

DISPATCH



AIRLIFT

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'The British are coming, the British are coming'

By Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB is gearing up to train approximately 120 Royal Air Force aircrew and aircraft maintainers in support of the United Kingdom's plan to lease four C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

The tentative dates for the initial, refresher and replacement training are September 2000 through 2008. Approximately 85 RAF members will undergo maintenance training courses taught by the AAI/ESI Company of Summerville, S.C., the 437th

Logistics Group, 373rd Training Squadron Detachment and the Boeing Company. The 437 Operations Group will train 35 aircrew members.

The 85 aircraft maintainers are expected to begin arriving in September for training. The academic portion will take place in an AAI/ESI training facility in North Charleston, with the practical training being conducted at Charleston AFB alongside flightline personnel based here.

The first two flight crews, comprised of a pilot, co-pilot and a loadmaster, are scheduled to begin training at Altus AFB, Okla. in October and should

arrive here in January 2001 to gain experience in the C-17. Charleston will provide training for approximately 20 pilots and 15 loadmasters.

The U.K.'s lease with the Boeing Company is expected to be signed in September. The U.K. will receive its first C-17 in May 2001 when the aircraft is delivered to RAF Brize Norton. The two U.K. crews are expected to fly with Charleston crews for approximately four months before returning to the U.K. All of the students will be housed locally.

Charleston AFB's International Military Student see **British** page 2

Heavy combat seen in nosedock, many wounded during dining-in

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Barrages of water balloons and the latest weaponry in water guns marked the fun and games of the Company Grade Officers Council's combat dining-in held Aug. 12 in the C-17 Nosedock.

The dining-in was set amongst camouflage netting, field tables, CGOCs on maintenance stands with high powered waterguns and field mess kits. A most unusual method for mess violators to partake in the grog bowls has them navigating an obstacle course of tires and crawling on their bellies under a canopy of camo netting with flour, cake mix and water on the floor. More than 100 people enjoyed the festivities. The evening's dress for the combat dining-in was not the traditional mess dress, but rather flight suits and battle dress uniforms.

The combat dining-in, codenamed Operation Frivolous Frivolity, started with everyone being required to show a copy of their orders (their invitation), dog tags and "a round cylindrical object," usually a squadron or group coin. The head table leaders, retired Lt. Gen. John Sams (former 15th Air Force commander), Brig. Gen. Jerry Black and Col. Rusty Findley, arrived in a HUMVEE with a machine gun shooting blanks that startled the crowd and let everyone know that this was no ordinary dining-in and "combat" would be the order of the evening. From there on, a series of intense skirmishes began. With the exception of the head table, everyone in the audience was fair game for the high tech water guns

and heavy artillery of high arching water balloons that would come crashing down, scattering people and dinner utensils. Few people left the evening dry, as there were casualties throughout the night.

"This was my first combat dining-in and it was a really great experience getting to meet officers that I normally wouldn't have had a chance to meet. I hope I'll be here for the 3rd Annual Combat Dining In as well," said 2nd Lt. Laura M. Bentley, 437th Supply Squadron. "Along with bringing orders and dogtags, all the participants brought great attitudes. You could tell everyone was there to have a good time," added 2nd Lt. Andy Grab, 437th Comptroller Squadron.

The night started with an intense barrage of water balloons traded between the warring Pelicans (14th Airlift Squadron) and Eagles (15th Airlift Squadron) with many side skirmishes by the camo decked civil engineers wreaking havoc with backpack mounted water guns. The battles centered on, who possessed the evening's refreshments. But the 14th Airlift Squadron became dominant as they had their own secret weapon of mass destruction, a garden hose (cut several times by the ever-charging civil engineers and Eagles).

The evening also featured remarks by retired Gen. Sams, Charleston field director for Boeing. Sams spoke of the qualities necessary to be successful officers and those qualities most needed in a commander. "I've always admired how chief master sergeants get things done, but don't have to use a lot of legwork to get results. They know everyone and

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That's the 'Spirit'

Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

Senior Airman Josh Searcy, a C-17 crew chief, works on the rudder of "The Spirit of North Charleston" during routine maintenance.