



A fond farewell

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Bruch, 437th Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, received an encased flag from honor guard member Staff Sgt. Donald Kusky as Senior Airman Elizabeth Harris looked on following a farewell retreat ceremony, May 19. Bruch, who has been reassigned to Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala., and his wife, Christina, left for their new assignment Thursday.

Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

National remembrance puts "memorial" back in Memorial Day

The British called it "The Great Silence," as if there had never been a moment's silence in the world before.

The Great Silence marked the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 — the moment marking the armistice ending the fighting during World War I. All over Great Britain, people stopped where they were and reflected on the sacrifice of a generation in the trenches of the Great War. The Great Silence continues in England, and now something comparable will happen in the United States.

"We want to put 'memorial' back in Memorial Day," said Carmella LaSpada, event coordinator for the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance calls for all Americans to stop at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day — wherever they are — and take one minute to think of the Americans who died to ensure freedom around the world.

LaSpada said the White House is asking radio stations to play "Taps" during the Moment. "We selected 3 p.m. because that is the time of the day that the majority of Americans are out enjoying the freedom for which these people died," she said.

She said she hopes the moment becomes a new American tradition. Defense Department officials encourage service members to participate. "At Army posts, on ships at sea, on Air Force bases — wherever people may be at that time — they should participate in the moment," she said. (AFPN)

Services

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"I would be surprised if we don't win at the Air Force level because of the staff's hard work and increase in functions and membership," said Al Poirier, business operations flight chief.

This year's AMC award is a "three-peat" for Youth Programs.

"We're really proud of the award," said Tim Garahan, chief of the 437 SVS Family Member Support Flight. "I'm proud of my staff and the work they do. We have a well-rounded program and don't put emphasis on one program only."

Among the achievements and features of Youth Programs:

- Received the Boys and Girls Club of America Commitment to Quality Program Award for the third consecutive year.

- Offers a computer learning center staffed by an education technician and numerous volunteers who provide homework assistance, tutoring, resume writing, research capabilities and computer familiarization classes. More than 30 youths use the facility daily.

- Maintains a volunteer program in which 276 people volunteered in 1999, totaling 31,721 hours.

- Volunteer coaches are certified through the National Youth Sports Coaches Association.

- Hosted 154 youths during the regional NFL/Gatorade Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

- More than 1,000 people attended last April's Month of the Military Child Festival, which included games, rides, refreshments and music.

- Maintains a partnership with the Coca-Cola company, which provides cash donations, products and prizes to be used in a variety of programs and activities.

- Offers a pre-teen Torch Club (Flames) and teen Keystone Club (Fliers) that are actively involved in community activities.

- Provided free child care one Saturday a month as part of the joint Child Development Center/Youth Programs and Air Force Aid Society Give Parents a Break Program.

- Worked with the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron on the new youth baseball field complex, which has improved conditions for players and spectators, as well as in-

creased the opportunities to host area tournaments.

"I think they have a really good program going," said Tech Sgt. Kevin Newcomb, whose children, Jessica and Justin, take part in many Youth Programs activities. Newcomb also coaches 11-12-year-old baseball.

"The Youth Center provides a lot of things, not just sports, like a computer lab and tutoring. There's a good variety. My kids enjoy it."

Annette Gaines said she is pleased with the atmosphere of good sportsmanship at the Youth Center. Her son, Tyrone, is 10 years old.

"My son is an inspiration to me and my husband as we watch him strive to reach his goals in sports," she commented. "I love the fact that the Youth Center practices good conduct and morals. Winning isn't everything; it's learning from your mistakes to do better in the next game."

The Fitness and Sports Program has won the AMC award in recent years as well. For details on the award, see page 15.

The Charleston Club, Youth Programs and Fitness and Sports Program will advance to Air Force-level competition.

Tunner

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operations.

"The test is to find out how long it is going to take to put these (60K Loaders) into storage for an extended period of time and then bring them back out and reactivate them," Jarrett said. "The vehicle will sit in static stage and when the time comes, they will pull it out of storage. The loader will be in a preserved condition, almost like it's brand new."

Wrapping tires, using proper fluids and corrosion prevention are some of the processes used to preserve the vehicle.

Stone was pleased with the test results. "Anytime you are the first, there has to be some headache, but it (the test) was relatively easy."

The testing was finalized on May 18. Stone said there were no major difficulties, but since it was a test, everything was trial and error.

"When they do it on a normal basis, there should not be any major problems," Stone said.



courtesy photo

The 60K Tunner will sit in a static stage until it's pulled out of storage in a preserved condition whenever the need arises for military operations.