

DISPATCH



AIRLIFT

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Midland Park intersection to close Tuesday

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

The Midland Park Road intersection in front of the railroad tracks by Arthur Drive near Charleston Air Force Base will close for road repairs Tuesday-Wednesday. The Rivers Gate entrance will remain open for base traffic, but commercial trucks and vendors are asked to use the Dorchester Gate entrance to lessen expected traffic congestion.

The 437th Civil Engineer Squadron horizontal shop will repave the intersection. As many as 10 workers will be laying new asphalt in the area where Arthur Drive and Midland Road intersects. Midland Park road will close at 6 a.m. on June 20 and is scheduled to reopen no later than 5



p.m. June 21. The speed limit on Arthur Drive will be lowered from 40 mph to 25 mph during the repairs. Some traffic delays can be expected in this area due to the road repairs.

"The entrance into the base through Arthur Drive will stay open, but the repairs will inconvenience people who are use to using Midland Park road as a traffic shortcut," said Ron Wiggins, chief of base infrastructure in the 437th CES. He added that some traffic delays could be expected for those using Arthur Drive since the turning and passing lanes near Midland Park road will be closed and traffic cones will be set up in the area. Drivers should exercise extreme caution in this area.

"We're hoping to finish the work in one day, but that is contingent upon the weather and possible differing site conditions that we won't know until we start tearing up the old asphalt," Wiggins said. "This is only a temporary fix and we hope to have additional funds at the end of the year for a permanent repair to include improvements to the existing drainage system.

"We often have to patch this road due to the heavy truck traffic and the unstable underlying road bed beneath the asphalt," Wiggins added.



A closer look

Airman 1st Class Nathan Stuch of the 437th Maintenance Squadron inspects a C-17 engine during recent maintenance training.

Staff Sgt. Michael Duhé

CAFB C-17s to make Army IRC happen

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

Eleven Charleston C-17s will demonstrate their ability to quickly put massive amounts of Army forces on the ground as part of three combined exercises June 11 through June 23.

Charleston aircrews and maintainers, along with a host of other Air Mobility Command airlifters, will employ the Army as part of the first ever validation of the Immediate Ready Company, the Army's armored reinforcement of the 82nd Airborne Division rapid response capability to a contingency.

The exercises will keep Charleston C-17s busy, as all active duty and reserve flying squadrons will participate, to include two six-ship C-17 airdrops of personnel, an eight-ship heavy equipment drop, 14 airland sorties on an austere runway and 2 Container Delivery System airdrops. The exercise marks the first time that Charleston has delivered the IRC.

The IRC scenario ensures that heavy armor and other supporting equipment is rapidly airlanded into an austere runway once the Strategic Brigade Airdrop seizes an airfield for use by friendly forces. The IRC occurs about four hours after the initial SBA heavy equipment and personnel airdrops. The SBA includes a wide variety of Army attack helicopters, and Air Force and Marine close air support aircraft that clear the area first while numerous other aircraft provide overhead support.

About 450 people deployed for the exercise, mostly to Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and Lawson Army Airfield, Ga. Col. Glenn Mackey, 437th Operations Group deputy commander, is the director of mobility forces for the exercise. The base was designated as the lead wing to plan the exercise. Charleston deployed 135 members, which includes staff, aircrews, maintenance, supply, aerial port and combat camera.

Charleston aircrews will bring in

the 82nd Airborne Assault forces from Fort Bragg, N.C. during the exercise. Among some of the requirements that Charleston members will help handle include airdropping 3,000 paratroopers and 32 heavy equipment platforms, and airlanding heavy armor, to include 4 M1A1 tanks and 4 Bradley fighting vehicles. In addition, Charleston will airdrop 240 Container Delivery System bundles for resupply. A contingent of 10 C-130s will haul in 88 pieces of rolling equipment and supplies with 44 sorties over a 24-hour period.

"The Army forces will link up with the Marines. The Marines will accomplish a beach landing. We are dropping the Army 600 yards from the beach," said lead planner of the exercise Maj. Chris Birge, chief of the Wing Tactics shop in the 437th Operations Support Squadron.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff exercises are called Purple Dragon, Roving Sands and Purple Caduceus and they

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