

Charleston's vision statement explained

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

In last week's article I spoke a little bit about our off-site that Team Charleston's senior leadership held and specifically addressed our new vision statement: "Team Charleston: Providing our nation's premier airlift force from the world's premier air base."

As I traveled about the wing last week, many people asked me to elaborate and describe more fully what this vision really means. I can certainly outline a course and can describe in more detail what this vision means to me.

I will spend a few paragraphs putting more "meat on the bones" of our skeleton vision statement. However, I must also add that a vision is also meant to be inspirational, yet broad enough to be internalized by everyone in the wing no matter what your specialty.

But to me, "Team Charleston" speaks first of the tremendous blessing that we all share here being a part of

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the 437/315 team. Whether active duty, civilian or Reservists, most people will acknowledge that they have never been stationed at a locale where there is a better sense of team spirit. Certainly, our vision for the future can only speak to an even greater degree of that same team attitude.

I really like the thought that when a group of individual professionals decides to work together as a team, "the sky's the limit." Certainly that is a part of the vision for Charleston in the next century.

In providing our nation's premier airlift force, I almost want to say that it is hard to envision performing our core mission any better than we have over the last 18 months that I have been lucky enough to be on the team. However, I am sure if we give ourselves a thorough look, there are pockets of areas that we can take our performance to an even higher level.

Our vision for Charleston in five or 10 years down the road will be that the wing is still getting the 911 calls from Air Mobility Command. We are still

CINTRANS and the lead mobility wing in that everywhere people travel throughout the world they will experience the same sense of pride that we all

do today when other people will say or nod their head: "Oh, you're a part of Charleston" as a way of intuitively understanding our uniqueness and outstanding performance. Only I'm hopeful that those accolades and the sensing of being the world's premier airlift wing will come at a reduced cost in terms of turbulence and operations tempo.

Our processes and procedures the command uses in tasking us will have evolved to the point where "smooth flow" is not just a buzz word or a goal that we are striving for, but instead an everyday occurrence...from the world's premier Air Force base.

Charleston has benefited from the new mission money associated with the arrival of the C-17 and the focused efforts of many previous excellent commanders.

However, the base still has many facilities and an infrastructure that we would certainly not describe as "premier" for our vision of a Charleston of the future.

In our vision, the last of the 1940s/1950s vintage buildings will see the skilled hands of workmen visually renovating them or the wrecking ball as efforts are made to replace or repair those that have outlived their useful existence.

Although that's our vision for the future, the men and women of Team Charleston continue to excel.

Many thanks to Maj. Paul LaVigne and the Combined Federal Campaign keyworkers for achieving 96 percent of our goal as of the time of this article. Many thanks especially to the 50 percent of the generous people within the wing who saw fit to help others worse off than they are.

Thanks to Master Sgt. David Hunt and Capt. Ken Norris of the Inspector General's Office, Staff Sgt. Joseph Gaddis, 437th Security Forces Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Tracey Worsley and Capt. Phil Bell of the 437th Civil Engineers for arranging the Ability to Survive and Operate training last week.

A special thanks to Senior Airmen Michael Mendoza, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron, who played the hijacker during the exercise. More thanks to Maj. Keith Novak, Charleston County SWAT commander and his team, Capt. Jeff Prindle and the rest of the security forces team for such a super job in bringing that exercise to a successful conclusion.

I've been off at a promotion and a school board this week. I hope everyone has had a productive week and is well prepared for the approaching Thanksgiving holidays.

Action Line



Brig. Gen. Robert D. Bishop, Jr., 437 AW commander, presents Melba Coward, 437 AW Plans, with a certificate commencing her 30 years of government service.

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

Schoolyard safety

Since the weather has gotten colder, I've started taking my children to Lambs Elementary School and I've been noticing the way people drive around there. For example, everyday last week, a mini van would barrel down the road and turn into a driveway by the path connecting the base and the schoolyard. She'd let her child out then back up without looking. One day, she almost hit a little girl and drove off at a high rate of speed without checking on the child.

The children are using crosswalks, but drivers are not paying attention to them. CAFB is a lovely base and we have great security forces that keep us safe. Can we start to keep our children safe? Not every

parent is lucky enough to drive their children to school every day. It would be great if members of the 437th Security Forces Squadron could make appearances at the school path to remind people to slow down and watch for children before it's too late. A second crossing guard might be an answer as well. Please, let's all slow down.

If you're running late, you're already late and there's nothing you can do about it. Leave earlier so you have enough time to get where you're going and you won't need to speed. It could be your child who ends up injured. Thank you for your help in keeping all of our children safe.

The caller's inputs are appreciated. As of Nov. 9, the 437 SFS stepped up patrols near Lambs Elementary School and will write tickets as appropriate. The caller is encouraged to note license numbers of drivers who are driving in an unsafe manner and file a traffic complaint with the SFS Control Center. Though the 437 SFS can't write tickets based upon such complaints, they will call the alleged offender's first sergeant or commander and brief them so they can counsel their troop.

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the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication. Submissions can be mailed to: 102 East Hill Blvd., Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154 or send e-mail to dispatch@charleston.af.mil.

Classified advertisements may be referred to Diggle Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 2014, Charleston, S.C., 29465, Phone: (843) 849-1778 or faxed to 849-0214.

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