



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Watts

How it works

Staff Sgt. Jason Fitts, 20th Fighter Wing Weapons Standardization flight, answers questions posed by members of the All American Boys Chorus during their visit to Shaw Jan. 21. The California-based, 32-member group was on a tour of the Southeastern U.S.

For the record

In reference to the *Service Member's Civil Relief Act* article printed in the Jan. 23 edition of *The Shaw Spirit*, the 180-day Permanent Change of Station mentioned in the Right to Terminate Auto Leases paragraph must be outside the continental United States. **A PCS within the states does not give a service member the right to terminate an auto lease.**

Head for cover Team Shaw

If your unit has an upcoming special event or has achieved something you would like to see covered in *The Shaw Spirit*, e-mail the editor at spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil.

In addition to ideas, photos and stories may be submitted to the paper. All submissions are subject to editing and will run at the editor's discretion.

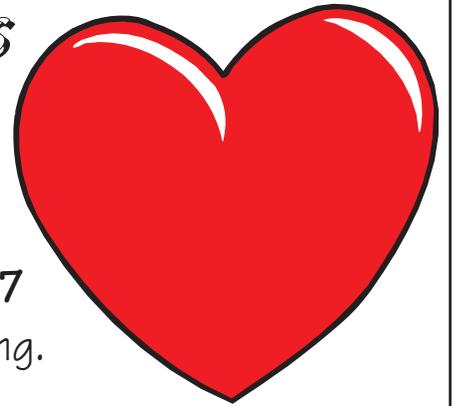
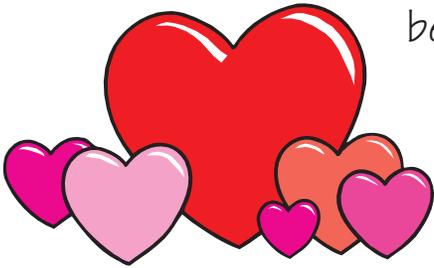


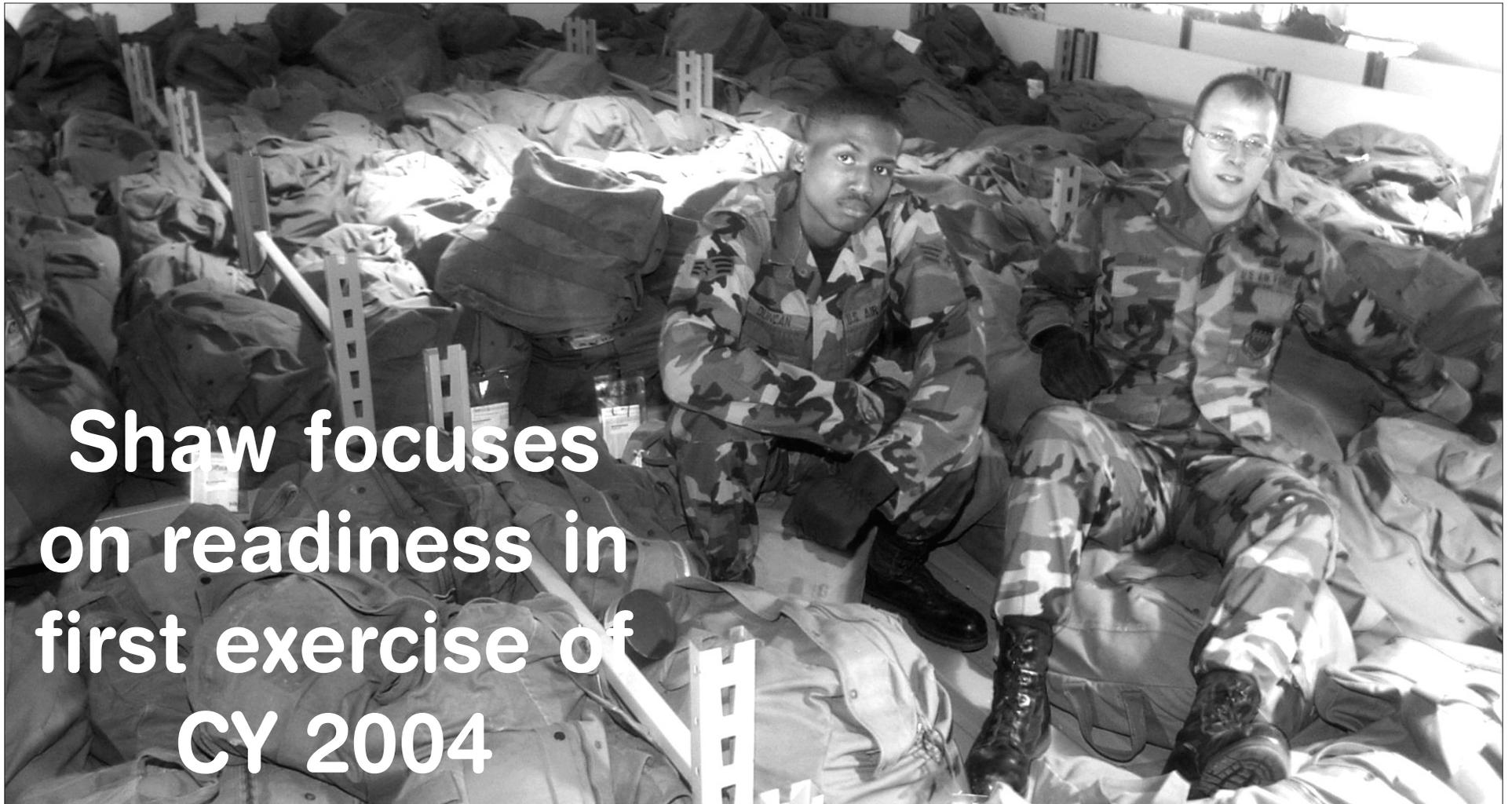
All news items for *The Shaw Spirit* must be submitted by Thursday the week prior to intended publication date.

The Shaw Spirit Valentine's Day Greetings

Send your someone special a Valentine's Day message to be printed in *The Shaw Spirit* Feb. 13, just in time for the special day. E-mail messages to

spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil or fax them to **895-2017** by **noon Feb. 9**. Submissions are subject to editing.





Shaw focuses on readiness in first exercise of CY 2004

Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Holcomb

Above, Senior Airman Tavis Duncan, left, and Staff Sgt. Jean Hahn, both of the 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron, rest on some of the mobility bags they were responsible for processing during the Jan. 21-23 Phase 1 exercise here.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Josef E. Cole III

Staff Sgt. Chad Hepner, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron, inspects a cannon plug inside the refueling housing of an F-16 jet Jan. 22 during the Phase I exercise.



Left, Senior Airman Lonny Wright, 20th CMS, pushes equipment into place for mobilization Jan. 21 during the exercise.

Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Holcomb

Right, Senior Airman Gabriel Lopez, 20th LRS, moves a pallet Jan. 21 during the Phase 1 readiness exercise.



Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Holcomb

Shaw Honor Guard boosts performance

Digital bugles are enhancing military funerals

By Airman 1st Class Susan Penning
Editor

The history of Taps is a long one. That somber song, performed during military funerals and ceremonies, has been played by buglers since the Civil War. However, due to a shortage of military buglers in recent years, Taps has been heard more often through the speakers of a stereo, than the bell of a horn. But technology now offers a solution, and a new device seems to be transforming even the most musically-challenged person into an expert instrumentalist.

The device, formally called a ceremonial bugle, is a battery-operated conical insert that fits inside the bell of a regular bugle. The digital insert plays the 24 notes of Taps at the flick of a switch, and requires no musical talent.

According to a Department of Defense news release, the DoD worked with a private New York firm to develop the horn inserts, which are currently being produced for approximately \$500. The rendi-

tion used for the bugle was recorded at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, 1999.

Shaw's Honor Guard, which typically carries out duties at 30-50 military funerals every month, currently has two ceremonial bugles and is soon to receive a third, donated by Sumter's Elk Lodge #855. According to Staff Sgt. Jared Dube, Honor Guard member from the 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, new members continue to train on the use of the inserts, and the Honor Guard plans to use them for every ceremony beginning in March.

"[The ceremonial bugle] sounds very close to a real one," said Sgt. Dube. "The device has volume control and a 5-second delay when you turn it on, so you have time to get the bugle to your lips before Taps begins to play."

"Families really appreciate having a bugle at the service," said Senior Airman Kamel Morris, Honor Guard member from the 20th Component Maintenance Squadron.

Due to its easy operation and discreet design, it is very difficult for anyone to recognize the digital piece inside the bugle, or the fact the horn player isn't truly playing, Airman Morris added.

In the past, tapes and compact discs have defected in inclement weather, which can be embarrassing for Honor Guard members and devastating to family attending the funeral, Sgt. Dube said. "The ceremonial bugle is digital, so the failure rate is nearly non-

existent. It's a real asset and makes the ceremony more authentic and respectable."

So, with a little help from advanced technology, the familiar tune of Taps will continue to waft through the bell of a horn, and honor those who have served this country with valor.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Airman 1st Class Dylan Lamont, Honor Guard member from the 20th Medical Operations Squadron, practices with a ceremonial bugle before a funeral service Wednesday.



Spirit Spotlight



Senior Airman Vagus Taylor



Organization: 79th Fighter Squadron

Duty title: Aviation resource management journeyman

Job duties: Computer inputs and audits of flying hours and maintaining computer databases

Hometown: Chambersburg, Pa.

Time in service: Three years

Family: Wife, Airman 1st Class Jenifer Taylor and son, Zahir

Off-duty interests: Spending time with family and doing outdoor activities

Words I live by: "Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens."

Staff Sgt. Jason Mead



Organization: Troop B 202nd Cavalry Army National Guard Unit

Duty title: Personnel sergeant

Job duties: Maintaining military records and ensuring personnel get paid

Hometown: Pensacola, Fla.

Time in service: 12 years

Family: Sons, Jason Jr. and Brandon

Off-duty interests: Hunting and fishing

Other assignments: Spent 10 years in the U.S. Marine Corps

Words I live by: "Don't dwell on yesterday; make the most of today."