignments at the base. The 437 AGS will gain 30 military positions due to the Air Mobility Operations Group consolidation of command and control. These C-17 maintenance specialist positions will come from the AMOG units on the east and west coasts and will consolidate here.

“When they will need a C-17 maintenance specialists support for the AMOG, they will task us first now. The AMOGs will still keep their crew chiefs,” said Chief Master Sgt. David Champagne, 437 AGS superintendent. “The AMOG will come to us only for specialists support.” He added they have no firm timeline for when this will happen.

The 437th Operations Support Squadron will also gain three positions in Life Support.

The 437th Supply Squadron will lose ten positions as the result of a manpower study. Supply pickup and delivery responsibility will be transferred to the 437th Transportation Squadron. The 437th Communications Squadron will lose two military and one civilian position for the Global Decision Support System II. “U.S. Transportation Command (Located at Scott AFB, Ill.) directed the GDSS II consolidation to reduce worldwide server footprint from 25 locations to 9 locations,” said Tona M. Cook, chief of the Manpower and Organization office. The GDSS is a computer database system that serves as the primary command and control system Air Mobility Command uses to disseminate airlift and tanker status and movement information worldwide.

“Some of these changes have already been placed on the unit manning document effective in Fiscal 2003. Other actions will be implemented throughout Fiscal 2003,” said Cook. Fiscal 2003 runs from Oct. 1, 2002 until Sept. 30, 2003.

The announcement was part of a much larger Fiscal 2003 Force Structure realignment released to Congress March 18-21. The force structure changes will result in savings and greater efficiencies as the result of the realignment of resources and people

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throughout the Air Force.

The 16 AS was deactivated when the last C-141 Starlifter assigned to Charleston left on Sept. 29, 2000. All Air Mobility Command C-141s will be incrementally retired with the last one leaving in 2006.

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

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