

Johnson named new NCOIC at McEntire

Whether they realized it or not, about 15 S.C. Air National Guard (SCANG) members were sent to the principal's office recently.

The new NCOIC for base education at McEntire Air National Guard Station in Eastover is TSgt. Carl Johnson, an affable former member of the 169th Communications Flight who just happens to be principal at McCrory Liston Elementary School in Blair.

A SCANG member for almost 19 years, Johnson is proud to have recently assumed control of the base education office.

"I'm finally able to bring my experience and expertise to the base in a way that matters greatly to me," he said. His past jobs as a Guard member and active-duty airman include security police specialist, radio operator and unit training manager.

The Charleston native attended the University of South Carolina, where he earned an undergraduate

degree in health and physical education and a masters in secondary guidance. He also holds an educational specialist degree and is certified in education administration, education supervision, health and PE and secondary guidance.

He has served as assistance principal at Fairfield Primary School and taught PE at several Richland District One Schools.

"I'm here to listen and give advice," he said. "My office is here to offer any and all means of assistance in meeting the education needs of our base community."

This means everything from Community College of the Air Force transcripts and determining requirements for associate degrees to counseling young airmen on their educational aspirations.

"So many young folks come in with serious concerns about making the most of their Guard training and their educational

benefits," he said. "I am challenged by the responsibility I have for guiding and referring them, and my personal goal is that every visitor leave my office feeling as though they've been helped."

The office itself is located across the hall from McEntire's recruiters and somehow appears empty and cluttered at the same time. Johnson is still moving in and squelches most of the emptiness with his deep, soothing voice and high-pitched laughter.

He stresses the fact that he has an open-door policy and would like to be as accessible as possible to all Guard members with concerns about their education.

"I've always enjoyed counseling people, particularly young children," he said. "As a teacher and school principal, I am invested in helping today's young people prepare themselves for productive citizenship."

Johnson and his family live

in Blythewood. He has been married to his wife Rosetta for 21 years. She is director of administration for the State Law Enforcement Division. They have raised two honors students: Carla is 15 and plays varsity basketball; Candace is 12 and plays piano.

In his spare time, Johnson enjoys fishing (his wife is having a one-acre pond added to their property as a Fathers Day gift and Johnson plans to fill it with crappy, blue gill, large-mouth bass and catfish). He enjoys playing tennis, is a mentor to an Eau Clair High School student and is active at his church (as a lector, lay eucharistic minister, marriage counselor, member of the men's club and choir, and soon-to-be deacon).

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