

# DISPATCH



AIRLIFT

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## Mechanically sound

Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

Senior Airman Steve Merideth, assistant NCOIC of firetruck maintenance for the 437<sup>th</sup> Transportation Squadron, works on a firetruck for the base fire department. Merideth is one of two members of the transportation squadron who work at the fire department to make sure its vehicles are in running order. The fire department is preparing for Fire Prevention Week which starts Sunday and ends Oct. 14. For more information, see the story on page 11.

## FY 2001 declared 'Year of Retention and Recruiting'

Air Mobility Command continues its focus on quality of life for its people by declaring fiscal year 2001 the Year of Retention and Recruiting.

"For the past three years, we've been working our Total Force recruiting and retention challenges very hard. That said, I'm convinced we can do more to improve both," said Gen. Charles Robertson, Jr., commander, United States Transportation Command and AMC commander.

"Retention of our quality people is so important, I've made it a priority in almost everything this command is engaged in...from my readiness assessments to the chairman of the Joints Chief of Staff, to our last two 'Years of the Family.' The Year of Retention and Recruiting is simply a continuation of this 'taking care of our people' theme.

"It's critical we keep our retention and recruiting efforts strong to maintain the level of air and space superiority required to sustain this great nation. The Year of Retention and Recruiting is AMC's grass roots initiative to re-energize our commanders and supervisors and to give them the tools they need to positively impact morale and camaraderie within their units, throughout the command, and across the entire Air Force."

One of these tools may come from the new career assistance advisor position being implemented across the Air Force by Oct. 31.

"We at Charleston are ahead of the implementation date," said Master Sgt. Matt Harless, wing career assistance advisor. "We have been bringing the position online since Sept. 1.

"I am here to assist the commanders and first sergeants in educating enlisted personnel and junior offic-

ers on their benefits and initiatives in place to improve their quality of life."

Harless looks at his position as the focal point for supervisors through commanders to come to for information needed to help retention.

This year's campaign comes after AMC spent two years featuring a Year of the Family theme. The YORR team is led by Maj. Joshua Jose and is composed of full-time representatives from the active duty, civilian, guard and reserve components.

Together, they will focus their efforts on educating and equipping commanders and supervisors with retention initiatives so they can help their people make informed career decisions.

"We want people to feel proud to serve in the military and know they are valued," said Jose. "The mission simply doesn't get done without quality people."

The team has developed an AMC YORR website as a focal point for posting accurate and up-to-date information on benefits, soliciting effective retention and recruiting ideas and providing an avenue for benchmarking noteworthy programs.

AMC's director of personnel, Col. Richard Fitzhugh, Jr., said he encourages people to participate.

"We need to take care of each other like a family," Fitzhugh said. "We all share in a great Air Force mission, on a great Air Force team. I can tell you there's no monopoly on good ideas. Submit your ideas and success stories so we can all benefit from them."

The website can be found at [www.scott.af.mil/hqamc/yorrr/](http://www.scott.af.mil/hqamc/yorrr/). (AMC News Service and Tech. Sgt. Dan Murphy, 437 AW Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)

## Air Expo 2000 mentor tent to educate public about Air Force

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi  
437 AW Public Affairs

For those people searching for a little wisdom and guidance in their lives, the base will establish its first ever mentor tent on the flightline for Air Expo 2000, Oct. 14, for the public to meet

with base airmen and learn more about the Air Force.

The idea for a mentor tent was adopted from an airshow at Charleston AFB's sister wing, MacDill AFB, Fla. Instead of gearing the mentor tent to just kids, like MacDill AFB, the base leadership here decided it was best to

appeal to everyone. The idea is to include a cadre of enlisted and officer members in uniform available to meet with the public and discuss the Air Force lifestyle.

"We've established this mentor tent to kickoff Air Mobility Command's Year of Recruiting and Retention,"

said Capt. Ita Udoaka, chief of logistics plans and Air Expo 2000 project officer for the mentor tent. "Our goal is to inform people about what we do here at Charleston Air Force Base and the different career fields that support Team Charleston's mission."

The tent will be staffed with at least three to four people from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Various senior enlisted members, squadron and group commanders will stop in periodically during the day to meet with the public one-on-one

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