



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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AIR MOBILITY COMMAND CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – From delivering emergency relief to transporting dignitaries involved in stabilizing volatile governments, from bringing forces to the fight to evacuating medical patients and casualties of war, Air Mobility Command has just about done it all.

For the past 10 years, AMC has created a legacy of excellence, bearing the nation's flag and standard of freedom and democracy throughout the world.

June 1 marks the 10th anniversary of the creation of AMC as America's premier Air Mobility Team. While celebrations this year are subdued because of ongoing operations worldwide in support of the war on terrorism, AMC officials wanted to recognize the accomplishments and the people who've made "global reach" possible.

Since its creation, AMC's charge has been to provide rapid, global mobility and sustainment for America's military.

"AMC has been engaged in almost nonstop operations since its inception. Today, every war fighter knows that AMC is who you call when you want to bring the forces to the fight, sustain them while they're there, and bring everyone home when its over," said Gen. John Handy, AMC commander and commander in chief of U.S. Transportation Command.

Ten U.S. bases support the AMC mission. These bases include: Charleston AFB, S.C.; Dover AFB, Del.; McConnell AFB, Kan.; McGuire AFB, N.J.; Pope AFB, N.C.; Fairchild AFB, Wash.; Scott AFB, Ill.; Travis AFB, Calif.; Grand Forks AFB, N.D.; and MacDill AFB, Fla.

From moving tanks and troops to transporting water and whales, AMC's mission is diverse.

"We've provided relief supplies to hurricane, flood and earthquake victims both at home and abroad and have flown food and medicine to the innocent civilian victims of the relentless repression of the Taliban regime," said Handy.

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AMC has been called upon to support major contingencies and humanitarian operations around the world including Operation Allied Force in Kosovo; Operations Joint Endeavor and Provide Promise in Bosnia-Herzegovia; Support Hope in Rwanda; Maintain Democracy in Haiti; Restore Hope in Somalia; and Phoenix Scorpion exercises in Southwest Asia. At home, the command has provided much-needed aid to disaster victims from New York to California.

With its three-pronged mission—refueling, airlift (cargo and people) and aeromedical evacuation—AMC people have been in just about every country imaginable, almost 200 at last count.

“AMC’s global reach is tested daily. The men and women of our great command prove that air mobility is a national asset – responding to emergencies and protecting our national interests around the globe,” said Handy.

To date, Charleston AFB has made AMC proud by flying over 57 percent of all Operation Enduring Freedom sorties in the C-17.

Although 1992 marked the birth of the new command, 1991 was a pivotal one for airpower. On the eve of the Air Force’s 44th birthday, Secretary of the Air Force Donald Rice announced the end of Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command and Military Airlift Command and the creation of two new commands that came to be known as Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command.

This Air Force restructuring came about because of a shift in the security strategies of the Cold War Era, which focused on the Soviet Union, to set the Air Force on a new course of Global Reach, Global Power.

(For more information, contact Capt. Krista Carlos at 963-5589 or 2nd Lt. Jennifer Andrews at 963-5537)