



**NATIONAL DEFENSE  
TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO CHARLESTON, SC  
“TOGETHER IS BETTER”**

**(Alexandria, VA – September 27, 2006)** --- The National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA) has wrapped up its final 60<sup>th</sup> annual Forum and Expo in Memphis, Tennessee. General Norton A. Schwartz, Commander of USTRANSCOM and final Keynote Speaker, greeted the audience by saying, “Together is better.” The sentiment bears special significance to members of the Charleston, South Carolina NDTA Chapter who will host next year’s event in that great port city from September 15<sup>th</sup> to September 19<sup>th</sup>.

In 2003, the Forum Site Selection Committee voted Charleston as the 2007 Forum destination. The area serves all transportation modes and all branches of the military in ongoing efforts to sustain our Nation’s troops overseas. Charleston is ranked among the top five ports in the United States; including designation as one of SDDC’s Strategic Port locations. This year alone, over 30% of equipment and supply needs were shipped through its ports to Iraq. The city is also home to one of the Association’s oldest chapters.

Fred Stribling, Vice President of Marketing and Sales for the South Carolina State Ports Authority and President of the Charleston NDTA Chapter, explains that members, colleagues and friends in the area are ready and waiting to help host NDTA, a formidable task considering that the turnout can top near one thousand attendees, exhibitors and program presenters. “Our Chapter can do what it takes!” This year, the Chapter received recognition as International Chapter, Category II which is awarded to chapters that excel

in fostering the goals and objectives of NDTA - promoting an understanding of the importance of transportation, distribution and logistics to the economy and well-being of our country, as well as implementing educational programs that involve the local community.

When asked about special initiatives that the region has to offer, Professor Kent N. Gourdin, Chair of the Management and Marketing Department Kent N. Gourdin, Director, Global Logistics & Transportation Program for the College of Charleston, mentions "Project Seahawk," the joint security task that partners the United States Coast Guard, the US Customs Department, local Police and civilians. This project, coupled with ongoing missions of the 437<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron among others, lends itself well to potential program topics, panel participants and speakers.

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The National Defense Transportation Association is a non-profit, non-political educational association committed to fostering partnerships between government, military and industry, and maintaining a strong and efficient global transportation and distribution system in support of national security. There are over 8500 members in the association, comprised of both individual and corporate members. There are 60 plus chapters in the United States and overseas in Europe and the Pacific. The national headquarters office is located in Alexandria, VA.

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