

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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Doing battle with the e-mail virus

By Col. Rusty Findley II
Commander, 437AW

By now, we should all be out of trouble with the pesky "I love you" virus and its various reincarnations. A special thanks to all unit workgroup managers and the 437th Communications Squadron who worked extremely hard over the weekend, purging our systems of this particularly nasty virus. At times, it seemed like we were fighting our own version of a cyber-war and that for a while it was getting the best of us. But I'm proud to say we were victorious because of the hard work by many throughout the base!

I was in the 437th CS Network Control Center on Saturday where I got to see first hand the efforts of our cyber-warriors: Capt. Jon Bakonyi, Master Sgt. Rich Lytton, Staff Sgt. Shawn Derrick, Senior Airman Patterson Collins and Senior Airman Nate Rainey doing battle. I am very proud of them and all our workgroup managers for their hard work.

It seemed like we were fighting our own version of a cyber-war and that for awhile it was getting the best of us.

This was a true Team Charleston effort!

The Rodeo send-offs for the C-141 and C-17s were great! We sent off the C-141 folks on Friday in the club and then again saw off the 437th Airlift Wing and 315th AW C-17 teams on Saturday morning in the C-17 nosedock. It was great to get up there this week to watch our teams compete. Their teamwork and preparation were evident throughout. We will have a big picnic and celebration for their return on Saturday at 2:45 p.m. in the C-17 nosedock when they bring back the silver. Everyone is invited to attend. Please come out and show your support for the team. We hope to have many civilian honorary commanders in attendance too and will have lots of free food and refreshments for all to enjoy.

The 14th Airlift Squadron hosted a Cinco De Mayo celebration and auction May 5 in the Charleston Club. A great time was had by all that attended. I had a fun time.

The visit on Tuesday and Wednesday by Gen. Charles "Tony" Robertson, commander of U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command, for the National Defense Transportation Association conference here was a great success. I appreciate all the hard work by the project officer, Maj. Marshall Mantiply and our protocol staff led by Kathy Knichel. Once again, I heard nothing but praise for Team Charleston's support.

I went to Capitol Hill last Thursday with Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Bruch. It was an excellent opportunity to meet members of the South Carolina

congressional delegation. It was a great chance for me to introduce myself and to thank them for all that they have done for Charleston AFB. We have worked hard with them over the last couple of years to make Charleston a better place to live for our families. We owe much of that success to our congressional delegation, which deeply cares about our Air Force. We'll keep pressing to further improve those facilities that need help.

I had another good chance to introduce myself to the men and women of Team Charleston at an officer's call on Monday. I shared my ideas for the wing and offered everyone some food for thought. I look forward to many more in the future.

Please have a good weekend and don't forget about the basewide power outage on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Use this time to get out and explore some of the Low Country! It's great being a part of the finest airlift wing on the face of the planet.

AMC commander thanks troops for their hard work

By Gen. Charles Robertson Jr.
Commander, Air Mobility Command

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, III. — Let me take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the extraordinary efforts which you — the men and women of Air Mobility Command — put forth during the month of March. While I realize our day-to-day peacetime operations tempo is already high, March presented an even higher level of demand for our airlift and air refueling capabilities around the world.

In fact, to put it in terms most of you are getting used to nowadays, our commitment rate during March was equivalent to that required to support a major theater war over an equivalent period of time. To put it simply, the combination of banner missions both within and out-

side the continental United States, Aerospace Expeditionary Forces 5 and 6 deployments, and Atlas Response, as well as the usual AMC business of channels, special assignment airlift missions, air refueling missions and training, presented an enormous challenge for the command. Yet, once again, AMC came through with flying colors.

Just look at the numbers. Presidential support to India required 419 missions and 136 deployed personnel at 10 different locations. Our Air Force's first full AEF swap out required 195 missions moving 3,957 personnel and 1,416 short tons. Humanitarian aid to Mozambique required 133 missions moving 2,112 passengers and 2,377 short tons.

And, as with all AMC endeavors, this was truly a total force show, with the Air

National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command providing 28 percent of the deployed logistics support, 24 percent of the operational missions for the India banner, and 21 percent of the AEF swap out missions.

While the numbers are impressive and of themselves, your accomplishments last month are even more remarkable when you take into account all the challenges you faced and the innovative ways you overcame them.

As we prepared in February to meet the challenges of "March Madness," 193 of our tankers were grounded due to stab trim actuator problems. While such a setback is difficult in times of normal operations, the high demand for assets during March made this situation potentially even more disruptive.

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Yard inspection

I live in base housing and I am curious about the housing inspection procedures. Unkept yards are an eyesore and reflect badly upon our housing area.

Thank you for your concern. Yard inspections are done every Wednesday and discrepancies are noted in accordance with our family housing brochure (CAF B Pamphlet 32-301).

When a member has ac-

quired a total of 10 points, his/her commander and first sergeant are notified and the member is counseled of his/her responsibilities. When 20 points are accrued within a 2-year time period, a letter of termination is issued to the member. During the process, housing personnel and commanders/first sergeants work together with the individual to help resolve problems so that termination of quarters does not happen.

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 taaction@charleston.af.mil

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.

