

# Down day, Family Appreciation Week celebrated

By Brig. Gen Robert D. Bishop, Jr.  
437 AW commander

This past Sunday, we had a tragic accident in which one of our military members was involved. It appears to be alcohol related and serves as a poignant reminder that once again drinking and driving don't mix. In spite of this incident, we have one of the lowest DWI rates for the year within the command.

Still, drinking and driving is certainly something we can't talk about too much, especially at this time of the year. One DWI is one too many.

I recently had the pleasure of receiving a note from a former 437<sup>th</sup> Organization Maintenance Squadron aircraft mechanic who served at Charleston from 1966 to 1970. He wrote to thank the 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron and members of Team Charleston for their hospitality when they toured and visited the base Nov. 12-13. "We all had a great

time and a lot of memories and old friends were renewed. Let me say thank you for making our stay so enjoyable. Charleston Air Force Base is still the best base in the U.S. Air Force." I could have not have said it any better!

As we celebrate military family week through November 28, now is a good time to pay tribute to the sacrifices and contributions made by our families in Air Mobility Command's Year of the Family (YOFAM). As many of you know, Gen. Charles T. "Tony" Robertson Jr., commander in Chief, U.S. Transportation Command and AMC commander has extended the YOFAM theme for next year, an indication of how strongly he feels about the family and its importance to military readiness.

General Robertson recently said, "we will continue to make quality of life improvements in the year ahead. Our investments in related programs are

simply an extension of our efforts in improving and assisting the real unsung heroes of our global mission — our families."

It takes dedicated and capable people to manage the unique demands of military life. In recent years, we have seen our families face increased demands from more frequent deployments and longer family separations. No where else has that been greater than at Team Charleston as families have had to shoulder the burden when our people have deployed for various contingencies or during three separate hurricane evacuations during this past summer/fall. The holidays offer a unique opportunity to get together with family and friends. Please make the most of this time to get some needed rest and relaxation and to be with your family.

For all the turbulence and sacrifices made by Team Charleston and the operations tempo that we have endured

this past year, the commander of Headquarters Air Mobility Command has granted this Friday as an official down day. Civilian employees will be granted liberal leave.

Air Expeditionary Force 1 and 2 has come and gone and didn't have much of an impact on Team Charleston as far we could tell. Air Mobility Command operations and logistics forces have been stretched over the past several weeks, though, supporting the president's trip through the Mediterranean. By the time you read this article, we will have carried the president and first family on a Team Charleston airplane for the fourth time. Well done to all who had a part to play!

Lastly, let me close out by wishing everyone a very happy Thanksgiving. Over the last year, we have played a significant role in international events. My thanks to all of you for your superb performance every day!

## Recognizing the military family

by Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

From Nov. 21 to 28, our nation acknowledges the special demands that military life imposes on the families of those who serve in uniform.

This recognition is well deserved and comes at a high price. Family members endure numerous moves, the long working hours of loved ones, and frequent separations — partings that often include the risk of death, injury or capture at the hands of an enemy. Moreover, they often do this far from their extended families.

Our spouses and children bear these burdens out of a sense of patriotism as strong as those of us in the military. In doing so, they provide a source of strength, and

contribute to making America's military the best in the world. We simply could not achieve this high level of excellence without safe, secure, happy and productive military families.

This week provides an opportunity to acknowledge the personal sacrifices that take place every day within our military communities and to thank our families for supporting us, as well as for their dedicated service to our nation.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I join every American in paying tribute to America's military families for all that they have done and continue to do for our country. Their support of our nation's service members makes a difference for America and the world.

May God bless you and your family, and may God bless America.

He rushes in the door, with just time to say good-bye

He tells me that he's leaving, but cannot tell me why!

Another TDY, to places filled with strife

So goes the life of a military wife.

We share a tender kiss, as a tear falls from my eye

I pray that he'll be safe, as he flies across the sky!

And then he grabs his bags, and is headed out the door

I know the whole routine, cause he's done it all before.

I watch the TV news, in hopes that I will see

### A tribute to the military wife

Where the trouble is this week, and where my love will be.

It seems another nation, to greed has fallen prey

And now they send my husband, to try and save the day!

My kids come home from school, and ask me why I cry

I tell them that their daddy, had to go bye-bye

We hold each other close, and have a family cry

And then comes the question, why, oh mommy. Why?

Oh how I hate the ques-

tion, how can one explain

Why our family suffers, while he's easing others pain.

How can I show a child, the pride with which he serves

Though the rewards are far between, even though there much deserved.

Yes my husband is a member of a very special breed

And as his loving wife, I give him everything he needs

I tend to all finances, I raise his kids with pride

I keep the house in order,

and groom the yard outside.

My life it is a hard one, but I'd never change a thing

For all the things above explain, why I wear his ring.

The hardest job in life, is a military wife

But when I signed up along with him, I took the job for life.

God bless all the others, who share my lot in life

Who understand his duty, yet choose to remain his wife

The girl behind his greatness, when he combats strife

The greatest woman in the world, A Military Wife!

(Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Mark Richard)

## Action Line



Senior Airman Jerome Suson

Col. Robert D. Bishop, Jr., 437 AW commander, presents LaChan Hall with her prize for winning first place at the base talent show Friday.

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).

Callers are encouraged to leave their name and phone number so we can provide a personal reply. Remember the easiest way to resolve problems is to call the agency responsible directly or to use your chain of command.

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