

Keeping Shaw beautiful

Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander, mowed acres of grass on Shaw Aug. 1. "Taking care of the base is something we should all do for ourselves," he said. "If your neighbor is out of town on vacation, or TDY, take a few minutes to mow their yard and pick up the newspapers. This is where we live, work and play, let's keep it beautiful." According to Lt. Col. Jeffrey Jackson, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, Shaw spends \$766,000 a year on ground maintenance. During the bahia grass season, grass shoots can grow five - six inches per night. It may be necessary to cut grass twice a week to keep Shaw looking good. "It takes everyone doing their part to keep Shaw the best looking base in the command," said Richard Bales, Shaw housing manager.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Watts

No lemons for sale at Shaw's resale lot

By Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

When looking for a car for someone headed to college or trying to sell a vehicle before a PCS, Shaw's resale lot may be of some assistance.

Located in the parking lot across from the base theater, the resale lot is a way to display privately owned vehicles for sale. Also known as the "lemon lot," it can be used by anyone who works at Shaw, including contract employees and retirees. There is a \$5 fee for using the lot for 14 days, but permits to use can be renewed. According to Virginia Stevens, Skills Development Center director, it's not uncommon for cars to remain on the lot for two or three months, but, in the summer months, cars sell quickly.

"We don't put a limit on how long vehicles can be for sale on the lot, but we don't want people to use it as a storage area," said Stevens. "Outdoor Recreation offers long-term storage for vehicles."

Stevens said the fee to use the lot offsets the cost of running it and other programs on base.

"All money collected from the use of the resale lot is used in the upkeep of the lot and other programs on base," said Stevens. "The fee keeps people honest and makes them follow the rules of the lot."

To legally place a car for sale at the resale lot,

there are four pieces of information each person must have – the vehicle identification number, a base decal number, the vehicle registration and the license plate number. Boats and recreational vehicles can also be sold through the lot. This information is also on two signs placed at the entrances to the lot.

Because boats do not require the same documentation to show ownership as cars, motorcycles and RVs, the requirements for selling them are different from base to base, according to Stevens. Boat owners have cards stating they are the owners, which must be shown in order to place for sale at Shaw.

Once someone has the proper documentation to place a vehicle or boat on sale at the lot, a form must be filled out at the Skills Development Center. This form includes contact information, such as duty and home phone numbers and an address. Stevens said there are several reasons for requiring more than one way to contact those who use the lot.

"The resale lot is impacted by what goes on at the base. Sometimes during exercises and in some (Force Protection Conditions) the vehicles have to be completely removed from the lot," said Stevens. "In other FPCON stages, the

vehicles can not be parked near the walls of (Shaw Lanes)."

Also, if a servicemember is going to be TDY, there must be someone with power of attorney to handle any business concerning the vehicle.

Even though any car, motorcycle, RV and boat can be sold at the "lemon lot," no "lemons" are sold, according to Stevens.

"Vehicles must be in good working condition," said Stevens. "If there are any leaking fluids, the vehicle must be removed and repaired before going back on the lot. Not even a flat tire is acceptable."

The resale lot is also the only place on base officially designated for parking cars for sale.

"There was a time when a parking area close to the resale lot had several cars for sale parked in it," said Stevens. "The owners were informed by letter that the vehicles needed to be removed."

The owners assume all responsibility for the security of vehicles on the resale lot. Stevens encourages all who use the lot to remove all valuables and lock all doors. Any claims for damaged or stolen property should be filed through the legal office.

For more information, call the Skills Development Center at **895-2627**.



It's time to get students back to school safely

By Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

It's the time of year when parents send their children back to school for another year of learning and growing. But, before the school day begins, children must get to school safely.

According to the National Safety Commission, more than 22 million students start and end their day with a ride on a school bus. Although the commission reports buses are safer than cars, accidents still happen. In 1999, approximately 26 students were killed and 9,000 injured in incidents involving school buses, according to the NSC. Most often, these accidents happened as students were entering or exiting the bus. Although drivers are required by law to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to load and discharge passengers, children should not rely on them to do so. The National Parent Teacher Association offers these school bus safety rules to avoid accidents:

- Be on time.
- Never run to or from the bus.
- Stand back from the curb when waiting for the bus.
- Don't push or shove when entering or exiting the bus.
- Stay in your seat when on the bus.

- Don't yell or shout while on the bus.
- Always obey the driver's instructions.
- Wait for the driver's signal before crossing the street.
- Always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Never crawl under a school bus.

Team Shaw members are reminded that with school being back in session, travel time in the mornings may be longer. It may be necessary to leave a few minutes earlier. Drivers are also advised that civilian school patrols will be on duty from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. each morning. Frequent stops should be expected. Although the speed limits on base do not change in the areas near the schools on base, drivers are warned to keep an eye out for children who may not be following the safety rules.

Children who don't ride in a vehicle to get to school must still protect themselves while walking or riding a bicycle. According to Staff Sgt. Matthew Porter, 20th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of Reports and Analysis, the same bike laws apply when riding back and forth to school as when riding for play or exercise. Students are required to wear helmets, and wearing headphones is prohibited. There is minimal supervision for students who walk or ride bikes to school so the NSC offers these safety tips for them to follow:

- Follow all traffic signals and the crossing guard. Never cross the street against a light, even if you don't see any traffic coming.
- Walk your bike through intersections.
- Walk or ride with a buddy.
- Wear reflective material to make you more visible to traffic.

New law for back to school

A new school bus law, in effect as of Aug. 1, states the driver of a vehicle must not pass a school bus moving in the same direction, which has amber visual signals activated. A driver meeting or passing a stopped school bus from either direction on a highway or private road must stop before reaching the bus where it has flashing red lights specified, and the driver must not proceed until the bus is in motion or the lights are no longer activated. The driver of a vehicle does not need to stop when meeting a stopped school bus when traveling in the opposite direction on a multi-lane highway or multi-lane private road that consists of four or more traffic lanes, having at least two lanes traveling in each direction. Also, school buses now pick up and drop off students on the same side. The laws are strictly enforced and the points and penalties have increased. (Law information courtesy of Susan Wild, City of Sumter communications director.)

EOD: Detonating, disarming, detecting

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Staff writer

A popular show, entitled "MacGyver," lit up television screens in America in the mid '80s. MacGyver used ordinary things, like duct tape and chewing gum, to create explosives.

"I wanted to be MacGyver," said Staff Sgt. Scott McCulley, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician. McCulley came into the Air Force and knew he wanted to work with explosives.

After six to nine months of training, the personnel in EOD are ready to blow things up. These troops gain the necessary knowledge it takes to destroy threatening items. Though some may be surprised, they don't blow up everything, and they don't blow things up everyday.

"We do a lot of things to dispose of bombs," said Senior Airman Taralyn Volpe, 20th CES EOD technician. There are numerous methods used by EOD to disarm explosives by means other than detonation.

It could be as simple as attaching a rope to it and removing it, said Volpe.

Capt. Joseph Taylor, 20th CES EOD flight commander, said EOD aims to figure out how an explosive works. An explosive is blown up because it is too hazardous, or it needs to be out of the way.

EOD does more than detonate bombs, Taylor said. Training is number one. Most of the time, personnel are ordering and verifying equipment.

Another EOD duty is to clear the targeted area of fragments and debris after aircraft offload their weapons. One of the areas EOD clears, Poinsett Range, is cleared every 60 days.

Even though they have other mission essential tasks, phonecalls EOD receives regarding suspicious packages are channeled through the Command Post. The calls may also come from the support group commander or city officials. EOD works with South Carolina Law Enforcement Division to respond to calls in the local community.

When EOD responds to an incident, they come in a truck and trailer loaded with equipment includ-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

Volpe (right) adjusts the bomb suit of Airman 1st Class Aaron McDowell (left), EOD technician.

ing bomb suits, designed to help protect against explosions, and remote firing tools. No EOD personnel approach the immediate area. They use x-ray, video, photography and a robot to evaluate the site from a safe distance.

"If you see something suspicious, don't be afraid to call the command post," said Taylor. The number is **895-5850**.



Spirit Spotlight



Staff Sgt. Charlie R. Helms

Organization: 20th Mission Support Squadron

Duty title: Senior Master Sgt. David B. Reid Airman Leadership School instructor

Hometown: Rocky Mountain, Va.

Time in service: Ten years

Family: Wife, Cindy, 4-year-old son, Charlie Jr. and 2-month-old daughter, Chelsie

Off duty interests: Spending time with my family and playing sports

Words I live by: "Life is too short to stress over things you cannot control."