



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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CHARLESTON AFB WILL NOT HOLD A 2003 OPEN HOUSE

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. The base's 2003 Air Expo, originally scheduled for May 10, will not be held this year because of increased operations and personnel tempos in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and the global war on terrorism.

Charleston AFB is now a stage location for C-17 crews flying cargo and passenger airlift missions in support of current deployments. It is a key component of the Air Force's air bridge taking people and cargo to forward operating locations. The stage has Charleston airmen working extra hours to keep up with increased traffic. Additionally, about 500 active-duty members at Charleston are deployed in support of current operations.

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 2004.

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(For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter at 963-5589)