



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Charleston AFB Renews Membership in Environmental Excellence Program

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – The Charleston Air Force Base has been renewed as a member of the South Carolina Environmental Excellence Program (or EEP).

EEP is a voluntary program for companies and organizations committed to protecting and preserving South Carolina's environment through innovative practices and responsible stewardship of natural resources. This latest announcement brings total membership in EEP to 24 businesses and organizations.

The Charleston Air Force Base, 437th Airlift Wing, became a member of EEP in November 1999. The facility has consistently followed an environmental vision of "Mission + Compliance." The base has reduced the amount of hazardous waste disposal by 80 percent and increased solid waste recycling, thus reducing landfill waste by 90 percent. The base has also been a leader in the team that developed waste-free maintenance processes for the C-17 aircraft.

Charleston AFB has extended its environmental efforts to the Lowcountry community as well. Its annual Earth Day Celebration brings as many as 1,500 elementary school children and up to 30 local environmental exhibitors to the base for a daylong series of events, contests and festivities. The base's Air Exposition, which sees as many as 175,000 visitors to the facility, is

notable for its vast recycling effort of beverage and food containers and other products — the largest single recycling effort of the year for the facility.

The Environmental Excellence Program was established in 1996 to recognize and encourage industry and business leaders committed to environmental improvements beyond those required by regulation. EEP provides a network for companies and organizations to share information and technology to reduce pollution and improve environmental performance. Organizations sponsoring the program include SC DHEC, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance and the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club.

The Environmental Excellence Program is administered by the Center for Environmental Policy of the Institute of Public Affairs at the University of South Carolina.

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