

# Honorary commanders program kicks off

By Col. Karl Young  
437 AW vice commander

We hosted five congressional staffers this past week and we got a lot of good feedback from them about our programs. After touring some of our excellent facilities such as the renovated Hunley housing areas and "not-so-good ones" like the Supply warehouse, the staffers told us they better understand the importance of Charleston's military construction needs.

For many, this was their first chance to learn about Team Charleston, meet with our people, receive a C-17 orientation flight and tour our facilities. I heard only glowing comments from the staffers and we left a good impression on them. I thank the 437<sup>th</sup> Support Group and project officers Lt. Col. Connie Davis and 2nd Lt. Scott Bentley for their hard work on this successful visit. I also thank Col. Glenn Mackey and the 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group for their support.

We said goodbye to Col. Jim and Opal Norris last week as he retired after 30 years of service. He often ran the wing while General Bishop was called upon to deploy as the director of mobility forces for Air Mobility Command. Jim and Opal made a great team and the Air Force will miss them both. General

Bishop returned from his TDY to attend the retirement ceremony and dinner. He also spent time briefing the congressional staffers during that time and returned to Washington, D.C. with the staffers. See the related article on page 1.

As the new vice commander, I plan to visit every squadron in the upcoming weeks. I have already visited many of the 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron facilities and learned about most of their functions.

When I first arrived here, I concentrated on getting qualified in the C-141 again. It was my first priority and it was a time consuming task. I knew I wouldn't have much time once the wing commander left again and Colonel Norris retired, so I took advantage of that opportunity. Having completed that task with the able instruction of Capt. Sea Watley, I am now ready to meet you and learn more about this wing. With an hour here and there, I plan to complete my visit with the 437<sup>th</sup> Support Group first, then I'll move on to the other groups.

Although we continue to have lots of distinguished visitors, please don't forget some of the many worthwhile events hosted on base. As part of Black History month, a Gospel extravaganza will be celebrated Sunday at 5 p.m. in the base theater. The African-Ameri-

can Heritage Council sponsors this free event. There will be a host of local talent from surrounding churches. Choirs scheduled to appear is the Lord of the Harvest Full Gospel Church, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, and from the Team Charleston community, the Chapel Choir. There will be special guest appearances by the group "Pecooliar" and the group "Focus," who are working on their debut CD releases.

Special kudos to 25 base fire department and medics who responded Feb. 17 when a civilian tanker truck on the commercial airport side leaked about 1,000 gallons of jet fuel. The truck, while passing through a gate, sideswiped the gate mechanism, causing a large gouge on the side of the truck, spilling fuel.

We worked jointly with the North Charleston fire department and police to contain the spill, avoiding any harmful contamination of the local environment.

Quick reaction by our folks prevented a bad situation from getting much worse. This was a good example of the close working relationship we enjoy with the local community. See the related story and pictures on page 3.

As we kick off our honorary commanders program today, I'd like to share my thoughts about this

program.

We want our community leaders to be excited about what the U.S. Air Force and Charleston AFB does. We also hope to establish lasting friendships with our neighbors. We want them to take pride in their Air Force base. As they get to know the folks on base personally, perhaps one day, they can look up in the sky and say I know who is flying that C-17 today. If we can take the relationship to a personal level, we can both benefit.

I would also like them to understand the teamwork of the 437<sup>th</sup> and 315<sup>th</sup> and their contributions to the defense of the nation and the country's defense transportation system. We hope to show them the economic impact of the number of spouses who work downtown, children in the schools, the number of civilians who take college classes on the base, and the 1,400 civilian workers and thousand more contractors who work on the base.

If the local community understands this base needs support from our local legislators, they in turn can offer their support based on the confidence they have in the Air Force's ability to perform its mission. I am excited about this new program and see only good things in Team Charleston's future. Please support this program to the fullest extent possible.

## Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at 963-5581 or send an e-mail to [action@charleston.af.mil](mailto:action@charleston.af.mil)



### Illegal parking

Are there different rules for different people on the base? My wife delivers the paper on base, and there is a silver Ranger Supercab that's always parked in the

halfcircle beside the dorm on Arthur Drive. On several occasions, we've seen the truck parked there at 7 p.m. with flashers on, and at 5 a.m. the next morning, with the flashers still going.

We've reported the license number to Rivers and Dorchester Gates security forces on several occasions, yet the truck is still parking in the limited time space overnight, causing us to park on the shoulder of the road while we run the paper up the steps of the dorm.

In Hunley Park, there's a sports car that's been sitting on the curb for more than a year. When it was reported, we were told it had been ticketed several times for violating housing codes. However, nothing has been done with the car. We know the owner is a security forces member getting ready to separate, so I suppose that's why he can get away with breaking the rules.

Thanks for taking the time to share your concerns with us. I assure you the rules are the same for everyone on base. As to the issue of a car parking at the dorms for an excessive period of time, write down the license plate number the next time you witness this and call it in to the security forces control center at 963-3600.

We checked into your complaint regarding a vehicle parked in Hunley Park. The vehicle was properly registered. Please remember that as long as a vehicle is properly registered on base and not undergoing major maintenance it can park in one spot at a residence indefinitely. There is no requirement that the vehicle periodically move. Rest assured that security forces are treated no differently than anyone else.

Like the rest of us, they get tickets from our law enforcement patrols and the housing office.

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