



Newslines

Commander's Calls

The next 20th Fighter Wing commander's calls are set for the following times at the Base Theater. Attendance is mandatory.

Thursday

10:00 a.m. - E6 and below

2:00 p.m. - SNCOs

5:00 p.m. - Officers

6:30 p.m. - E6 and below

27 Feb

7:30 a.m. - E6 and below

1:00 p.m. - E6 and below

Sealed bids

20th Services Squadron is scheduled to auction off vehicles and bowling equipment. The bidding is going on now through Tuesday. For more information, call 895-3522.

Christian luncheon

A Christian Fellowship Luncheon is set for Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Conference Center. Cost is \$3. RSVP by noon Tuesday. For more information, call 895-1408 or 895-1106.

Closure

The 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Munitions storage area is set to close March 8-12 for 100% stockpile inventory. For more information, call 895-0238 or 895-0239.

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Weekend Weather

Saturday



Cloudy
High: 68
Low: 51

Sunday



Clear
High: 63
Low: 37

Courtesy of the 20th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight



Photos by Master Sgt. Paul Holcomb

Towering above with technology

Left, Airman Zenaida Nazario, 20th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller, demonstrates Shaw's old static display simulator Wednesday. Right, 20th OSS ATCs use a new digital simulator Wednesday, which allows for more realistic training. An article on the new equipment is set for Feb. 27.

New center helps Shaw hit books

By Airman 1st Class Susan Penning
Editor

Shaw's new Education Center, located in Building 501 on Shaw Drive, officially kicked off its recent opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday.

According to Mr. Samuel Dairyko, Education Center flight chief, the new center boasts state-of-the-art equipment, ample classroom space, offices for staff members, satellite distance-learning capabilities, computer laboratories and a 70-seat auditorium.

The new building, which cost approximately \$4.7 million to construct, was needed at Shaw for a long time, according to Mr. Dairyko.

"In the past, we were operating out of four separate buildings; three of them were off base. The new facility allows us to have everything under one roof.

We now have the space and equipment we need to provide a truly conducive learning environment," Mr. Dairyko said.

Shaw members interested in furthering their education can call 895-1835 or 895-1838 to set up an appointment to meet with an education counselor. In addition, the center offers free interest-inventory tests that show where members' interests lie so they can include those in their education goals.

"Education is part of the 'Excellence in all we do' Air Force core value," said Ms. Retta Smith, Shaw education services officer.

Members can take classes and earn an associate's, bachelor's or master's degree without ever leaving base, Mr. Dairyko said.

"With 100% tuition assistance and the benefits of our equipment and serv-

ices, there is really no reason why Shaw members should not continue their schooling," he added.

Service members can also take ACT, SAT, Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support and College Level Examination Program tests free of charge at the center.

Accredited schools operating at the facility include: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Saint Leo University, Troy State University, the University of South Carolina Sumter and Webster University. Also, Central Carolina Technical College has an office there.

Shaw's Education Center is open Mondays through Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For additional information, visit the Virtual Education Center at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> and follow the link to Shaw.

Inside: Page 11: The Enlisted Spouses' Club gears up for its Time, Talent and Treasures Auction. Pages 12 - 13: Shaw members train, improve readiness in Savannah, Ga.

Reenlistments change Eligibility windows adjusted

In accordance with the fiscal year 2004 Force Shaping Program, effective March 5, Air Staff is changing the reenlistment eligibility window from the current 12 months prior to the estimated time of separation to three months prior to ETS.

Service members are reminded that the three months prior to ETS is to the month, not the day.

This change will affect all airmen -- first-term, second-term and career -- as well as retrainees.

For example, if a service member's ETS is June 28, the member can reenlist any time in April.

Members currently projected for reenlistment on or after March 5, who do not have a service-directed retainability requirement, must change their date.

If they do not change their date, they will not be eligible to reenlist

under the new rules.

This is a major change concerning first-term airmen and retrainees. Previously, these airmen could reenlist once they received a career job reservation or received their "3" skill level after retraining.

These members will no longer be authorized to reenlist immediately and will have to wait until they are within three months of their ETS.

Some individuals will still be authorized to reenlist earlier than three months from their ETS if they have a service-directed retainability requirement, such as permanent change of station orders.

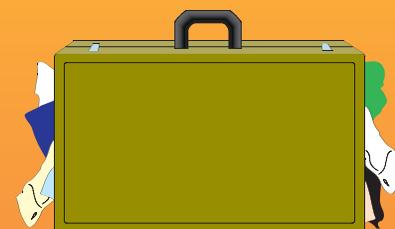
If you have questions or need additional information, contact Shaw's Reenlistments and Promotions Office at **895-1599**.

(Information courtesy of Shaw's Reenlistments and Promotions Office.)



The Tours and Entertainment Office is set to host a Travel Fair Tuesday from 3 - 7 p.m. at the Conference Center. Enjoy an authentic low-country boil (\$2 per bowl) as you "travel" from booth to booth and check out destinations. For more information, call **895-4774**.

Door prizes! Giveaways!



Taxpayers beware: OIC could cost time, money

The tax center at Shaw, located in the upstairs level of the Community Center, offers free assistance in preparing tax returns for military members. However, tax center personnel do not offer aid on more complex matters beyond the scope of normal tax preparation, such as Offers in Compromise.

The Internal Revenue Service recently issued a consumer alert, advising taxpayers to beware of promoters' claims that tax debts can be settled for "pennies on the dollar" through the Offer in Compromise program. These advertisements have been publicized before and typically become more prolific as tax season approaches.

According to the IRS, some promoters are inappropriately advising indebted taxpayers to file an Offer in Compromise application with the IRS. This advice can cost taxpayers money and time.

An Offer In Compromise is an agreement between a taxpayer and the IRS that resolves the taxpayer's tax debt. The IRS has the authority to settle, or "compromise," federal tax liabilities by accepting less than full payment under certain circumstances. According to IRS commissioner Mr.

Mark Everson, "This program serves an important purpose for a select group of taxpayers. But we are increasingly concerned about unscrupulous promoters charging excessive fees to taxpayers who have no chance of meeting the program's requirements... We urge taxpayers not to be duped by high-priced promises."

The OIC may be considered only after other payment options have been exhausted. If taxpayers are unable to pay their taxes in full, there are other payment options, such as monthly installment agreements, that must be explored before an OIC can be submitted.

The **irs.gov** Web site contains complete information on the collection process and payment options. IRS Publication 594, *The IRS Collection Process*, also provides helpful information on options available to taxpayers. Taxpayers should also review IRS Form 656, *Offer In Compromise*, or IRS Form 9465, *Installment Agreement Request*, to determine if they qualify for either payment program. Form 656 provides detailed instructions for submitting an offer and includes all of the neces-

sary financial forms.

Some taxpayers may be exempt from the \$150 OIC fee, depending on income or whether the OIC is based solely on doubt as to tax liability.

Taxpayers who claim the poverty guideline exception must certify their eligibility using Form 656-A, *Income Certification for Offer in Compromise Application Fee*. The poverty guideline exception applies only to individuals.

All publications and forms are available at **irs.gov** or taxpayers may order copies by calling **1-800-829-3676**. All publications and forms are available free. Taxpayers may feel they need the assistance of a qualified tax professional to prepare and submit an OIC.

Taxpayers may contact local or state tax professional associations for enrolled agents, certified public accountants or attorneys to locate someone in their geographic area with the education and experience to assist them.

(Information courtesy of irs.gov. Capt. Joseph Esparza, 20th Fighter Wing Legal Office, contributed to this article.)



Thrift Savings Plan notice

The Department of Defense military pay did not correctly exclude TSP contributions from service members' taxable wages this month. As a result, every member's pay (contributing to TSP) was overtaxed and their mid-month pay may have been lower than usual. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is working this issue and plans to have it corrected by the end of February. Money should be refunded in members' end-of-month pay.



Newslines II

Promotion ceremony

A promotion ceremony is set for Feb. 27 at 2:30 p.m. at Club Shaw. For more information, call 895-9573.

Housing reminders

Along with normal yard maintenance, base housing occupants are reminded to keep their outside area neat and free of debris.

Basketball goals should not face the street or be near enough to put children at risk for injury by passing vehicles.

Parking space

Members exercising near Outdoor Recreation on base should park at the ball fields, not OR's lot.

Lost pets

A list of animals found loose on base will be posted outside the Base Exchange on the pet notice board. If you have lost an animal or are looking to adopt, check the board. Animals are kept inside the Stray Animal Facility on base for a minimum of three days before they are eligible for adoption. For more information, call 895-3669.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

Hair to share

Meghan (left), daughter of Cena and Master Sgt. Brian Baldwin, 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, gets her hair cut by Susan Smith during an assembly at Thomas Sumter Academy Feb. 14. Wigs are made from cut locks and donated to children with leukemia.

20th Security Forces Squadron Blotter

(Editor's note: The blotter includes incidents from the 20th Security Forces Squadron reports. The following information is intended to increase awareness of resource protection and safety concerns.)

■ A civilian dependent reported damage to her phone line at her base housing residence.

■ A soldier reported stolen government property from his residence at the Temporary Lodging Facility.

■ An airman was arrested off base for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol.

■ A civilian was detained at the main gate for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and Open Container.

■ A civilian was detained for Criminal Trespassing

while attempting to gain access to the installation.

■ A civilian reported personal property stolen from her back porch at her base housing residence.

■ An airman reported damage to a laundry room door at Dormitory 401.

■ Security Forces responded to three accidents involving POVs and GOVs.

■ There were 10 traffic tickets issued this week.

In case of emergency, call 911. Direct routine questions and non-emergency concerns to the 20th SFS at 895-3670. If you have information about any crime, listed here or otherwise, call the 20th Security Forces Investigations section at 895-3600.

Traffic Tips

Motor vehicle drivers approaching a stopped school bus from any direction, with red lights flashing or stop sign displayed, **must come to a complete stop at least 20 feet from the bus.** Drivers will not proceed until either the school bus resumes movement, or the driver is directed to proceed by proper authority.

Drivers are not required to stop if traveling in the opposite direction of the school bus on a 4-lane or wider roadway.

Question Corner

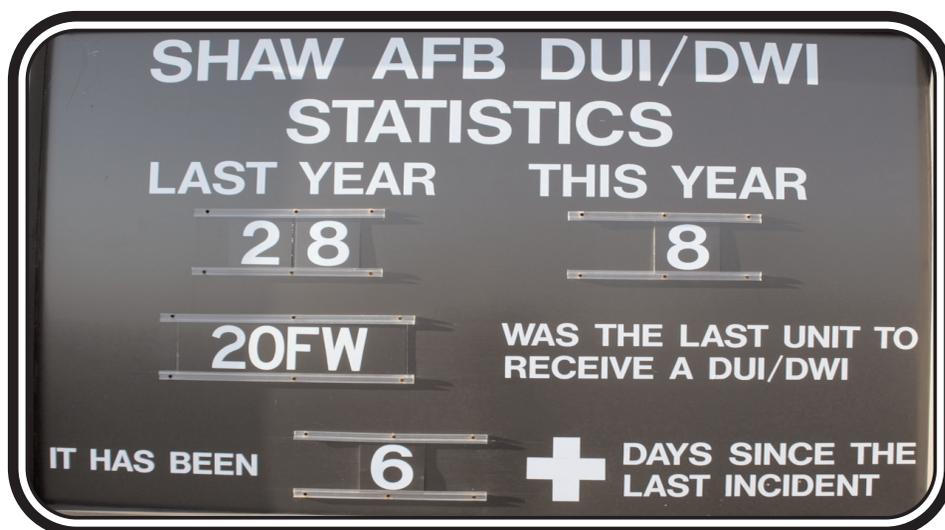


Question: Who was the first black Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force?

Last week's question: The Commander's Access Channel airs on Channel 7.

Last week's winner: Senior Airman Thomas Martell, 609th Air Communications Squadron

The first person to e-mail *The Shaw Spirit* at spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil with the correct answer will get their name in next week's paper.



(As of Thursday)

AADD 983-9722

Team Shaw members stay in the blue

The following Shaw members re-enlisted during the month of January:

Senior master sergeants

Nicholas Liberti, U.S. Central Command Air Forces; Thomas Pearman, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Master sergeants

Albert Cagle, 20th LRS; Matthew Drechsel, 337th Recruiting Squadron; Malinda Freeman, 20th Fighter Wing; John Harrill, 20th Services Squadron; Bradly Haynie, 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Grady Hedrick Jr., 31st Intelligence Squadron; Isaac Holmes Jr., 20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron; Michael Larrimer, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron; Robert Macari, 609th Combat Plans Squadron

Technical sergeants

Steve Adams, 20th CES; Glenn Anderton, 31st IS; Jena Behrens, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron; Michael Berry, 20th AMXS; Thomas Browning Jr., 20th ADOS; George Curnutt, 609th

Air Intelligence Group; Harold Denton, 20th Medical Operations Squadron; Anthony Downs, 20th CES; Derik Greer, 31st IS; Michael Podolski, 20th CMS; David Shaw, 20th Maintenance Group; Ivan Walker, 20th Operations Support Squadron; Ronald Waller, 337th RCS; Michael Wilsey, 337th RCS; Norman Zeitunian, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Staff sergeants

Jamie Blaine, 609th AIS; John Bloomer, 20th EMS; Randy Britt, 31st IS; Brian Cadenhead, 20th CMS; Jeffrey Daniels, 31st IS; Jennifer Delacruz, 31st IS; Eric Fennell, 20th Communications Squadron; Jonathan Fortenberry, 338th Training Squadron; Jeremy Franks, 20th EMS; Edward Glaze, 609th Air Communications Squadron; Heather Gray, 20th EMS; Michael Jackson, 20th AMXS; Christopher Knackstedt, 20th AMXS; Laribeth Matter, 20th OSS; Clinton Matthews, 20th Medical Support Squadron; Alfonso Medlock, 609th CPS; Matthew Porter, 20th Security Forces

Squadron; Terri Pugh, 15th Air Support Operations Squadron; Andrew Robinson, 28th Operational Weather Squadron; Jason Sinkar, 20th EMS; Frederick Smith, 682nd Air Support Operations Squadron; Owen Steininger, 20th AMXS; Edgar Trull, 609th ACOMS; Joseph Whitaker, 20th EMS; Antonio Whitted, 20th EMS; Chad Williams, 609th ACOMS

Senior Airmen

Steven Jackson, 20th AMXS; Chase West, 20th CES; Brendan Crawford, 20th CS; Brooke Talmage, 20th CMS; Kevin Bryant, 20th CMS; Samantha Heathington, 20th EMS; Irwin Sierra, 20th MDOS; Charles Smith IV, 20th MDSS; Angelique Watson, 20th MDSS; Theresa Gray, 20th MDSS; Tanya Seales, 20th MDSS; Joyce Washington, 55th Fighter Squadron; David Jackson, 609th ACOMS; William Kouba, 609th ACOMS; Angie Grimes, 609th Combat Operations Squadron; Jason Brown, 77th Fighter Squadron; and Eric Roberts, 15th ASOS.

The Shaw Spirit runs announcements for sporting event winners, adult and youth sporting leagues, retirements, award winners and graduates. For more information, call **895-2018** or send an e-mail to spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil.

Stork Sorties

Oct. 16 - Michael Ray to Scott and Fredrica McCartney

Feb. 4 - James Vincent to Jason and Nicole Clowe

If you would like your child's birth announced in the Stork Sorties section of *The Shaw Spirit*, send the date of birth, baby's full name and the first and last name of the parent(s) to spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil.



For the record

In the Feb. 13 issue of *The Shaw Spirit*, Staff Sgt. Sarah Bolster was incorrectly identified as being a member of the 20th Security Forces Squadron among the Class 04-B graduates of the Senior Master Sgt. David B. Reid Airman Leadership School. She is a member of the 609th Air Intelligence Squadron.

20th MDSS member earns ACC-level award

By Ms. Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

A member of the 20th Medical Group recently received an Air Combat Command-level award. This person was also among the 20th Fighter Wing Annual Award winners for 2003 in the NCO category.

Tech. Sgt. John Sherman, 20th Medical Support Squadron Information Services flight NCO, was named the ACC Medical Information Systems NCO of the Year for 2003.

In nominating Sgt. Sherman for the award, Lt. Col. Terry Hamilton, 20th MDSS commander, described him as an exemplary leader who adapts to all situations.

In his position, Sgt. Sherman manages nine personnel, military and civilian, responsible for the maintenance and repair of all computer equipment in the military treatment facility. He and his staff offer customers any help they need with their computers, whether it is fixing them or giving instruction on how to use particular programs. According to Sgt. Sherman, he contributes to Shaw's mission by ensuring the medical staff has the tools necessary to keep base personnel healthy.

Some of Sgt. Sherman's accomplishments during the award period of Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2003, include implementing the Public Key Infrastructure installation three

weeks ahead of schedule, managing the automated pharmacy system installation and identifying 120 computers and 70 monitors for wing reutilization, saving the base organization \$80,000 in computer upgrades, according to Col. Hamilton.

Sgt. Sherman said he was very surprised when he learned of the award because he considers what he does his duty.

"I couldn't do my job without the support of staff that go out and do the work," said Sgt. Sherman. "I probably have the best supervisor on base."

According to Sgt. Sherman's supervisor, 2nd Lt. Christopher Palumbo, 20th MDSS systems flight officer, he stood out as a nominee for this award because he embodies what is desired of a military member and an Air Force leader.

"When you get to know (Sgt.

Sherman), you might think the core values were written after he joined the Air Force," said Lt. Palumbo. "You can ask anyone in the 20th Medical Group, and they would say he provides the best customer service. If he tells you something, you can be sure it's right, and he is technically superb. When he earned this award, there was genuine applause from the entire group because we all knew he really deserved it."



Sgt. Sherman

Changes to LES may reduce identity theft

Leave and earning statements for all service members and Defense Department civilians, and paychecks for military retirees, will soon have more identity theft protection.

Over the next several weeks, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will drop the first five digits of a person's Social Security number from all pay statements and checks to guard against identity theft.

"Removing the first five digits from the LES prevents a member's full Social Security number from falling into the wrong hands," said Chief Master Sgt. Dawn Forbes-Mockalis, 20th Comptroller Squadron superintendent.

She said the LES is often used to provide proof of income or residency, so without the complete number revealed, the ability for someone to use the information from the LES is lessened.

Though the first five digits will be dropped from the delivered statement, DFAS will continue to see the entire Social Security numbers, said Lt.

Col. John Ducharme, 20th Comptroller Squadron commander.

"The changes apply to everyone," said Patrick Shine, acting director of DFAS. The proposal "originated internally and will be phased in over the next couple of pay periods."

According to Col. Ducharme, Team Shaw members can expect to see the change take effect on their LES in the middle of March.

This change is for all hard copy LESs. It does not apply to electronic copies of statements found on myPay, the online system for access and control of customers' personal pay information.

Col. Ducharme said myPay is a secure website which is password protected, so the abbreviated

Social Security number is not needed there.

Col. Ducharme suggests to personnel still using the hard copy LES to ensure the statement is placed in the right hands.

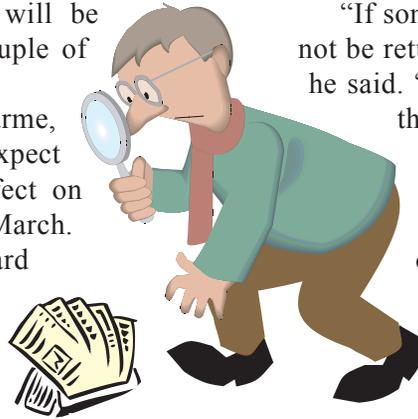
"If someone is on leave or you know they will not be returning soon, don't leave it on the desk," he said. "Store it in a secure place, such as with the commander's support staff."

Chief Forbes-Mockalis offers other identity theft protection measures.

"Shred papers you wouldn't want others to get hold of," she said. "Don't give out credit card information over the telephone and be careful on the Internet."

For more information on LESs, contact the Military Customer Service office at **895-1529** or Civilian Pay at **895-1801**.

(Information courtesy of Air Force Print News. Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash contributed to this article.)



Annual auction has something for everyone

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Staff writer

The Enlisted Spouses' Club plans to present its 2nd Annual Time, Talent and Treasures Auction March 5 at 6 p.m. at Club Shaw.

"All the proceeds go back into the Shaw community," said Mrs. Vanessa Plair, Shaw's Enlisted Spouses' Club vice president.

Last year, more than \$4,000 was raised through the auction. Proceeds go toward scholarships, charities and base functions.

Mrs. Cindy Williams, Enlisted Spouses' Club advisor, said the Enlisted Spouses' Club contributes donations during promotion ceremonies, annual award banquets, Operation True Giving and other celebrations throughout the base.

Currently, there are 75 to 80 items to bid on at the auction. Some items to be auctioned off include:

- A weekend getaway at Fort Walton Beach, Fla.
- Carowinds tickets
- Paintings and prints from local artists
- Jewelry

- Dinner for four prepared by the 20th Fighter Wing command chief

- Membership to a local fitness facility

Though there are numerous items on the auction block, there is still room for more. Donations are currently being accepted.

"We expect a huge turnout," said Mrs. Williams. "We encourage everyone to get involved."

Tickets cost \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

For more information, call Mrs. Becky Blanchard at **666-2227** or Mrs. Vanessa Plair at **499-4273**.
