

# Current Programs for Deployed & Remote Tour Air Force Spouses

- ◆ [Monthly Hearts Apart Social/Party](#)
  - ◆ [Morale Call Program](#)
  - ◆ [Monthly Remote/Deployed Family Dinner \(Sponsored by Base Chapel\)](#)
  - ◆ [Give Parents a Break, Free Child Care](#)
  - ◆ [Car Care Because We Care, Free Oil Change](#)
  - ◆ [Information Overload!](#)
- 

## **Hearts Apart Social/Party**

The Hearts-Apart Social/Party is a monthly gathering of our Remote Tour and Deployed spouses. We usually get together at the Airman and Family Readiness Center starting at 6:00pm. This event is structured and has theme based activities for either the adults or kids. We may have a private pool party for the kids one month, a Ready for Reunion Social for adults the next, or a Holiday Cards and Pictures event depending on the time of year. Events vary widely based upon the season. Our goal is to bring our remote and deployed families together so they may meet others that are going through the same difficult time, share experiences, and network and build relationships with other spouses and children. Invitations and event details are e-mailed monthly to those remote tour and deployed spouses that are properly signed-up on the A&FRC's Remote/Deployed Spouse E-Mail List. Contact MSgt Melton at 895-1255 for further information.

---

## **Morale Call Program**

The Morale Call program is for family members who have a loved one serving on a remote short tour or deployment. This program provides the family member with access to the base DSN telephone switch so that they may place calls to their loved one, anywhere in the world, from the comfort of their own home absolutely free. Family members may use this service by dialing 895-1110 and selecting option 7. Family members will need a PIN from the Airman and Family Readiness Center before using this service. If you need a PIN, please call MSgt Melton at 895-1255.

---

## **Monthly Remote/Deployed and Welcome Home Family Dinner** **(Sponsored by Base Chapel)**

The monthly Remote/Deployed and Welcome Home Family Dinner is for family members who have a loved one currently serving on a remote tour or deployment, and for family members who's loved ones returned the month prior. The dinner is held on the 4th Monday of each month at the Carolina Skies Club on base, starting at 6:00pm, but you may drop in anytime after 6. We blow-up large bouncy houses for the kids, provide free food (buffet), and enjoy each other's company. There is no agenda; just an opportunity to "get out", have some fun, let the kids play, and make new friends. When you're loved one comes home, bring them to the next dinner so that we may welcome them back and they may meet the friends you made while they were gone.

---

## Give Parents A Break

The Give Parents A Break child care program is available to spouses of active duty and civilian employees who are the primary caregiver during a deployment, remote tour, or extended TDY lasting more than 30 days. The Shaw AFB Child Development Center will open for a 4-hour period, once a month (usually a Friday evening), and provide free childcare to those with referral vouchers. Referral vouchers can be obtained by stopping by the front desk at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The A&FRC also has the monthly schedule of Give Parents a Break for the entire year so that parents may make plans in advance. Contact MSgt Melton at 895-1255 for further information.

**Location:** Child Development Center (ages 6 months-5) and Youth Center (ages 6-12)

**Telephone:** CDC 895-2247/2248; Youth Center 895-2251

**Hours/Dates:** See Schedule

**Requirements:** Sign up by the Thursday before the scheduled Give Parents A Break. Bring a referral certificate from the A&FRC and a copy of your child's shot record.

Referral vouchers may also be obtained from any First Sergeant, the Chapel, or Family Advocacy at the Hospital.

---

## Car Care Because We Care Program

The focus of the Car Care Because We Care Program is to keep the primary family vehicle of remote/deployed active duty Air Force members in top running condition by providing preventive vehicle maintenance. This maintenance includes oil/filter change, lubrication, and vehicle safety checks at no cost to the member.

Services are provided by appointment at the Firestone located inside the Shaw Express Shoppette. Spouses must stop by the Airman and Family Readiness Center for a voucher prior to making an appointment with Firestone.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

#### **Spouses of active duty Air Force members deployed for more than 30 days.**

Members must be deployed away from their duty station for 30 days or more, to include TDY assignments to schools (30 days or more). Service limited to one per deployment and should be performed on the primary family vehicle ONLY. Members serving on a 365 deployment are eligible for one oil change within a 6 month time period, up to two per year, and should be performed on the primary family vehicle **ONLY**.

#### **Spouses of active duty Air Force members assigned to a remote tour.**

Member must be assigned to a remote tour with the family remaining stateside. Service limited to one oil change within a 6 month time period, up to two per year, and should be performed on the primary family vehicle **ONLY**.

---

## Information Overload!

One of the most common stressors for family members left behind is the feeling of being alone, not knowing what is going on around them, and generally being left out of the loop. Active Duty Members have the opportunity to add their loved ones to the A&FRC Remote/Deployed Spouse E-Mail List when they attend the mandatory pre-deployment briefing. This e-mail list will be used to keep your family members up to date on all of the happenings at Shaw AFB while you are gone. For example, we will let your family know when there is a case lot sale at the commissary, if there are any gate closures due to construction, reminders on the various remote/deployed spouse socials and kids' parties and we even send out notes from the Wing Staff Meeting. As you can imagine, we strive to keep your family "in the know" on anything and everything that may affect them while you are gone. Don't worry though; it will not be an "Overload" of information as the title suggests. We usually send out just enough to ensure your family is kept up to date. Not receiving these e-mails? Not sure if your spouse signed you up before they left? Contact MSgt Melton at 895-1255 to be added to the list!

---

## Contact Information

Airman & Family Readiness Center  
524 Stuart Avenue  
Shaw AFB SC 29152  
Office: (803) 895-1252 Fax: (803) 895-4748  
Monday - Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm