



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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CHARLESTON AFB UNITS RECEIVE TOP MARKS ON INSPECTION

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. -- The 437th Aerial Port Squadron, and 437th and 315th Operations Groups here came through with flying colors on the recent Air Transportation Standardization/Evaluation and Aircrew Standardization/Evaluation inspections.

Brig. Gen. Gerald Black, 315th Airlift Wing commander, and Col. Brooks Bash, 437th Airlift Wing commander, exchanged high fives at Friday's outbrief, as the inspectors awarded an "Outstanding" rating for the ATSEV and a rating of "Excellent" for the ASEV.

The ATSEV inspectors evaluated air transportation readiness. The program provides tools to train and evaluate aerial port processes to one command-wide standard, with the expectation for safer, more efficient operations.

"We've been preparing for this for about a year, and the time and hard work of the aerial port ATSEV preparation team really paid off," said Lt. Col. Kevin Brewer, 437 APS commander.

"The people in the squadron showed inspectors how we do business every day—even with more than a quarter of our squadron personnel deployed," Brewer continued. "This inspection was good validation that we've got the right approach to accomplishing the mission."

The ATSEV inspectors recognized the aerial port for several benchmark programs, according to Ron Westall, combat readiness supervisor.

One of the programs the inspectors praised is the 437 APS records and reports database, which takes raw workload data and puts it into routine reports for headquarters.

"For example, if you want to see how many passengers and how much cargo has moved in a given time period, you can just pull the data up," Westall said. "You used to have to pull out the legal pad and the calculator; now we just pull up a computer report."

Inspectors also lauded the aerial port's ATSEV training tracker database, which shows what training each individual in the squadron has accomplished.

Additionally, the port got accolades for its joint inspector training course, which trained 120 reservists and other base personnel this year, to ensure cargo is properly prepared for airlift, Westall said.

While inspectors praised 437 APS programs, the recognition that touched Westall came at the final outbrief. "The wing commander, group commanders, and the flyers stood up and clapped for us—that was pretty neat."

The ASEV focused on aircrew performance, standardization/evaluation programs, aircrew training programs and a number of special interest items.

Over a two-week period, the inspection team looked at documentation for standardization/evaluation, tactics, training, and the Host Aviation Resource Management System, which tracks flying hours and required documentation for crew members.

The inspection team also conducted check-rides during the inspection.

The aircrews received praise from inspectors for crew resource management—how the crew effectively communicates to accomplish the mission—and tactical procedures, according to Maj. Corey Martin, deputy chief, 437 AW Standardization and Evaluation.

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Inspectors lauded the standardization/evaluation office for a web-based process guide, which gives flying squadron standardization/evaluation shops one place to go to have their questions answered, Martin said.

They also praised a locally-generated computer system that can generate practice tests for aircrews by randomly pulling test questions from a master list.

Inspectors singled out the 14th Airlift Squadron for running a model no-notice evaluation program.

Martin credits the flying squadrons with earning the good inspection rating.

“From a standardization/evaluation standpoint, it was the squadron level that had a bulk of the paperwork that had to be reviewed for compliance,” he said. “Squadron commanders making those people available is what gave us the high marks.

“We take extra pride in [the high rating] with the amount of deployments we’ve had, the high ops tempo and personnel tempo,” said Lt. Col. Jim Barr, Operations Support Squadron commander.

“A lot of the shops the teams inspected had been vacant for many months out of the last year due to everyone being deployed, so to show that we could put everything together and do it well shows we have the right processes and the right people doing the right job,” he continued.

“We already know that we’ve been getting the mission done in Operation Enduring Freedom,” Barr said. “This shows us that the training and standardization programs, and the mission documentation, all keep coming together to keep providing crews to support the mission and whatever the President asks us to do.”

“The inspection results confirm what we knew in our hearts and have been proving by our actions over the past year,” said Col. Karl Young, 437 AW vice commander. “Charleston’s aerial porters and aircrews are extremely well prepared to perform their combat mission.”

(Story by Capt. Linda Pepin. This story is public domain. You may use any part of it for your publication or newscast. Interviews are available with key base personnel on this project. For more information, please call Capt. Krista Carlos at (843) 963-5589 or Staff Sgt. Jason Smith at 963-5537.)