



# News Release

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### **437th AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

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### **CHESTER HS GRAD ASSUMES COMMAND OF LARGEST USAF C-17 WING**

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – Col. Brooks L. Bash, a 1977 graduate of Chester High School, assumed command of the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston AFB during a change of command ceremony conducted June 3.

The formal ceremony was presided over by Maj. Gen. George N. Williams, commander of the 21st Air Force at McGuire AFB, N.J., to transfer command of the base from Brig. Gen. Vern M Findley II to Colonel Bash. General Findley will next serve as the vice commander, 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force, Pacific Air Forces, in Yokota AB, Japan.

The 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing flies and supports C-17A Globemaster III aircraft and has more than 4,200 military personnel and 1,300 civilian employees to provide airlift support to US military and humanitarian operations around the world. The 437<sup>th</sup> participates in military operations involving the airland and airdrop of troops, equipment and supplies; responds to Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed operations missions, and supports US-sponsored relief efforts worldwide.

The 437<sup>th</sup> recently earned distinction for its contributions to Operation ENDURING FREEDOM through several first-time innovations, including night landings, without lights, of large transport planes on short, unimproved runways under combat conditions in Afghanistan. The base has 40 of the massive cargo jets, capable of ferrying cargo long distances, with the ability to land on runways as short as 3,000 feet.

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Colonel Bash is a 1981 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, and he has served as an operational commander on other occasions. From July 1998 through January 2000, he was the commander of the 89<sup>th</sup> Operations Group at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. In this role, Colonel Bash oversaw the transportation of the President, Vice President, Cabinet Secretaries, members of Congress, foreign heads of state, and other senior officials. Colonel Bash most recently served as the deputy executive secretary for the National Security Council in the Executive Office of the President under both the Clinton and Bush Administrations. Colonel Bash and his wife, MaryBeth, have two children, Brooks and Kelsey.

In his remarks to the audience, Colonel Bash welcomed several distinguished guests including: father Lt. Col. Darrell Bash, USAF retired, from Las Vegas, Nev.; mother Lil Bash of Paradise and Lake Almanor, Calif.; brother Lt. Col. Dixon Bash, USAF retired, from Tampa, Fla.; brother Craig Bash, Md. and family from Bethesda, Md.; Lt. Col. Gary Maupin, and Henry Jacobson, a fellow 1977 Chester High School graduate, from Portland, Ore.

Colonel Bash told the assembled members of the 437<sup>th</sup> that he wanted them to focus on safety, maintaining a warrior spirit, and taking care of the 437<sup>th</sup> family, both on and off the base.

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**NOTE TO THE EDITOR:** *Interviews are available with Colonel Bash. Attached is a copy of his most recent biography. Additional information on the 437th Airlift Wing can be found at <https://www.charleston.af.mil>. Contact Lt. Col. Ed Memi at (843) 963-3888 if you have any questions.*