

# DISPATCH



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## Heavy traffic

Three C-17s taxi for take off prior to participating in a nine-ship exercise at North Auxiliary Air Field, S.C., Aug. 17. The tactical multi-ship exercise included airdrop, assault landings and combat offloads and also demonstrated the base's ability to launch multi-ship formations.

Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

## Energy saving underway for base housing

By Debbie Carlton  
Base housing office

A recent executive order established more stringent energy savings goals for Department of Defense facilities.

As part of this order, Charleston AFB has entered into an energy savings performance contract with Georgia Geothermal and Duke Solutions, who are performing more than \$9 million of energy upgrades to the base. The utility cost savings will pay for these upgrades over the next 18 years.

One major part of this contract is the installation of Ground Source Heat Pumps, which will replace the gas-fired furnaces and air conditioners in 960 housing units.

Natural gas will no longer be needed for heat, eliminating the heating and air conditioning system as a potential source for carbon monoxide poisoning.

Two 200-foot deep, four-inch diameter wells will be driven into each housing unit's backyard, pipes will be placed in these wells and additional pipes will run to the outside wall of the house. Once the new unit is

installed, water will run through these pipes. The difference between the ground temperature and the dwelling temperature provides extremely energy efficient heating and cooling.

With progress comes a little pain and inconvenience. This process will involve basically three steps.

First, the contractor will need to drill the two wells. This involves a few hours when they will need access to the back yards of base housing units. The contractor will work around fences when possible, but in some cases the housing occupant may need to remove a portion of their fence for a short time. If the resident has a pet, the pet will have to be restrained while the pipes are being installed. All of this work should be finished in one day and residents do not have to be at home for this to be done.

Second, the contractor will run pipes from the well to the side of the resident's quarters. This should be done within a week or two of the trenching. During this time, the

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**"The biggest compliment we've received from residents is how quiet the new units are. They seem pretty happy about that."**

David Bean,  
project manager for Georgia Geothermal

## Firestone tire recall includes military exchange customers

Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps exchange customers can swap Firestone tires affected by the recently announced recall campaign at local military exchanges or local corporate-owned dealers.

Bridgestone/Firestone will replace free an estimated 6.5 million ATX, ATX II and Wilderness AT all-terrain tires, company officials have announced. Officials of all the military exchange services said their stores would take back eligible customers' recalled Firestone tires, regardless of the original purchase location.

Locally, CAFB Shoppette manager Angie Kumar said they've received a number of calls from people who have purchased Firestone tires through AAFES and from concerned customers on vacation in Charleston. She has been referring them to the local Firestone Tire and Service dealer who has been installing the tires. The dealer, located on Mall Drive in North Charleston, can be reached at 572-4247.

Military customers at any AAFES Autoprider Car Care facility are authorized credit equal to the AAFES retail price of a recalled tire. The credit may be applied to a new Firestone tire of their choice or any

other brand. The customer pays the difference if the sale price of the replacement tire, or tires, exceeds the credit. Likewise, AAFES will refund the difference if the customer buys a cheaper tire.

The replacement tires will be the same size, type, load range, and tread design. Mounting, balancing and transfer of any AAFES road hazard warranty will be free.

Customers who are not sure if their tires are subject to recall, and those who suspect they have defective tires not subject to recall, can bring them by any AAFES Autoprider Car Care facility for a free inspection, possible replacement or pro-rated exchange, if warranted.

The Navy and Marine Corps exchange services' Firestone tire policy includes:

■ Whenever possible, customers will be directed to a Firestone company-owned tire and service center to replace recalled tires and to discuss the exchange of tires not covered by the recall. Autoports will handle the recall and replacements in overseas and remote location where a Firestone company store is not available to patrons.

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