

# DISPATCH



AIRLIFT

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## Charleston Rodeo teams return home with the gold

**Staff Sgt. Raymond Padgett**  
315 AW Public Affairs

The sound of music and the smell of hamburgers filled the air as several hundred people crowded the C-17 nose dock Saturday to welcome home the victorious Team Charleston Rodeo teams.

Charleston Rodeo competitors brought home ten trophies -- three for aircraft maintenance, three for aerial refueling, three for cargo handling, and one for the medical team.

In addition to the cookout and music, the welcome home festivities included a fly-by of the returning aircraft and two base fire trucks, with water cannons flowing, flanked the aircraft parking spots.

"It was like coming home from the war," said Staff Sgt. Eddie Shepard, a member of the 315<sup>th</sup> C-17 ERO Team.

"We were in here a week ago and said we'd bring back the gold and silver," said Col. Rusty Findley, commander of the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. "Thanks to the men and women of Team Charleston; mission accomplished. It was a true Team Charleston performance. Five trophies for the 437<sup>th</sup> and five for the 315<sup>th</sup>."

Rodeo is Air Mobility Command's international competition that focuses on improving the skills of air mobility professionals. Once every two years, Rodeo provides an opportunity for the world's best mobility forces to demonstrate their capabilities, improve procedures, compare notes and enhance standardization for worldwide operations.

The competition's goal is to en-



Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

**Master Sgt. Kenneth Sellers, a member of the Charleston AFB Rodeo team, raises one of several trophies won as Col. Rusty Findley II (in flight suit), 437th Airlift Wing commander, and others welcome team members back from the competition.**

hance mobility operations while fostering esprit de corps and positive relations among team members representing the active-duty, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, U.S. Army and allied nations.

The Rodeo competition began May 6 and ended May 13 at Pope AFB, N.C.

"The competition was extremely tough," said Maj. Matt Heuer, the 437 AW Team Chief. "It is unbeliev-

able the professionalism people brought to the competition."

One of the many highlights of Rodeo 2000 was the 315 AW Maintenance Team. Maj. Pat Cannon, a 315 see **Rodeo**, page 2

## CAFB chapel's singles programs named best in AMC

**By Lt. Col. Ed Memi**  
437 AW Public Affairs

The sincerest form of flattery is when someone copies a program that you developed. For members of the base chapel staff, that is exactly what happened when headquarters Air Mobility Command copied their special retreat program for single parents. For their efforts, AMC decided to recognize them for having the best program for single airmen and single parents in the command for 1999.

The base chapel hosts meetings at 11:15 a.m. on the second Tuesday of every month for single parents to discuss issues, network and hear presentations from a wide variety of guest speakers. "We also try to do an activity every month which might include a hockey game, skating, clowns,

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—Master Sgt. Leigh Bertagnolli  
NCOIC, base chapel and single parent

making crafts for kids or taking a hay ride," said Master Sgt. Leigh Bertagnolli, NCOIC of the base chapel and a single parent herself. "By meeting at lunchtimes for the meetings, and scheduling activities when single parents can attend, we've had good attendance."

"It's been a wonderful program and this is the

first base I've been where the base chapel has offered the single parents program. I've had a half-dozen calls from other bases about our program," she said.

In March 1998, Bertagnolli decided to host a retreat for single parents that featured noted guest speakers, to include a well-known lay minister and counselor, to provide advice and assistance. The program impressed AMC so much that they decided to host similar retreats throughout the command, she added.

"It was awesome for me! The one-day seminar at Wild Dunes gave me a chance to hear from a number of guest speakers about the challenges that single parents face," said Maj. Don Starr, deputy chief of the command post and a single parent for two years with his 3-year-old daughter

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