

DISPATCH



AIRLIFT

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437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, June 23, 2000

Into the sunset



Tech. Sgt. James Lotz, 1 CTCS

Two Charleston-based C-17 Globemasters depart for Normandy Drop Zone at Fort Bragg, N.C. as they prepare to drop a heavy load in support of Purple Dragon exercise June 17. The exercise was 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 C-17s helped airdrop 3,000 paratroopers and 32 heavy equipment platforms.

CAFB prepares for end of C-141 era

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi
437AW Public Affairs

The end of an era arrives July 15 when Charleston AFB bids farewell to the C-141 Starlifter and formerly closes the 16th Airlift Squadron with a ceremony at 9 a.m. on the flight line.

The aircraft, commonly known as the "workhorse of Air Mobility Command," is being retired because many have reached the limits of their serviceable life of 45,000 flight hours.

They will eventually be flown to Davis Monthan AFB in Tucson, Ariz., for storage. Jets with less hours will be sent to other C-141 bases such as McChord AFB, Wash., and Altus AFB, Okla., who will continue to fly the venerable airlifter.

According to Air Mobility Command Plans and Programs officials, the C-141s will retire from the active duty inventory before 2004 and from the Reserves and Air National Guard before 2006.

All former C-141 aircrew and maintainers or anyone associated with the C-141s are invited to the squadron's closing ceremonies. "We are planning on a wide variety of events to - include a social gala July 14 as well as a

formal ceremony to be held on Saturday the 15th," said 1st Lt. Robby Hanovich, C-141 pilot and the project officer for the closing ceremony.

Events planned for July 14 include a C-141 farewell golf tournament, the social event at the Charleston Club, and a special flag retreat ceremony with a flyover of C-141s. On July 15, C-141 and C-17 aircraft will be on static display.

Although the 16th Airlift Squadron won't technically close until September, the ceremony was moved to July because funding for the C-141 maintenance runs out June 30, said Lt. Col. "J.J." Wendling, 16 AS commander.

"By holding the ceremony in July, we expect to have at least 75 members still in the squadron," he said. "Sadly this is a far cry from the 260 personnel who once walked the halls of building 54 and packed the Yonkie Auditorium just a few years ago; however, if we held the ceremony in September as originally scheduled, only about 15 members from the squadron would be here to participate."

Maj. Rick Cornelio, commander of the 437th Aircraft

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Charleston court reporter named best in AMC, Air Force

By Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Deirdre Abernathy, a court reporter and paralegal with the 437th Airlift Wing Staff Judge Advocate Office, was selected as Air Mobility Command



Abernathy

1999 Outstanding Civilian Program Specialist and the Harold R. Vague

Award winner for 1999, officially making her the Outstanding Legal Service Civilian in the Air Force.

"Winning this award is a good feeling," she said. "It's like receiving a pat on the back, a thank you and hearing "job well done" all at once."

Abernathy was recognized for her accomplishments as a court reporter and for helping make the 437 AW Military Justice Program the fastest and fairest in AMC. In a banner year, Abernathy and Charleston were number one in

AMC for court processing completion times and they were recognized as having the best administrative discharge program.

CAFB handled 72 Article 15s and 55 Administrative Discharges in 1999, and Abernathy helped maintain a 100 percent processing rate; number one in AMC for all time standards.

Abernathy is a major factor in why the Charleston AFB legal office is one of the best in the Air Force, said Maj. Marge Overly, 437 AW Deputy Staff Judge Advocate.

"Dee is a true team player who has a big impact wing-wide. She is always a willing volunteer, ready to take on the next new challenge," Overly said. "She is a superstar court reporter whose work is simply invaluable to the military justice, admin discharge, and employment/labor law arenas."

As a court reporter, Abernathy transcribed more than 100 hours of court time, resulting in preparation of the Record of Trial and on-time action by the convening authorities

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