

IN THE NEWS

C-141 aerial porters get green light for Rodeo

By Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe
437AW Public Affairs

The news was good for one group of 437th aerial porters Tuesday: the C-141 engine running offload team will compete in Rodeo 2000.

Maintenance concerns had cast a shadow over Charleston AFB C-141 participation in the event. However, senior wing leadership solved the problem by making the necessary resources available.

The C-141 ERO team has been practicing for several weeks. Members of the team are Staff Sgt. Michael Stephens (team chief), Staff Sgt. Blair Reed, Senior Airman Cheyenne Strachota, Senior Airman Robert Satterwhite and Senior Airman Dennis Batac.

The team will compete in five events:

cargo container and two HUMVEES

course with a forklift. A pitcher of water on a wooden plank is placed on the tines of a forklift and the driver must go through a figure eight course without spilling the water. Another driver must drive backward through the course without the pitcher of water.

manifest of cargo onboard an aircraft and transmit the information to headquarters Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, Ill., once the aircraft takes off.

cargo that will be deployed, ensuring it is "air transportable" and meets Air Force instructions.

The C-141 ERO team has been hard at work on the flightline, whittling down the time it takes to on-load and off-load cargo.

"Right now, I think things are going really well," Stephens said. "The guys involved are really into it. As far as the loading, we're in very good shape. We'll have 14 minutes to do the ERO. If we can get it within nine minutes, we'll get the full 800 points, barring any discrepancies. Right now, we're well within that - we're around eight minutes. A clean

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-Staff Sgt. Michael Stephens
C-141 Rodeo team member



photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

(Left to right) Senior Airman Dennis Batac, Staff Sgt. Michael Stephens and Senior Airman Cheyenne Strachota sprint toward a C-141 for a quick up-load.

run in eight minutes will do well at the competition."

The ERO begins with the C-141 loadmaster signaling the APS team, parked 50 yards behind the aircraft.

The APS team works with the C-141 aircrew to load and secure the cargo. Rodeo judges evaluate the on-load process and check the chains securing the cargo after the on-load. The loadmaster then gives the signal to off-load the cargo. Stephens said the off-load process is much faster than the on-load.

The C-141 ERO team has also been preparing for Rodeo by getting in shape physically. They attend aerobics classes several times a week. Stephens said the fitness center staff and aerobics instructor Susan Hammock have been helpful, tailoring some classes to meet the team's needs.

Stephens added that the squadron and the 437th APS Mobility Flight have been very supportive of the team.

This year's Rodeo is special to the team because it will be the last time Charleston will send C-141s to the event. The last C-141 is expected to leave CAFB in September. "We're going to go out there and give it our best," Stephens said. "We're totally dedicated to bringing home the trophy for the wing."



Rodeo team commander Maj. Matthew Heuer (in flightsuit) talks with the C-141 Engine Running Offload team following a practice run.

Members of the team are eager to prove themselves at Rodeo 2000.

"Rodeo will bring out the best in us," Batac said. "Training for Rodeo is not an easy task - it's very stressful and it requires a demanding schedule for all of us. But, we all know, pain is temporary and pride is forever."

Brunelle named Charleston fireman of the year for 1999

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones
437 AW Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Daryl Brunelle was selected by his fellow firefighters as the Charleston AFB Firefighter of the Year for 1999.

Brunelle was nominated for his outstanding contribution to the 437th Civil Engineering Squadron's Fire Protection Flight.

Brunelle is a rescue crew chief and the first to arrive on scene for



Brunelle

all emergencies.

Brunelle was surprised when he was notified of his selection at a roll call recently.

"They kept this a pretty good secret," said Brunelle. "Many others could have easily won. The competition in the fire department was great."

Brunelle gives credit to his fellow firefighters and family. "Everyone I work with gives me support," said Brunelle. "I'm happy to have won this award."

Roger Schwartz, assistant Fire Chief and Brunelle's supervisor, said, "no doubt about it, Brunelle stands above others. He is a true asset to the United States Air Force and Team Charleston. He is a

teacher for the young troops at the station and one of the top NCO's in the flight."

Brunelle recently played a big role in a fuel spill at the Charleston International Airport. A fuel truck hit a pole causing a gash in the truck and hundreds of gallons of fuel to spill. Brunelle was able to plug the hole, thus saving thousands of gallons of fuel from leaking.

Brunelle, a native of Capac, Michigan, has been in the Air Force for 12 years and stationed at Charleston AFB since 1993.

For winning the top firefighter award, he was given a plaque, a dinner, and an overnight stay in a local hotel for him and his wife, courtesy of the squadron.