

Community members get leadership training

Class at Shaw benefit civilians, ALS students

By Airman 1st Class Susan Penning
Staff writer

For the first time in Air Combat Command and Shaw Air Force Base history, service members aren't

the only ones reaping the benefits of formal military leadership training.

Two members of the local community will receive a certificate of completion today after five weeks of leadership classes on base that coincide with the education Airmen receive at the Senior Master Sgt. David B. Reid Airman Leadership School.

According to Master Sgt. Gary DeVault, ALS flight chief, community members attended classes that targeted issues they face in their own workplace.

"Everyone reaps rewards from the partnered learning experience," he said. "The community benefits from the leadership classes, and the Airmen at ALS benefit from seeing their training is not simply a required formality, but truly valuable both in the military and civilian workforce."

Ms. Cheryl Wilson, assistant director of communications at Sumter's 911 Center, attended the course. She said the training she received has helped her sharpen her leadership skills. She also said she can now better utilize the different personalities and learning styles staff members bring to her organization.

Ms. Angela Rabon, a senior detective assigned to the Sumter Police Department's violent crimes unit also attended the class. She said she's learned to be a better leader and follower.

"The confidence I've gained through this experience has better equipped me to handle any situation," she said.

Sgt. DeVault said one reason local law enforcement officials benefit so much from the classes is because their career progression is similar to the military's.

"As their careers progress, they get added responsibility. The classes here cover areas such as problem solving, standards and discipline and counseling techniques. This very valuable information will help them as they transition into leadership roles in their field," he said.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Community members and ALS students receive leadership instruction Tuesday.



Spirit Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Michelle Stewart



Organization: 20th Fighter Wing Chapel

Duty title: NCO in charge of program support

Job duties: Organizing and supporting chaplain service activities

Hometown: Louisville, Ky.

Time in service: Six years
Family: Husband, Senior Airman Wilbert Stewart, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron

Off-duty interests: Spending time with my husband

Words I live by: "Don't let tomorrow be the day you want to do something; let today be the day you did it."

Airman 1st Class Lisa Brule



Organization: 20th Component Maintenance Squadron

Duty title: TF34 Jet engine mechanic

Job duties: Performing organizational and intermediate level maintenance on TF34-GE-100A jet engines and removing, repairing and installing components and system accessories

Hometown: Williamsport, Pa.

Time in service: Two years

Off-duty interests: Shopping, going to the movies, playing racquetball, hanging out with friends and traveling

Words I live by: "Live every day to its fullest, and do whatever makes you truly happy."