

Palmetto Cup, new buildings in Charleston's future

By Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop, Jr.
437 AW commander

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on 21st Air Force commander Maj. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr. and Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Kerver visit. Both were genuinely impressed with what a great team we have here!

Continuing on the good news front, we've heard that our number one quality of life project, Bldg. 346, the Visiting Airmen Quarters (which also houses our 437th Services Squadron Resource Management flight) may receive funding next year.

The prospects also look good for significant upgrades to the 437th Services Squadron building, Bldg. 322. We are also hopeful in the non-appropriated funds category. We think the air staff will plan a needs assessment on a new golf course club house—this assessment often leads to the dollars that it will take to bring the project to fruition.

Special thanks to the 437th Support Group and the civil engineers for an outstanding ribbon cutting ceremony on our new housing at Hunley Park Dec. 10. As the chief of staff of one of our senators said about the Hunley Park homes, the home lot alone (for those Hunley Park homes located on the Ashley River) would be worth more than \$1 million dollars in some parts of Charleston.

On the near horizon, we will launch a new friendly competition between the squadrons called the Palmetto Cup in January. The competition will not create additional work for the squadrons since its focus is on those programs or areas that have to be continuously tracked and worked anyway. A first place finish will earn a squadron bragging rights and \$7,500 towards a quality of life project in the squadron of their choosing.

The Palmetto Cup measures eight categories: performance report and decoration on-time rates, Career Develop-

ment Course pass rate, duty status reporting accuracy rate, ergometry completion rate, contact rate for the Combined Federal Campaign and the Air Force Assistance Fund, and participation rate for the Savings Bond campaign.

Each category has a scoring system, which is based on percentages to make up for the differences in squadron size. We plan to present awards every six months and the competition should help us stay on track on several areas that are important to our people.

Even "closer in," we are hosting 12 congressional Chiefs of Staffs and the Air Mobility Command vice commander for a visit today. We are delighted to have them here to learn about our mobility mission which has certainly increased in importance given the unsettled world in which we live.

Also, today, we cut the ribbon on our new chapel! The facility will provide us with a superb environment in which our community can receive spiritual direction

and guidance. The chapel is a vital link to our families in our absence and also provides activities for our youth and a location where we can show our support and concern for our family members when deployed.

Over the next two weeks, Gen. Charles T. "Tony" Robertson, commander in chief of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command commander, in recognition of the hard year we've had, has asked that we curtail operations where we are able and go to minimal manning. I am sure 2000 will be just as busy as this year.

Now is the time for us to rest up and get our batteries recharged whenever possible.

I'm taking some leave next week myself—I'm hopping in the car on Monday morning and driving to a family reunion in New England over the Christmas holidays. I wish everyone happy holidays and a wonderful Christmas season!

Action Line



Senior Airman Corey Clements

Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop, Jr., 437th Airlift Wing commander, presents Maj. Gen. John D. Hopper, Jr., 21st Air Force commander, and his wife, Trish, with a gift during an informal social Dec. 9 at the Charleston Club. General Hopper was making his first official visit to Charleston AFB as 21 AF commander.

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play. First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at **963-5581** or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil

Callers are encouraged to leave their name and phone number so we can provide a personal reply. Remember the easiest way to resolve problems is to call the agency responsible directly or to use your chain of command.

Here are some commonly used phone numbers:

Security Forces.....	963-3600
Base Exchange.....	552-5000
Commissary.....	963-5695
Housing Office.....	963-3859
Medical Group Information.....	963-6700
Family Support Center.....	963-4406
Education Office.....	963-4573
Charleston Club.....	963-3914
Fitness and Sports Center.....	963-3347
TRICARE.....	1-800-444-5445
TRICARE Claims.....	1-800-403-3950

Flightline operations parking

I have a concern about parking at the flightline ops building.

Across the street at the 17th Airlift Squadron, there are a lot of reserved parking signs going up and that's limiting the general parking and making it hard to find parking in the morning. For that reason, some people are even considering walking to work.

If there is anything you can do to look

into this matter I would greatly appreciate it.

Thank you.

Thank you for your inquiry. Parking is certainly a problem in the operations area due to the large amount of construction going on in that area.

With the completion of many of those projects expected at the end of Calendar Year 2000, the parking situation should improve.

As to the number of reserved parking spots, all of the reserved parking spots were approved through the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Base Traffic Engineering Working Group. The criteria for reserved parking spots is very stringent here due to the limited amount of parking on base and in certain areas.

We will look at your area specifically to ensure their aren't more reserved parking spots than there should be.

Regardless of the outcome of our review of parking in your area, we ask for your patience and understanding as completed construction in the area will eventually alleviate some parking problems.

Rest assured, we will continue our efforts to do what we can to solve parking problems for not only your area, but for the entire base populace.

Airlift DISPATCH

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the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication. Submissions can be mailed to: 102 East Hill Blvd., Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154 or send e-mail to dispatch@charleston.af.mil.

Classified advertisements may be referred to Diggle Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 2014, Charleston, S.C., 29465, Phone: (843) 849-1778 or faxed to 849-0214.

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