

COMMENTARY

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AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceding the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

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Awards and fun activities distinguish this week

By Col. Rusty Findley II
437 Airlift Wing commander

The base picnic was a great success and a special thanks to the folks in the 437th Services Squadron, especially to John Hattel and Shamra Slappey for all their hard work. The picnic offered many fun activities and a great time for all who attended. The Services folks estimate about 2,000 people showed for the picnic and they appreciated the help of the many volunteers and the Year of the Family committee members who helped make it a success. See the photo feature on page 11.



Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

The softball game between the chiefs and colonels last Friday was a lopsided victory for us as we defeated them 26 to 4. I'll try not to gloat too much on our victory since I know that a rematch will be in the works (perhaps in a different sport) in the future and it could be a lopsided score the other way next time around. I know they will be looking for victory during the next round. Regardless of the final score, the game was a lot of fun and it was a good chance to promote esprit de corps among senior leaders. I had a great time!

At staff meeting, I was pleased to recognize members of the 17th and 15th airlift squadrons who brought home the Lockheed Martin Cannestra Trophy, which is presented to the best flying demonstration by

an overseas participant. The Charleston C-17 demo team won this distinction at the Royal International Air Tattoo 2000, held at RAF Cottesmore, Rutland, England, July 22-23. They also did a weeklong international airshow at Farnborough, England. See the story on page 1.

The aircrew and 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron maintainers for the demo and static display included Lt. Col. John Millander, Maj. Ken Burch, Squadron Leader Darrell Jacobs, Squadron Leader Jeff Clark, Capt. Ron Christiannson, Capt. Dan Zubryd, 1st Lt. Rich Carter, Tech. Sgt. Don Eagle, Staff Sgt. Mark Henriquez Staff Sgt. David Hooper, Senior Airman Adam Sereika (flying crew chief), Airman 1st Class Joshua Connell and Airman 1st Class Jamin Norton. We also had a 315th Airlift Wing aircrew that brought in a static display for the Cottesmore show. See the story on page 1.

The best part of my job is the opportunity to thank people who go above the norm to make things happen. At staff meeting, it was my pleasure to present a wing coin to Senior Airman Timothy

Lavoie, 437th Aerial Port Squadron passenger service flight, who did just that.

Lavoie provided his personal child's car seat to a family scheduled on an overseas flight and successfully avoided the family from being bumped from the flight, whose leave was about to expire. It is our thinking "outside-the-box" that shows Team Charleston clearly gets the job done with the pride, professionalism, and passion.

We had a great visit from our sister wing, MacDill AFB, Fla., who saw for the first time the premiere airlift wing on the face of the planet. The 21 members of our sister wing were truly impressed with everything they saw and had only good things to say about Team Charleston's hospitality. The opportunity to crossfeed ideas was at the

heart of what this sister wing visit was all about. I know we'll all benefit from the time invested. A special thanks to Capt. Dan Daniels and the Protocol staff for their hard work on another flawless visit.

I am looking forward to the officer combat dining-in on Saturday at 6 p.m. in the C-17 Nosedock 1, Bldg. 519. We have one of the finest guest speakers for that event, retired Lt. Gen. John Sams whom I know everyone will enjoy. A lot of work and preparation has gone into this event and I hope to see a good turnout from the base for what promises to be a fun time for all. You can still sign up by noon today, please call 2nd Lt. Zabrina Robinson at 963-4239.

I recently received an email to my action line mailbox from a retired Lt. Col. Scotty White, who praised the folks in the base veterinary clinic for helping to treat his dog. "I had some scheduling problems and Christy Leek was very flexible. I cannot say enough about her helpfulness," he said. He also thanked Sgt. Larry Linney and Capt. Larry Shelton for being exceptional service providers. He concluded in his note that the entire staff is very client oriented and professional. Thanks for providing the great service to our Air Force family!

The soldiers of Fort Bragg, N.C., Gen. Tony Robertson, commander of Air Mobility Command and Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will dedicate a C-17 to the "Spirit of the Airborne" at Pope AFB, N.C. Aug. 15. The 315 AW will also do a flyby and airdrop of about 36 soldiers as part of the

ceremonies. The next day, we'll do a flyby for the grand opening of the Special Operations museum in downtown Fayetteville. The Army is our biggest fan of the C-17 and that is a fitting tribute to the men and women who maintain and fly this great airlifter.

Col. Stanley Dougherty, Headquarters Air Mobility Command chief of the airfield operations division, Maj. Tim Hiersberger and Chief Master Sgt. John Hoffman will conduct an inspection of our airfield management flight in the 437th Operations Support Squadron Aug. 14-18. The inspection, conducted every two years, will give us valuable feedback on overall airfield management and base operations. We welcome their insight and ideas!

I was pleased to visit the 437th Maintenance Squadron swing and midnight shift workers on Thursday at 11 p.m. as part of a squadron cookout. I appreciate all the hard work they do for the wing and thoroughly enjoyed my opportunity to meet and talk with many of our maintainers who give their best night after night. A special thanks to Master Sgt. Ron Phillips, assistant C-17 Home Station Check section chief, for arranging the cookout.

We're gearing up again as the wing begins to surge to support a host of overseas commitments starting today until Sept. 9. It's simply the nature of the airlift business as we enter yet another busy period. Let's pull together in true Team Charleston style and show the world again that we are the premiere airlift wing on the face of planet!

Action Line

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.

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.

