



# News Release

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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### **16 AIRLIFT SQUADRON RETURNS TO CHARLESTON AFB**

**CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.** – The 16th Airlift Squadron will return to Charleston AFB on Oct. 16, following a 90-day deployment to Rhein-Main AB, Germany.

All 64 airmen of the 16 AS will be redeploying to Charleston after being deployed as the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. During their deployment, these airmen flew more than 2,000 missions into two Areas of Responsibility, airlifting more than 36,700 short tons of cargo and more than 21,700 troops. Approximately 45 percent of these missions were combat airlift missions.

“The incredible intensity of the mission puts every capability to the test,” said Lt. Col. Gary Goldstone, 16 AS commander. “The fine men and women of the 16 AS and 817 EAS should be very proud of what they have accomplished.”

Extreme summer heat and dust in both AORs presented challenges to both man and machine as temperatures reached highs of 125 degrees. Dehydration and fatigue also placed extra demands on aircrews.

“It was challenging work and everyone worked long hours —12- to 16-hour days for 90 days straight,” said Lt. Col. Randy Witham, 16 AS director of operations. “But the crews did it, day in and day out, safely and under combat conditions.”

After arriving home, the 16 AS will work to reestablish their normal routines, restore local training and allow time off for crew members to spend with their families.

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**(Media interested in attending this event MUST CONTACT Lt. Kristy Miller at 963-5537 or SSgt Jason Smith at 963-5589.)**