

DISPATCH

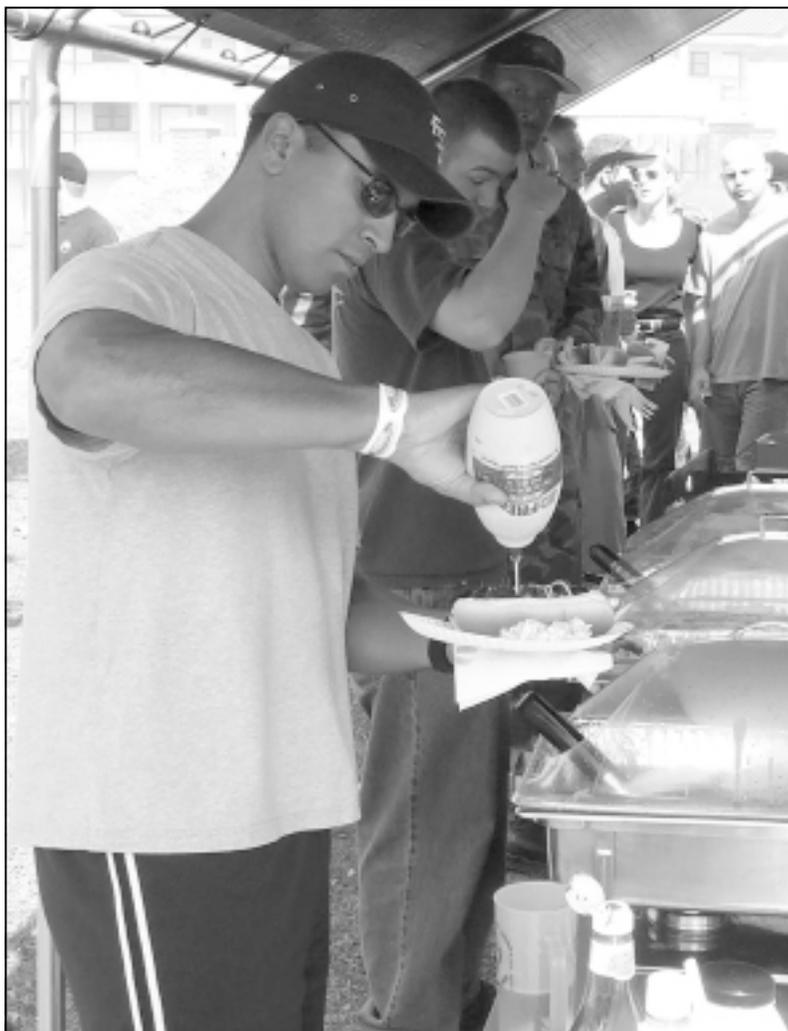
Inside

- ▶ NGSL / 3
- ▶ Commentary / 8
- ▶ APS / 11
- ▶ Swami / 15

Vol. 39, No. 42

437th Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, October 27, 2000



Hot Dog!

Senior Airman Jeff Martinez, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, prepares a hot dog during Oktoberfest Oct. 20. The event, an alternate duty location for E-6s and below, offered free food and drinks to all junior enlisted members. Sporting events, prizes and the band, Big Black Building, were among the attractions.

Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith

CAFB, AMC respond to USS Cole tragedy

Charleston AFB personnel responded quickly with airlift support in the aftermath of the USS Cole tragedy that killed 17 sailors.

The Navy destroyer sustained a large gash in its side after the Oct. 12 suspected suicide bombing in Yemen, and it remains in Aden harbor where divers are searching for bodies still trapped inside the wreckage.

On Oct. 13, a reserve C-17 aircrew from the 315th Airlift Wing flew the bodies of five of the 17 sailors killed in the attack on the Navy destroyer from the Middle East to Ramstein AB, Germany. The aircrew was on temporary duty at Ramstein as part of the European Strategic Intra-theater Deployment operation when it got the request for assistance. The next day another C-17 crew from the 315 AW airlifted the remains of the five sailors to Dover AFB, Del., for post-mortuary processing.

Brig. Gen. Jerry Black, 315 AW commander said, "When something like this happens, we go that extra mile to provide support. Our hearts go out to the families of the USS Cole for their terrible loss."

Six members of the 315th Mission Support Squadron Services Flight reported to Dover Oct. 14 as part of a 35-member, reserve mortuary affairs team.

One member of the team returned here Oct. 17. "It felt rewarding to know that you were taking care of these sailors for their loved ones," said Capt. Connie Alge, 315th Services officer. Five of the members were scheduled to return here Wednesday.

On the active duty side, members from the 437th Airlift Wing launched a C-17 flight Oct. 13 from Andrews to Yemen carrying FBI members. Another crew left Oct. 14 and brought a Navy repair team from Norfolk, Va., to the scene.

There were three active duty crews on alert at Charleston and two at Andrews AFB, Md., in the aftermath, said Capt. Kurt Johnson, 437th Current Operations mission bookie.

"It took some tricky manipulation to try to get everything so it would work properly, so we didn't have to take any of the aircraft or the aircrews from the airshow," said Johnson. "We had a backup plan with those crews who were flying in the airshow, that they would have been augmented with another crew member on the ground. So if the Tanker Airlift Control Center or higher directors called us and said we need to get these aircrews and airplanes over there, they would have gone on crew rest and would be ready to fly the next day."

(AMC News Service and Capt Tracy Velino, 437 AW Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)

CAFB adds entertainment to exercise with new Cardio Theater

By Capt. Tracy Velino
437 AW Public Affairs

The wall between Fitness Center Racquetball Courts One and Two will come down this month to make way for Charleston Air Force Base's new Cardio Theater.

Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift

Wing commander, made the first break in the wall Oct. 20, marking the beginning of what he calls a "world class" renovation project. "This project is for you," Findley said.

Findley awarded \$125,000 of Fiscal Year 2000 funds to the fitness center for the Cardio Theater, according to Maj. Patrice Solorzano,

437 AW Comptroller. "At the end of the year Findley asked for inputs from all the organizations as to what they considered projects that would touch the base as a whole, the farthest reaching, similar to when they did the lighting around the running track through the housing area the year before."

The Cardio Theater project really fit what he was looking for, Solorzano said. "He wanted something that the majority of the members of this base could come in, could use, could benefit from. So this was the perfect project for that, and it won the com-

See Cardio, page 3