



Charlie Wall

The set up

(left to right) Airman 1st Class Zachary Woodall, James Singletary, Airman 1st Class Bradley Coleman, Larry Curry and J.B. Freeman, all members of the 437th Equipment Maintenance Squadron prepare to place the miniature C-17 display back up in front of Bldg. 1600. The C-17 and C-141 were removed in preparation for Hurricane Irene. The base evacuated its aircraft for the third time this year due to Hurricane conditions. Irene came and went leaving Charleston AFB virtually untouched.

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are folded in with the other parts to make it all work. Everyone has an important role to play."

Personnel deploying to regions all over the world have started receiving the Anthrax shots to protect them from the deadly substance. The military is doing what it can to protect all its servicemembers.

"The fact of the matter is, we have a responsibility to take care of our people," Finch said. "When you contract Anthrax, you don't get sick, you die. There are countries out there that have the capability to use anthrax as a weapon, and we have an inherent responsibility to do everything we can to protect our people. This vaccine has been around for 30 years, has been approved by the FDA and is a safe and effective way to keep people from contracting Anthrax."

Taking care of people is only one of the things Finch will be focusing on during his tenure.

"On any day of the week I focus on major issues that are coming up from the field, that's important," said Finch. "I want to ensure we have a viable enlisted force. Where we are headed is on the right track. Enlisted professional development is better than it has been in the 25 years that I have been in the Air Force or the 52 years we have been an Air Force."

Finch is very proud of the enlisted corps for stepping up and making things happen. "We now have enhancement seminars

throughout the Air Force for SSgt's taught by senior NCOs. We have senior NCO orientations and Chiefs orientations and First Term Airman Centers are coming on line," said Finch.

While these advancements pave the way for the future, the Air Force has been experiencing a retention problem. The chief outlined what improvements can be expected in the future that will help retention.

"We asked people on the way out what issues affected them the most," said Finch. "Fixing the compensation package and the redux retirement system were the number one priorities. We have taken significant steps in the right direction to address these issues. We have also applied Selective Reenlistment Bonuses where we can. But ultimately we must make sure people have all the facts they need to make retention decisions. They must understand their pay and benefits packages. That way, they can sit down with their families and write down the pros and cons of staying in. I suspect they will find the Air Force is an institution that still has a lot to offer."

While here, the chief had the opportunity to speak with many of the Charleston's enlisted corps during visits to some of the major groups.

"I appreciate the opportunity to talk with people," Finch said. "The mid-level NCOs were quite candid with their comments and I sincerely appreciate their openness. I was

very impressed with the quality of their questions. They dealt with real Air Force issues and I felt they were pretty much up to speed with what's going on. That tells me the leadership here at Charleston is getting the word out and I didn't find any misinformation."

The chief's comments were supported by Staff Sgt. Bill Phreaner, 437th Logistics Group, quality assurance.

"The chief was very informative and answered all our questions very directly. He seems to be in-tune with the troops. It was very motivating to see him out in the field, especially this early in his tenure."

Not only did the chief speak directly to the troops, he took time out to have a little fun and speak at the Enlisted Dining-out.

He was given a tremendous ovation when he took his turn at the Grog Bowl and seemed to motivate the crowd with his words.

"It was something I looked forward to all week," said Senior Airman Isaac T. Weary, personnel readiness specialist, 437th Military Personnel Flight. "The chief said not to give up and that things are, and will, get better. That really motivated me."

Before leaving the chief had these words to say, "It's been a great day for me and I appreciate the people of Charleston for the warm welcome, the openness and the comments. I look forward to working with Charleston and the rest of the Air Force to make life a little better for all of us."

Charleston flyers lend helping hand

Downtown at 19 Saint Margaret Street, the smell of fresh paint, wallpaper and new carpeting fill the air.

Decorators work on reupholstering furniture, putting up curtains, and installing medicine cabinets, while local handymen lay down carpet, paint walls and hang wallpaper.

This scene is nothing new to downtown Charleston, especially lately with all the renovations underway. The one factor that makes this particular venture so unique is that none of these workers are professionals in the home renovation business.

Rather, they are volunteers from the 16th Airlift Squadron. Lt. Col. J.J. Wendling, Capt. Matt Yaun, Master Sgt. Tom Duley, Tech. Sgts. Donnie Honaker and Doug Darner, Staff Sgt. Daryl Hillman and Senior Airmen Jason Gray and Lance Klingler were on hand to help renovate the home, which is part of the South Carolina Florence Crittenton Residential Program.

The home serves as a shelter for single, expectant women who simply need support during their pregnancy. Women there are offered a home, medical care, health education, parenting skills training, recreational activities and the opportunity to do volunteer work. The house is funded by government and local contracts, charities, and donations, but thrives on the work of local volunteers.

Cindy Ellis, one of the programs directors, said, "If it weren't for base volunteers, the house would not be in the shape that it is today. We really appreciate all of the support we receive from Charleston Air Force Base."

The Florence Crittenton Programs are nothing new to South Carolina. In fact, two years ago the program celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The Residential Program is just one of four main projects that provide assistance. The Day program serves as an alternate school program (in coordination with the Charleston County School District) tailored to the needs of young pregnant women. The Community Education Project offers prevention training in local schools and the Family Development Program ensures a smooth transition for young mothers and their infants.

The program is always happy to welcome volunteers of all kinds (home renovation, tutoring, arts and crafts-you name it!) If you are interested in helping out the Florence Crittenton Program, call Cindy Ellis at 722-7526.

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Program director