

IN THE NEWS

Sometimes crime does pay; Airman 'steals' Coke, helps save life

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437AW Public Affairs

On July 12, Senior Airman Ryan Smith, hazardous waste technician for the 437th Logistics Support Squadron, ran out of an Exxon station with a Coke he hadn't paid for.

Smith was on his way home from a hockey game at the Carolina Ice Palace when he and a few members of his team stopped at the Exxon. On



Senior Airman Jason Smith

Smith, a hazardous waste technician, helped give first-aid to a girl after his hockey game on July 12.

his way in, he noticed a car sitting in the parking lot with both back doors open. Smith said he really didn't think anything of it until he was at the checkout counter.

"A girl who was kneeling in the back seat of the car ran in and got on the phone. She called her mother, I guess, and started saying that another girl had fainted in the car and she wasn't waking up. While mothers are helpful, I think she was a little too far away to help. I told her she really needed to call an ambulance," said Smith.

While the first girl was on the phone with the 911 dispatcher, another girl ran in the Exxon and shouted, "she quit breathing". That's when Smith turned to the life of crime. He ran right past the cashier and out the door without paying for his soda.

Another passer-by beat Smith to the car and had already started pulling the girl out. Smith joined in, and the two men had the girl out of the car and on the ground in seconds.

"He checked her breathing and started giving her mouth to mouth. It didn't take long at all until she started breathing. It wasn't real strong, but she was breathing. About two minutes later, she stopped again. She started having a seizure. I checked her pulse the whole time and the other guy gave her mouth to mouth again," said Smith.

The girl started breathing again in a matter of a few seconds. Smith covered her with blankets and kept her wrist in his hand to monitor her pulse. The ambulance arrived a minute or two later, and the girl was loaded on a stretcher in the back, said Smith.

"There were four girls total -- the one who was passed out, and three others. They all looked to be about 15 or 16 years old. They were definitely scared when they realized how serious it was. The other guy might be in the military. He was wearing BCGs (an unofficial name for eyeglasses issued during basic training) and he had a real short haircut. I didn't catch any names except the girl who was passed out. Her name is Kristen. She was awake and talking when the ambulance left, so I'm sure she's OK," said Smith.

"He downplayed the whole incident," said Master Sgt. Dave Ricketts, NCOIC HAZMAT/Recycling for the 437 SUPS, and Smith's supervisor. "He doesn't even think it was a big deal. I'm the one who thinks it's definitely noteworthy."

Smith is a "great troop" who has been in his shop for only four months and is already preparing to supervise hazardous material recycling, Ricketts said. He can always be counted on to get the job done.

So what about the "stolen" Coke? It turns out Smith is so honest that after the whole incident was over, he went back inside and paid for it.

"I'm sure I could have gotten away with it, but that's not me," said Smith.

CPR Training

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation training is mandatory for some Air Force specialties here. Fire department, clinic and maintenance personnel are some of the people who are required to complete a CPR course every two years, according to Lawrence Sturdivant, affiliate faculty and base CPR program director here.

After completing the course, students are not "certified", said Sturdivant. Instead they are given a Heart Saver card to show that they have successfully completed the course.

"The word certification has been used in the past, but we're trying to get away from that term. It's very misleading," said Sturdivant. "I give a written test and a practical test. You have to show me that you're capable of performing CPR before you get a Heart Saver card."

Military members, or any able persons, who are interested in CPR training can take advantage of courses offered by the American Red Cross. The classes offered include adult, infant and refresher CPR training.

The Red Cross will send an instructor to requested locations to give the classes if certain criteria can be met.

To sign up for a class, or to ask questions, contact the American Red Cross at (843) 744-8021, ext. 358.

Charleston AFB members contribute to Artificial Reef Program

Charleston AFB has joined forces with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Coastal America and the South Carolina Army National Guard to construct a near-shore artificial reef off of the coast of Charleston.

"A strong partnership has been formed between these agencies to make this project a reality," said Keith Thompson, a 437th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental protection specialist.

Saltwater fishermen and sport divers have realized for years that their success and enjoyment can be greatly improved by fishing and diving near almost any type of solid structure in the water, according to the SCDNR. Whether this structure is found on the bottom, sus-

pending in the water column, or floating on the surface of a body of water, the results are the same; locate the structure and you will almost always find fish.

South Carolinians first put their knowledge phenomenon to good use 100 years ago when coastal fishermen began placing wooden crib-like structures in estuarine waters to enhance fishing results for sheephead and other popular inshore species. As saltwater fishing activities grew over the years, so did the use of various types of man-made structures, which have become known as artificial reefs.

The Marine Resources Division of the SCDNR developed the Marine Artificial Reef Program in 1973 as a

part of the Office of Fisheries Management, said Thompson. The OFM holds permits for the continued development of 40 reef sites along coastal and offshore waters. The materials used in the construction of these structures range from scrap steel to bridge sections, steel-hulled vessels, aircraft and concrete.

Thompson said Charleston AFB, as a result of several construction projects, has accumulated a large quantity of concrete debris and rubble. Saturday, the SCARNG, in cooperation with the SCDNR and the Charleston AFB Environmental Flight, loaded and transported 12,000 tons of concrete debris to a staging area located at the former Charles-

ton Naval Base.

"From there the rubble was loaded onto a barge and hauled to locations predetermined by the SCDNR for disposition," Thompson said.

These sites include the Charleston Nearshore Reef, located 2.5 miles from the Charleston Harbor, the North Edisto Nearshore Reef, located 1.5 miles from the North Edisto channel, and the Low Country Anglers Reef located 2.4 miles from the Stono River inlet. The effort

will take approximately two weeks to complete.

"Charleston AFB, in its continuing endeavor to foster community environmental stewardship, is excited about the opportunity to partner with other local, state and federal agencies to enhance marine fisheries and create opportunities for both saltwater fishermen and recreational sport divers," Thompson said. **(Submitted 437 CES Environmental Protection flight)**

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