

Team atmosphere distinguishes Charleston AFB

By Brig. Gen. Robert Bishop, Jr.
437 AW commander

Today, 30 inspectors from 21st Air Force, Air Mobility Command headquarters and a host of other bases in the command completed a very thorough look at our aircrew standardization procedures and compliance with flying regulations.

The Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Team evaluated 115 active duty aircrew members and another 60 aircrew members from the reserve side. In addition, they examined 36 of the 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron members. The once, every two years inspection, allowed the team to crossfeed many of our noteworthy programs with the rest of the command while also noting areas that need improvement.

It may sound like a old cliché,

but they were truly here to help.

We also have a team of five Air Mobility Command safety experts visiting our units and examining our flight, ground and weapons safety procedures. Among the areas getting a close look are our flight mishap program, Operational Risk Management, facilities inspections, 60K Tunner procedures, Bird Airstrike prevention program, mid-air collision avoidance program and a host of other programs. This is a "win-win" situation for us as the team has already crossfed a number of good ideas. They are giving us a thorough review of all aspects of our award winning safety program.

Early indications are that the team is pleased with what they have seen to date. They give their outbrief today at 9:30 a.m. in the wing conference room. All Unit

Safety Representatives are invited.

My time at Charleston is drawing to a close and has come upon me much faster than expected. On Monday, I attended my last staff meeting as wing commander, although the change of command is two months from now.

Next week, I'll begin spending 6 plus weeks on the road at the DoD Brigadier General Orientation Course called Capstone. The course will bring me to all the Unified Command headquarters, allow me to spend some time with the joint staff and our political leaders in Washington, and an opportunity for regional studies where I'll travel to Korea, China, Vietnam and Australia for in-depth discussions with leaders of those countries.

As the curtain falls on my time at Charleston, I want to express

sincere appreciation for the support across the wing. This past Sunday and Monday, we had the opportunity to host the highest-ranking German military officer, Gen. Hans-Peter Von Kirchbach who is the equivalent of our Joint Chiefs of Staff. He told me twice during the visit that the most impressive aspect of his time with us was the "team atmosphere" that permeated our entire base, noting how well the active duty interfaces with our reserves and how both seem to interface with our civilian workforce and commercial partners.

The synergy we gain by working together is an important factor in all the successes that we have enjoyed. Certainly, none of us is as good as all of us.

Best wishes over the next six weeks!

Action Line



courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Robert Bishop, Jr., 437 AW commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Bruch, 437 AW command chief master sergeant, STEP promote Ronald Tidd to the rank of master sergeant. Tidd is the superintendent of force management for the 437th Services Squadron.

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem. But if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at **963-5581** or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil

Callers are encouraged to leave their name and phone number so we can provide a personal reply. Remember, the easiest way to resolve problems is to call the agency responsible directly or to use your chain of command.

Here are some commonly used phone numbers:

Security Forces.....	963-3600
Base Exchange.....	552-5000
Commissary.....	963-5695
Housing Office.....	963-3859
Medical Group Information.....	963-6700
Family Support Center.....	963-4406
Education Office.....	963-4573
Charleston Club.....	963-3914
Services Squadron.....	963-3821

Who's Team Charleston

As a full-time employee of the 437 AW and a Reservist in the 315th AW, I would like to express my frustration of the Education Center's handling of the CLEP math class held Jan. 10-12.

This class was advertised in the Dec. 24 edition of the *Airlift Dispatch* as "open to all and filled on a first-come, first-serve basis." The Education Center said they could only accommodate 30 people and the sign-in would start at 7 a.m.

I arrived at 6:30 a.m. and was the 23rd person in line. When the doors opened at 7 a.m. we were told that since so many people showed up for the class, only active duty personnel would be allowed to sign up. Civilians and Reservists would have to sign in on a stand-by list. There were no stand-by slots

available by the class start time.

My civilian employment entitles me access to the Education Center and the services it provides. I feel that I was wrongly excluded from this access.

The term "Team Charleston" has been around for 10 years and used to include civilians and the 315 AW. Perhaps it should be changed to "Team 437th Active Duty."

The Team Charleston concept is still alive and well, and the Education Services Flight welcomes Department of Defense civilians and Air Force Reserve personnel to participate in our classes as space permits.

However, when a class is extremely popular and when we offer it infrequently, then we adhere to the Air Force-established priority for enrollment, which stresses active duty military personnel first.

In the past our advertisements in the paper have stated that. Unfortunately, it wasn't in this last advertisement, and I can understand your frustration. We limited the class to 30 students based on the number of math tests that could be administered during our two testing sessions on Thursday.

Hopefully, to enable more people to take advantage of this free three-day Math Clep Prep class, we've actively recruited additional instructors.

In addition, we will ensure that we advertise accurately so that everyone is aware of the priority for enrollment in the future.

Airlift DISPATCH

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