

High praise for the members Team Charleston

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

There is no doubt. The best job in the entire U.S. Air Force for a brigadier general select or brigadier general on active duty just has to be an assignment as the commander of the premier airlift wing on this planet. With my time as your commander coming to a close on Monday, this is certainly a week of mixed emotions in the Bishop household.

Sadness is certainly one emotion that we are feeling -- sad to be leaving some of the finest men and women who have been so committed to doing our nation's bidding over the years we have spent at Charleston. As the Chief of Staff of the Air Force told many of us gathered in his honor Sunday evening, we have written history, especially over the last year.

Besides being the busiest wing in the Air Force

operationally, our suicide prevention, cycle ergometry and anthrax and flu programs are the best in the command/Air Force. Additionally, you made my number one priority -- safety -- also a benchmark for the command with our safety program being recognized as the best in Air Mobility Command. Other awards are so numerous, we could fill up the entire page listing them all!

Appreciation is certainly another emotion we are experiencing this week -- sincere appreciation for the dedication and the superior attitude that pervades Team Charleston. More than any other place I have been stationed, the people of Team Charleston display an absolutely spectacular positive attitude. People always want to do their best! Many, many thanks for all that you have done for the Bishop's, the wing, the base and our nation.

Although there are many more emotions I could describe from personal experience this week, per-

mit me to express just one last one -- a feeling of uneasiness, mixed with anticipation and hope -- not just for the Bishop family, but for the Findley's and the great folks of Team Charleston. Change is inevitable and constant in today's society -- but that doesn't make change easy. I have no doubt that you will make the Findley's feel as welcome as you did the Bishop gang nearly two years ago. I also know your support of your new commander will be just as superb as the support you have given to me everyday.

My hope is the time you spend adjusting to one another is very short so you quickly reach a level where you can forge ahead and continue to improve upon what is already the best wing in the U.S. Air Force.

If you find yourself up in the Washington D.C. area, please give us a call or stop by to say hello. Godspeed and best wishes to you all.

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.

Ad question

In the March 3 issue of the *Airlift Dispatch*, there was an advertisement for a discount auto broker on page 9. It has a senior airman advertising. I think that is a conflict of interest, and I'm curious to find if it was.

You are correct. We contacted the airman who was featured in

the advertisement. He was unaware that the company that he works part-time for had included his military rank in the ad. The Public Affairs office also contacted the publisher of the base newspaper to notify them to not run such ads in the future because they violate Air Force policy.

Trucks on base

Midland Park road has a sign for truckers saying if not entering base they are not supposed to cross the railroad tracks. Most of the trucks are coming from Ward Avenue, crossing the tracks and heading for Aviation Avenue, using Air Force property. They are literally ruining the road at Air Force expense. Why don't security forces stop the illegal use of this road by these truckers?

The issue of civilian trucks transiting Arthur Extension in violation of the posted guidance is one that we have been addressing as of late. We have contacted all the trucking companies located in proximity of the installation and told them that Arthur Extension is not to be used as a thoroughfare unless making an official delivery or pick up at Charleston AFB. To assist us in enforcing this, we have solicited the assistance of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, who has been enforcing this and regularly ticketing violators. The security forces operations officer person-

ally attended court to speak on behalf of the squadron and the problem of trucks violating the posted guidance on the installation. Thank you for your concern. I assure you that we are proactively working this issue.

Tree trimming

Recently, there were men who came through our housing area to trim the trees. When we went outside later in the evening, we noticed that a small tree close to our house had been cut down. It was a decorative tree, that we made sure was properly pruned every few months. We also had built a nice wooden box to surround the tree, and filled the box with mulch.

We called the housing office, who then referred us to the civilian who is in charge of the tree trimmers. He explained that the tree had to be cut down because it was too close to the house. We had no problem with his explanation, we just requested that a "knock on the door" would have been nice - to let us know that the tree would be cut down.

He then went on to say that our "military housing" has to be maintained, and that they can come and go whenever they please, and do not need our permission for anything! He was very rude. I would like your view on whether or not we can expect some privacy in our base home, or is it true that anyone, at anytime, can do what-

ever they want to our home without notifying us? The housing maintenance office has been great about calling first when work needs to be done, why can't other housing maintainers have the same respect for our privacy?

Thank you for your call. I applaud your effort to maintain an excellent yard while you are living in base housing. The tree you cared so much about fell victim to our need to protect your home's foundation. We're forced to remove trees that threaten to damage our base infrastructure. When we are required to remove trees we have the contractor attempt to contact residents before entering the yard. Unfortunately, because of the large number of trees we care for each day, our contractor must continue working even if no one is home. We have briefed this policy to the contractor since your call. We recommend you contact our Self-Help Store about replanting smaller shrubs or flowering plants in the landscaping box you built. The Self-Help store is in the process of ordering a large shipment of plants for housing occupants. The plants should be available in April and will be advertised when the order is received. Thanks again for keeping base housing looking great.

Airlift DISPATCH

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