

Future commander, civic leaders visit base

By Col. James Norris
437 AW vice commander

Today we are proud to host Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Rusty Findley and civic leaders from Grand Forks, N.D. They will receive a wing mission briefing and combat camera presentation, tour a C-17, and try their hands at the security forces firearms training simulator. Thursday they visited McGuire AFB where they learned about the 21st Air Force, the Air Mobility Warfare Center, the KC-10, and the C-141 SOLL II mission. Col. Findley, as everyone knows, will take over the 437th Airlift Wing from General Bishop in March. He has told me he's really looking forward to taking command of the wing and working with Team Charleston folks.

We had the pleasure Monday of hosting the House Armed Services Committee staff visit. These key advisors to U.S. congressmen play a pivotal role in legislative issues at the national level. They received the wing mission and C-17 capabilities briefings and had a chance to fly the C-17 simulator and tour the aircraft. While the staffers were touring the aircraft, 315 AW personnel described the aeromedical evacuation

mission. Aircrew and maintenance personnel were available to answer questions.

Members of the group were highly impressed with the men and women of Team Charleston and the important mission that we do.

A busy two weeks for the operations group will start Tuesday when the 21st Air Force Aircrew Standardization Evaluation Team arrives. The team, led by Col. James Poland, will be administering written examinations and evaluation flights to our aircrew members.

Col. Ted Bowlds, the C-17 Systems Program Officer will also visit the base Tuesday. He will primarily focus on C-17 logistics issues. We look forward to hosting him for his first visit since assuming C-17 SPO duty.

I'd like to welcome Col. Karl Young, coming in to replace me as the 437 AW vice commander. Col. Young comes to us from Scott AFB, where he has been the director of current operations at the Tanker Airlift Control Center, or TACC. He brings a wealth of mobility experience with him.

As we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday on Monday, I challenge everyone to have an enjoyable, safe three-day weekend.

Remember! Act! Celebrate! — A day on, not a day off

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Haviland
305 AMW Public Affairs

When Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous 1963, "I Have a Dream" address in the shadows of the Lincoln Monument, he probably never imagined his own birthday would become the catalyst for making his dream a reality.

But it has. Today and throughout the long weekend, in small towns and big cities throughout America, thousands of people are joining forces to honor King by making a difference in their communities — a message he delivered more than 30 years ago.

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve," King said. "You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. And you can be that servant."

Like most of the changes King tried to make in his lifetime, the recognition of the man and his work, as well as the effort to honor his legacy through service, didn't happen over night.

It took more than 15 years after his 1968 death to establish a federal holiday in his honor. Arguments opposing the holiday raged in Washington.

Among the arguments was the cost to taxpayers and singling him out over the accomplishments of others. The arguments had been used for years to

oppose the establishment of new federal holidays such as Lincoln's birthday, St. Patrick's Day and even Valentine's Day, but in the end, proponents of a holiday in King's honor prevailed.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill establishing the third Monday in January as Martin Luther King national holiday. Three years later, Americans observed the first King holiday.

A major change for the holiday came six years ago when President Clinton signed the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday and Service Act. The legislation, signed just days before the 31st anniversary of King's Washington address, expands the mission of the holiday as a "day of community service, interracial cooperation and youth anti-violence initiatives," according to The King Center in Atlanta, Ga.

"The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others," said King's widow, Coretta Scott King. "Remember, it's not a day off — it's a day on!"

On Monday, officials expect thousands of people, young and old, throughout the country to honor King's 71st birthday by joining community service projects that keep the "Dream" alive in a manner he would celebrate.

After all, it was King who said, "Life's most persistent and urgent questions is, 'What are you going to do for others?'"

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



While I was at the commissary, I noticed military personnel taking cash from civilians and buying groceries for them. This is a growing trend due to the fact that they no longer do ID checks at the door.

This is an abuse of the commissary and it's cleaning out the shelves, making certain items unavailable for patrons authorized to shop at the Commissary. Please check into this policy and how it's hurting the consumer. Thank you.

Thank you for shopping at the Commissary and for bringing your concern to our attention. The new visitor policy for commissaries to abolish ID checks at the entrance to the commissary is DoD-wide. While this has proven to be a cost-saving measure to the Commissary and a time-saving measure to patrons, unfortunately, there have been individuals that abuse it. Please report any suspected abuses to the store manager immediately so corrective actions can be taken on the spot. Thank you for your observations and concerns.

If you have further questions concerning the Commissary, do not hesitate to call the store manager, Eddie Williams, at 963-5709.

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

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