

Team Charleston shines on ASEV, safety visits

By Col. James Norris
437 AW vice commander

Congratulations to our wing Safety staff and all of Team Charleston for the high accolades received from the Air Mobility Command Safety Staff Assistance Visit. We truly have a world class safety program at Charleston and one that is the benchmark of the command.

As many of us are well aware, General Bishop has often stressed the leadership role each of us plays in maintaining a strong, viable safety program. I am sure all of you know the expected response when asked who is the safety officer in your unit. "Everyone." Combined with that attitude and our daily emphasis on safety, AMC Safety had many good things to say about Team Charleston.

Likewise, the 437th and 315th Operations Groups finished their Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Visit (ASEV) and the results were again highly complimentary of Team Charleston.

The 21st Air Force compliance oriented inspection randomly evaluated 25 percent of our flying crew force. Besides the flying evaluations, the inspectors looked at every aspect of our flying operations. Maj. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr. received the outbrief Jan. 28 and he had high praise for Team Charleston.

In staff meeting on Monday, I was pleased to present the Air Force Commendation Medal to Staff Sgt. Tom Weslager, a firefighter with the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron, who witnessed a hit-and-run accident on his way to work.

Without hesitation, Weslager expertly maneuvered his own vehicle into the traffic lane, effectively shielding the victim from further injury; then he directed one bystander to call 911 and another one to assist him with a heavily bleeding head wound while he monitored the victim's labored breathing and faint pulse until Emergency Medical Service personnel arrived.

His heroic efforts continued after the ambulance arrived as he helped prepare the victim for transport. His efforts undoubtedly saved the 16-year old boy's life.

Although Sergeant Weslager departed this week for Korea, the victim's parents wrote recently asking us to recognize his quick actions in saving their son's life. We are proud to have had Sergeant Weslager as part of Team Charleston.

This past week, we welcomed two inspectors from Headquarters Air Force Office of Special Investigations at Andrews AFB, Md., who were conducting a two-day compliance inspection of our AFOSI, Detachment 310 activities. The inspection is a thorough look at all AFOSI activities and will result in an outbrief at Scott AFB in the upcoming weeks pending a complete review of their case files.

General Bishop is finally on his way to the brigadier general orientation course called Capstone,

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having left early Monday after the cold weather and snow in the Washington, D.C. area forced a delay in his travel plans.

For those of you that might be wondering, Col. Karl Young will take over as vice commander, effective Feb. 14.

Between now and the time that I leave, I hope to have a chance to thank many of you for the great support and many fond memories at Charleston. More to follow in next week's column.

I know that tonight, I'll get a good chance to recognize many of Charleston's finest airmen and civilians at the annual awards banquet in the Charleston Club at 6 p.m. I look forward to honoring Team Charleston's brightest folks.

Have a safe, enjoyable, and hopefully "warmer" weekend!

Action Line



Senior Airman Michael Duhe

Sandra Fowler (left) and Denise Nusom, directors at the Florence Crittendon Home, present Brig. Gen. Robert Bishop, Jr., 437 AW commander, with a photo of miniature chattel houses designed by members of Team Charleston. The project was done as a fund-raiser for the home during the annual Charleston Garden Festival.

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. If you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at **963-5581** or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil.

Pharmacy refill policy

Twice, I've called in for a refill on my prescription and the recording said it would be ready on such and such day. When I came to pick the refill up it wasn't ready. When I asked why, I was told to take into consideration this, that or the other.

In this particular case it was a holiday, but I called the refill in on a Monday and I waited until Wednesday to pick it up. That's what the recording said. I drove in from Goose Creek twice and when I told the person at the counter that I had fought traffic twice to get down here, they said there is nothing they can do about it.

When you do get your prescription, it has the date you called in, even though its not available for two or three days. So what they are doing is falsifying a record by putting a date on it when the prescription is not available to the person using it. I think somebody should do something about this.

Thanks for taking the time to share your concerns about the pharmacy's refill call-in system.

The 437th Medical Group pharmacy strives to provide a user friendly and efficient refill prescription service to our beneficiary population. Unfortunately, our efforts have been hindered during the past few months due to numerous breakdowns of this outdated refill computer.

In your case, the pharmacy experienced a process breakdown which affected hundreds of customers. The pharmacy became aware of the problem when patients showed up to pickup refills that weren't ready. The volume of problems overwhelmed the prescription filling process and our investigation found the last computer crash cleared the holiday data table, changing the pick-up schedule. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience you've encountered.

I am happy to inform you that the need to replace this dated equipment with new technology has been identified, approved and funded. The installation of this new system is currently being coordinated with the manufacturer.

Rest assured the 437th Medical Group is expeditiously working this issue so that we may provide our patients uninterrupted pharmacy service. Feel free to contact our pharmacist at 963-6809, if you have any more questions or concerns.

Airlift DISPATCH

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