

Hurricane Floyd, Air Expo are the big events

by Col. Robert D. Bishop
437 AW commander

My heartfelt appreciation to Team Charleston for the outstanding response to Hurricane Floyd! From the great advice of the Crisis Action Team to our airmen launching and recovering aircraft and securing the installation, it was a truly superb effort!

Each group and the special staff went above and beyond to ensure all operations were carried out safely and all of our people were well taken care of.

If you are an operator, it is not easy to assemble, schedule or alert 32 aircrews in such a short period of time. If you are a logistician, it is extremely difficult to prepare 32 aircraft to be able to fly in a compressed 12-hour launch cycle.

If you are someone from the Support Group, there are literally thousands of details that need to be addressed—feeding mission essential personnel, ensuring communications support throughout the storm, securing our buildings against hurricane force winds, pro-

tecting evacuated base housing from potential looters, accounting for all of our personnel and organizing post storm clean-up to name a few.

Thanks to the special staff for their efforts too, especially the prayers from the chaplains, the “benchmark” evacuation order put together by our Staff Judge Advocate staff and the customer-first approach by our comptroller squadron members that ensured people were reimbursed for their expenditures as quickly as possible.

In spite of the damage to the base (see related article on page 1), last Friday was one of the most positive days I’ve experienced as the commander of Charleston AFB. Everyone was extremely up-beat and at work putting the base back in the best shape possible. Our efforts were noticed by the headquarters too. We’ve only received superior accolades from the Air Mobility Command leadership. Once again, thanks for your hard work!!!

This is the first time in the history of our base that we evacuated our personnel. Judging from what I saw on TV and read in the paper, it appears that many lessons were learned by

our state officials and hopefully the next time not as many people will be inconvenienced while waiting for traffic to move along I-26, a virtual parking lot during the massive evacuation.

Of course, this weekend we have some big-time festivities as our annual open house gets underway. Our Yorktown gala kicks off the weekend festivities this evening followed by a special air show on Saturday for groups needing special access.

On Saturday, we have a large welcome fest for the many visiting aircrews from 6-9 p.m. in the C-17 Nose Dock (Bldg. 519). This event is open to the base populace as long as you bring your free ticket available from a number of outlets on the base.

Of course, Air Expo ‘99 on Sunday is our showcase event. This is the best assembly of static displays and flying demonstrations I have ever observed at an Air Force base and it is all absolutely free. Come on out and see your United States Air Force (and other services) in action.

Have a great weekend and I’ll see you at the airshow!

Action Line

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 Forces963-3600
- Base Exchange.....552-5000
- Commissary.....963-5695
- Housing Office.....963-3860
- Medical Group Information963-6700
- Family Support Center963-4406
- Education Office963-4573
- Charleston Club.....963-3914
- Fitness and Sports Center963-3347
- TriCare.....1-800-444-5445
- TriCare Claims.....1-800-403-3950

A different way to look at Air Force Core Values

by Tech Sgt. Gary White
437th Transportation Squadron

Core Values have been uttered from the mouths of more leaders than anyone cares to know. Why do they? Because, without them, our mission stands little chance to succeed.

As supervisors and leaders, we must set the standard for all to see! As members of the military, we must live and possibly die by them! Core Values are an integrated part of success and the backbone of our profession. Strong values give insight to where the leadership stands and stimulates members to believe in the Corps and commit to the mission.

“Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do” is the perfect statement to describe today’s Air Force needs. Imagine them as the three elements of fire: air, fuel, and heat. Take one away, and the fire goes out.

Today, we will break these Core Values down into three separate elements, describe what they mean, and how they are intertwined. Integrity plays a big part in core values.

Air would be the element of fire that represents integrity first. You can’t see it, but you can feel it. Integrity comes from inside and can be passed to others. It’s an unseen aura floating around you like mist in the black of night. You must realize others can sense if you have integrity and be willing to share this precious element so the fire can spread on the wind of truth.

During a Joint Services Conference, former Secretary of the Air Force Sheila Widnall said, “Integrity is essential. It’s the inner voice, the source of self control, the basis for the trust that is imperative in today’s military. It’s doing the right thing when nobody’s looking.” Honesty and the willingness to do the right thing describes integrity. Service before self and excel-

lence in all we do has no merit without integrity. The fire is snuffed out, and only a dwindling puff of smoke remains. In order to become a team player, you must be willing to sacrifice and retain selflessness.

Fuel is the element of fire that best represents service before self. Selflessness by its very nature adds fuel to core values. A platoon of soldiers on patrol is suddenly ambushed. They take cover, and out of nowhere a grenade lands right in the middle of them. Several are sure to perish, but without hesitation one throws himself on top of the grenade seconds later, KABOOM! The soldier’s life is over, but his memory will live on. For a fleeting moment there is silence. Then, with fearlessness the remainder attack and suppress the enemy, which took their comrade in arms without thought for themselves, but of those they might save by carrying out their orders ending this terrible conflict. This is the ultimate price of service before self.

An article in the Air Power Journal written by Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman stated, “No other profession expects its members to lay down their lives for their friends, families, or freedoms. But our profession readily expects its members to willingly risk their lives in performing their professional duties.”

Integrity first and excellence in all we do are impossible without service before self. Take the fuel away, the fire slowly dies out and all you have left are smoldering ashes. If you possess the aforementioned elements, in order to feel complete you must have a need to excel.

Heat, the final element of fire represents excellence in all we do. Excellence is energy created by the friction from those who refuse to settle for satisfactory. An example would be a weapons crew working methodically on a sun baked flight line making detailed inspections on an F-16 weapons system insur-

ing they provide the very best they can offer allowing the pilot every opportunity to deliver with pin point accuracy its deadly message. This is excellence at its best.

If you take away excellence in all we do, integrity first and service before self are just cold words without true meaning. Remove the heat and you have no fire, just fuel surrounded by cold air. Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff sent out this message to all the men and women of the United States Air Force. “Our Core Values set the common standard for conduct across the Air Force. These values inspire the trust, which provides the unbreakable bond that unifies the force. We must practice them ourselves and expect no less from those with whom we serve.”

As a recent graduate of the NCO Academy, my flame has been rekindled and has given new meaning in these beautiful words that call out to all who serve. With respect to all who will listen, let’s ponder over these three powerful elements that make our Core Values complete one last time.

Integrity first is the wind on which honesty and truth can be carried. Air is the first element of fire. Service before self is the lifeblood, which fuels the body of selflessness. Fuel is the second element of fire. Excellence in all we do is the energy produced by friction from those who strive to exceed the standards. Heat is the final element of fire.

Combined, these awesome words make up our Core Values, which will burn for eternity and remain an integrate part of our profession. We must carry their true meaning deep within ourselves and remember those who paid the ultimate price. I leave you with this thought. Are you willing to accept the responsibility of protecting your friends, your family, your country?

Airlift DISPATCH

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