

IN THE NEWS

CAFB aircraft debrief team wins CSAF award

By Staff Sgt. Paul Coupaud
AF Manpower Public Affairs

Charleston AFB's Aircraft Debrief Action Workout Team was presented with the 2000 Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award during an awards presentation at the Air Force Association convention Sept. 12.

Before handing out the award, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Ryan said the team proves again how our Air Force has "the creativity and smart minds to come up with solutions that help our

efficiency and effectiveness, to improve our products and make sure we do our mission better."

Members of the 12 O'clock High Aircraft Debrief Action Workout Team are: Maj. David Kral, Capt. Jake Verhoef, 1st Lt. Cathrine Barker, Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Stament, Staff Sgt. Jon Taylor, Staff Sgt. Monica Herring, Senior Airman Melanie Streeter, Airman 1st Class Michael White and Richard Hutchinson.

The Debrief Action Workout Team began their efforts in October 1999 when Brig.

Gen. Robert Bishop, then 437th Airlift Wing commander, voiced his concerns about the debriefing process.

According to a Debrief team report, the team's challenge was to identify and target areas of the debrief process that would yield the greatest improvement. An initial walkthrough familiarized team members with the debrief procedures, and they quickly realized the process was large, complicated and informal. A diagram analysis revealed lack of standardization as the root cause for process breakdown. Other ar-

reas of improvement were identified, such as the need for placing special emphasis on repeat/recurring discrepancies.

The team set out on two benchmarking trips to exchange valuable techniques and ideas.

Following their analysis of the current system, they implemented the six best practices to create a formal debrief process for all sorties. The team communicated their progress to the owners and stakeholders through daily status reports and e-mail.

Their dedication and outstanding work allowed the team to achieve phenomenal results. Man-hours were reduced from 10.4 to 3 and process cycle time improved by 71 percent, saving the Air Force \$719,246 for the first year, a 2,600 percent return on investment. While streamlining the process and reducing manpower is normally a goal, the team introduced a dedicated crew chief in the debrief process. This allowed the crew chief to take ownership of the aircraft forms at an early stage in recovery.

Child Care

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requirements for the staff," said Laura Abell, mother of two who attend the Charleston Child Development Center. "It's important to me that the money I pay goes toward staff training."

Although much focus is placed on Child Development Centers, School Age Programs also provide a very valuable program to parents and children. "Parents have a safe, instructive environment to leave their children," said Ed Jones, Youth Programs director. "We take pride that our staff is well trained and prepared to meet family needs and promotes the physical and mental well-being of the youth in our care."

In addition to continued training, military centers pay better than civilian counterparts. The Law Center report stated that the entry-level wage for caregivers at military centers is \$8 per hour and increases to \$10 after core competency training. The average wage for civilians is \$7.40 per hour.

Higher wages have resulted in much lower staff turnover, a serious problem in military and civilian centers.

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Child Development Center director

the same person from day-to-day so that person gets to know the children and can establish an emotional bond with them," Ross said. "Paying caregivers enough to minimize staff turnover reduces the amount the Air Force has to spend recruiting, screening and training caregivers and saves the Air Force money in the long run."

"Where our force once was largely comprised of single men, today nearly half of our men and women in uniform are also fathers and mothers," said Defense Secretary William S. Cohen. "We simply can't afford to have our service members worried about the basic well-being of their families."

For parents who have specific concerns about the fee increase, the 437 FMSF will host two meetings: Monday in the Child Development Center and Tuesday in the Youth Center. Both meetings will begin at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 963-3817.

Base school committee to meet at FSC

By Senior Master Sgt. Terrie Powell
437 SPTG superintendent

The Base School Committee will meet Oct. 10, 7 p.m., at the Family Support Center to continue organizing and discussing issues for the 2000-2001 school year.

The purpose of the BSC is to address issues affecting Charleston AFB military students as a whole, focusing on those in Charleston County School District 4.

"The committee provides a credible forum for voicing concerns and dispelling rumors," said Master Sgt. Winston Moses, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron first sergeant and committee member. "Additionally, by being involved, parents add to the collective voice of the wing when it comes to addressing our children's educational needs."

Some of the areas the committee will be focusing on are establishing relationships with the schools and school boards, transition assistance and curriculum. Parents will still need to address individual issues with teachers and guidance counselors. The BSC also strongly encourages parents to stay involved with school activities and organizations such as the Parent Teacher Student Association.

Whiles Moses supports the committee, he did have concerns about parents staying involved with their children's educational needs.

"The involvement should help parents gain insights into what their kids endure daily and assist in developing constructive measures to counter some of the shortcomings of the system," said Moses.

The following parents have volunteered to be committee members and points-of-contact for different schools and categories. They will act as representatives to address issues and concerns specific to their schools:

Lamb's Elementary School:
Primary, Kendy Taylor, 760-0428, and alternate, Barbara Haar, 529-9955.

Hunley Park Elementary School:
Primary, Jennifer Jones, 207-0359, and alternate, Ronda Cooper, 760-3041.

Morning Side Middle School:
Primary, David Kigerl, 207-7682, and alternate, Patricia Clark, 767-0554.

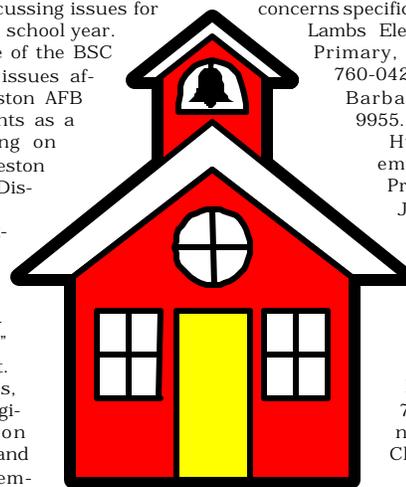
North Charleston High School:
Primary, Brian Miller, 760-6904, and alternate, Darl Tremain, 767-6774.

Private schools: Primary, Timothy Malin, 760-6431, and alternate, Winston Moses, 760-0934

Please call any of the above individuals to find out more information or discuss possible issues for the BSC to address.

This is a great opportunity for the Charleston AFB community to come together to support its military children.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Terrie Powell at 963-2202.



New FY 2001 fees (effective Oct. 2, 2000)

Category	Total family income	Annualized Fees
I	\$0-23,000	\$51
II	\$23,001-34,000	\$64
III	\$34,001-44,000	\$74
IV	\$44,001-55,000	\$89
V	\$55,001-69,999	\$104
VI	\$60,000+	\$113

For more information, call 963-3817.