



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Charleston Wins Award for Community Support

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437 AW Public Affairs

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – The Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce and the City of Charleston, S.C., were selected as this year’s recipients of the 2002 Abilene Trophy, the United States Air Force Air Mobility Command’s community support award for outstanding civilian community support.

The Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce and the City of Charleston were selected as the best of six AMC communities throughout the United States April 3 at the AMC Spring Commanders’ Conference, Scott AFB, Ill., for forging a strong partnership with Charleston AFB through many years.

“The Military Relations committee is very excited about the award,” said Jeff Messick, Military Relations Committee chairman. “CAFB is a vital part of the national defense and the tri-country area. It has been a privilege to be involved with a community that works so hard to help strengthen the relationship with CAFB. We look forward to working with the Air Force base more closely in the years to come.”

The award, established in 1999 by the Military Affairs Committee of Abilene, Texas, and AMC, provides recognition to a civilian community whose activities throughout the year show the community’s exceptional support to a nearby AMC base.

“This is great recognition for a community that has shown an outpouring of support since 9/11, but long before then as well,” said Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander. “We at the base feel fortunate that our community supports us as strongly as they do. We appreciate them and are pleased they are being recognized as the best supporter in AMC. They are well-deserving and should be proud of this accomplishment.” Two representatives of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee will formally present the traveling Abilene Trophy to the Charleston community at a future date. It will be displayed for one year and then passes along to next year’s winner. Charleston will then receive a miniature replica of the trophy for permanent display.