

# Charleston Profile

## Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Blodgett 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Blodgett, a 19-year Air Force veteran, is the 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron first sergeant. His primary responsibility is to act as liaison between the squadron commander and the enlisted personnel in his unit.

Blodgett has been a first sergeant for more than five years, spending the last seven months in supply. "The best part of this job is, without a doubt, helping people," he said. "The hardest part is not being able to get out into the squadron and see the people as often as I would like to."

Aside from being a first sergeant, Blodgett is a qualified adjunct instructor who teaches at the noncommissioned officer preparatory course, the First Term Airman Center, and the Airman Leadership School at Charleston AFB. "I've always enjoyed teaching, so I want to keep my hand in it," he said.

Blodgett is also president of the First Sergeants Association and is a trustee and senior advisor with the local chapter of the Air Force Sergeant's Association.

During his off-duty time, Blodgett volunteers for the Ashley River Volunteer Fire Department.

Though first sergeant duties and extra curricular activities keep him busy, Blodgett makes an extra effort to spend time with his wife, Jill, and their two children, Eric, 16, and Kailin, 14.

In all he does, Blodgett follows one set of rules – have fun and be happy. "It's important to have fun with whatever you're doing," he said. "If it stops being fun, it's time to get out."



Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith

## Spotlight

**ALS Graduates:** Senior Airman **Matthew Hudson**, 437<sup>th</sup> Component Repair Squadron, earned the Sgt. John L. Levitow and Academic Achievement awards during Airman Leadership School class 00-A and was presented with this honor at their graduation dinner Nov. 18 at the Charleston Club.

Senior Airmen **William LeMaster**, 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, and **James O'Guin**, 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron, earned the Distinguished Graduate Awards. Senior Airman **Lynn Scholl** from the 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron received the Leadership Award.

Graduates from the five-week course also include the following senior airmen:

1<sup>st</sup> Combat Camera Squadron: **Cherri Gorman**; 16<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron: **Francis Greene**; 315<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron: **Cedric Simmons**; 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron: **Curtis Acree**, **Raymond Allen**, **Derek Branam**, **Timothy Dube**, **Christopher Fietzer**, **Christopher Geisler** and **Chris Roach**; 437<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron: **Joseph Gadson**, **David Hill**, **Edgar Perez** and **Maria Sandoval**; 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing: **Teresa Kidwell**; 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron: **Stephanie Hillis** and **Mark Swieszczyk**; 437<sup>th</sup> Component Repair Squadron: **Ronnie Evans**; 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron: **Michael Griffin**; 437<sup>th</sup> Equipment Maintenance Squadron: **Kirk Edwards**, **Jeffrie Gardner** and **Kerry Levarity**; 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Support Squadron: **Scott Hitchcock**; 437 SFS: **Danyon**

**Blair and Brandi Rich**; 437 SUPS: **Christina McPeak** and **Keisha Simon**; 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron: **Fedrick McBride**; 437<sup>th</sup> Transportation Squadron: **Henry Dempsey**.

**Retirement Ceremony:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Support Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. Joseph Johnson Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. at the Charleston Club.

Lunch will be pay as you go. For information, call Master Sgt. Peggy Miller at 963-2337.

## Around the base

**Holiday Cheer:** It's that time again! The Charleston AFB First Sergeants' Association has started the 1999 Holiday Cheer drive for the upcoming Holiday Season.

Each year, the First Sergeants and base volunteers collect donations to help military members and civilians who need assistance during the holidays. This year's drive began Oct. 29 and will continue every day of the week until Dec. 20.

Volunteers set up collection points at the entrances of the Base Exchange and commissary for anyone wanting to contribute. Last year, the program helped more than 350 military and civilian families during the holidays by providing food for Thanksgiving and food and toys at Christmas.

The First Sergeants' Association hopes the 1999 Holiday Cheer Drive will help more families this year. It's a great example of how Team Charleston takes care of their people.