

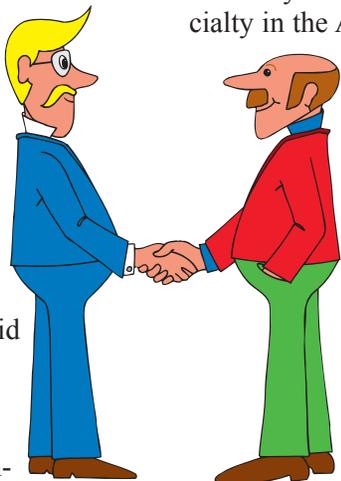
Networking: a vital part of success

By 1st Lt. Shane Coats
20th Operations Support Squadron

How many times have you attended a squadron function, party or other social gathering and only talked to the people you already knew? Most of us have, at one time or another, just stood around in little groups interacting with the family members, friends and coworkers who make us comfortable. While at those functions, have you seen someone who seems to always shake everyone's hand, or at least make it a point to say hi to everyone in the room? If so, you might have thought to yourself, "Is this person sincere or is he after something?" If you have, let me ask you something else. The last time you really needed to get something done, or needed an answer for your boss from an outside office at quitting time, how did it go? It was probably a lot more painful than it needed to be.

If you had only taken a quick minute to say hi or strike up a conversation with that Airman you just walked past at the last social function, you may have had someone to help you with that last-minute question or tasking. This is where rapport building or "networking" comes in.

The definition of networking, according to *Webster's Dictionary*, is: "the exchange of information or services among individuals, groups, or institutions." No one is capable of doing everything by themselves, and we need to know who to ask for answers and expertise. The Air Force Chief of Staff recently voiced his desire to cross-flow chief master sergeants and broaden the experiences of the officer corps in a series of CSAF Sight Pictures. The intent is to bring this concept even further down the ranks with our NCOs. The CSAF's vision in many ways addresses the same issues "networking" does. At some point we all have to ask for help. There may be times when you find yourself on the receiving end of a request for help as well. It is human nature for us to



help the people we are comfortable with more quickly than those we don't know. That is one of the most important reasons for us to get to know those who work outside our normal influence areas.

You may not know how to network or may feel uncomfortable in attempting it. To start, put down your paper and say hi to a coworker, someone sitting in the lobby with you, or a complete stranger at your customer service desk. Then take a short minute to ask them how they are doing. Ask them about their specialty in the Air Force. You will be amazed at the contributions to the mission your fellow Airmen make every day. You may even discover they contribute directly to your mission in a manner you did not expect. This is the first step toward better, more effective networking.

I was at my squadron's summer picnic a while back and had a great opportunity to meet new people and do some networking. Throughout the day I talked with people I had seen around the squadron but had not spoken to before. It just so happened a few days after the picnic one of the people I spoke with called my office in need of a few answers to an important tasking he had been working on. Since I now had a name with a face and had previously spent time talking with this person, I was more than eager to help him get in contact with the right people who could answer his questions.

This important skill does not take long to master. Networking only requires some initiative and a desire not only to help someone else, but also help yourself in the long run. If you have not already come across a time when you needed help to get something done, then you may very well in the near future. Will you be able to rely on your networking skills?

There are numerous benefits to networking, including the chance to make some really great friends in the process. So get out there and start paving the way.

Commander's Connection

Editor's note: Due to Col. Sam Angelella's TDY, Col. Billy Uhle, 20th Fighter Wing vice commander, will answer Commander's Connection questions.



Col. Billy Uhle

"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and the Shaw community. Questions or concerns that can't be resolved through normal channels can be called in and recorded at 895-4611 or e-mailed to commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil.

Callers should leave a name and telephone number in case questions need clarification. Comments of general interest may be published in *The Shaw Spirit*.

Q The waist measurement is the same for all age groups, but I believe the body composition would be more realistic if the waist measurement was different at every age and if the person's height was a contributing factor.

A The Air Force Medical Service invested a great deal of time and funding into extensive research to produce a quality, health-focused fitness program. Scoring guidance for each component was derived from multiple, research-based resources. Our resources state increased abdominal circumference, by itself and independent of an individual's age, puts a member at increased risk for metabolic and cardiovascular diseases. As our program is a health-based approach to fitness, utilizing abdominal circumference is a powerful tool in health assessment. This is only one measurement considered in the testing but when combined with the other components, we have a clearer picture of the overall health of our Airmen. This information guides the 20th Medical Group, Health and Wellness Center and commanders in meeting and sustaining readiness goals. For more information, call the HAWC at 895-1216.

The Shaw Spirit

Shaw Air Force Base editorial staff

Col. Sam Angelella.....20th Fighter Wing commander
Maj. Lisa Caldwell.....Public Affairs chief
Staff Sgt. Lee Watts.....Internal Information chief
earl.watts@shaw.af.mil
Airman 1st Class Susan Penning..... Editor
spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil
Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash.....Staff writer
alicia.prakash@shaw.af.mil

Ms. Adriene M. Dicks.....Correspondent
adriene.dicks@shaw.af.mil

Information intended for the *The Shaw Spirit* must be submitted Thursday the week prior of intended publication. Direct e-mail correspondence to spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil, call (803) 895-2018, fax (803) 895-2017 or mail to:
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office
517 Lance Ave., Suite 107
Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. 29152-5041

The Shaw Spirit is published by the Camden Media Co., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 20th Fighter Wing.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of *The Shaw Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, includ-

ing inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by DoD, the Air Force or the Camden Media Co., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The 20th Fighter Wing commander and public affairs office are the determining authority as to whether a particular item will appear and its placement within the paper.

All copy submitted will be edited to conform to Air Force and local policy and style standards. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

Direct classified ads to Camden Media Co. at (800) 450-1437 or fax (803) 432-7609 or e-mail skaress@ci-camden.com. All are run on a space-available basis.

Classified ads may also be dropped off at *The Shaw Spirit* office in Bldg. 1122.

Teamwork: an individual's responsibility

By Lt. Col. Robert Gamble
20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

I recently had the distinct pleasure of being notified I've been selected for promotion to the rank of colonel. On June 27, I'll step through a symbolic door and enter a chamber full of increased obligation, responsibility and expectation.

My personal success has given me cause to reflect upon how I got here. Our military culture, irrespective of branch of service, tells us that strong individuals often occupy a vital role in getting a job done, but the larger victory is obtained through teamwork (yes, even the "Army of One" ads imply a highly motivated, highly trained individual is a one-man army contributing to the effectiveness of the larger unit). In my mind, getting promoted shares many features of this dynamic relationship between the individual and the team.

There have definitely been numerous hurdles to leap and pitfalls to avoid along my Air Force path, many of which could only be managed by me "putting my nose to the grindstone." However, I'd honestly say the vast majority of my good fortune has been obtained by working as part of an outstanding team.

This team concept started with my family. My parents arrived in

New York City as immigrants with a strong work ethic and a strong belief knowledge and education combined with that ethic could open many doors. They placed the value of education on a pedestal, and they stressed the "do unto others..." principle -- give respect, get respect; be generous, and generosity will be bestowed upon you; act like a jerk, get treated like a jerk.

My parents also blessed us with the gift of faith. Church attendance was not optional growing up, and involvement in the church community and activities (altar boy, teen club, choir, etc.) was encouraged. My family and I (there's another team, my wife and sons) continue to practice our faith, and I've lost track of how many times I've drawn strength from that during difficult times and derived peace from knowing I'm part of another great team, the Catholic Church and the Christian community. My four brothers and I are products of these team values.

I've had outstanding officer and enlisted mentors around me throughout my Air Force career. This trend started with my Air Force staff sergeant younger brother and my Navy judge advocate general older brother, who both preceded me in entering active duty service. Over the past five years I've been entrusted to manage two dental operations within Air Combat Command, and I've

worked with upper-echelon quality people. However, the particular impact of mentoring and advice from senior enlisted professionals, both within the medical Air Force specialty codes and across various career fields, has proven invaluable to me. If I didn't have the open mind and common sense to realize these men and women were pivotal components of the team, I may have missed out on a 55-gallon drum full of leadership.

Since my arrival at Shaw in 2002, the performance level of Team Shaw has been humbling. The unit and individual recognitions from major command and Air Force levels seem to flow at a steady pace. Teamwork is what gets the job done and ultimately gets recognition. Within the 20th Medical Group we've enjoyed our share of both unit and individual accomplishments during 2003.

Individualism and teamwork are not diametrically opposed; they work extremely well together if nurtured in the proper environment. Individuals can rarely succeed alone; they need the support of their teammates. The team in turn can't succeed without individuals with a strong sense of responsibility and willingness to get the job done.

So here's the moral of the story. Don't sit around waiting for the Air Force to drop success in your lap;

set goals and then work diligently toward them. Whether you are an officer, enlisted or civilian member of the team, think about what your obligations and responsibilities are and how you can meet them to the best of your ability. Keep in mind your primary responsibility is to the mission. Remember unit leaders must view the "big picture" and remain aware of the morale and well-being of their people as they lead them in pursuit of the mission. That doesn't mean things will always go the way you think they should go. Mission first, people always.

There is an "I" in "Team," so ask yourself, "What can I do to help the team succeed?" That "I" grows into "We," and pretty soon the team is running on all cylinders. It may sound simplistic, but that's what I think works best.

Active duty service has definitely had its challenges over the years, but I've always been lucky to be part of a team that wouldn't let me fail as long as I was willing to hold up my end of the bargain. I've given my full effort to the team, and the team has given back. I'll take this opportunity to thank all of the Air Force team members who have worked beside and around me and left their imprints for success, large and small, on me. I in turn am obligated to continue to strive to be worthy of the weighty responsibility before

Holocaust victims honored on "Days of Remembrance"

By Tech. Sgt. Darrell Clements
20th Fighter Wing Military Equal Opportunity

Each spring, one week is set aside to remember the 12 million people who died in Nazi concentration camps -- political prisoners, non-German Christians, Jews and other minority groups who were victims of Adolph Hitler's "final solution."

Holocaust remembrance is a time for all humanity to reflect upon the depravity and perse-



Courtesy photo

cution inflicted by the Nazi party, as well as the tremendous spiritual fortitude and resistance displayed by its victims. We must be reminded of the depths to which humanity might sink, as well as the heights to which we might aspire.

The Holocaust was the systematic annihilation by the Nazis and their collaborators of about 6 million people as a central act of state during World War II.

It was a crime unique in the annals of human history, different not only in the quantity of violence -- the sheer numbers killed -- but in its manner and purpose as a mass criminal enterprise organized by the state against defenseless civilians. There's evidence the Nazis intended ultimately to wipe out Slovaks and other minorities. Had the war continued or had the Nazis triumphed, the Jews might not have remained the final victims of Nazi genocide, but they were certainly its first.

As members of a uniformed service and military community, we must be mindful of the fact that in April 1945, American forces and allied armies, led by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower,

supreme commander of the allied forces in the European theater, exposed the horrible truth of Nazi concentration camps, annihilation centers, slave labor camps and massacre sites.

From the Holocaust, we begin to understand the dangers of all forms of discrimination, prejudice and bigotry. These extreme forms of hatred can lead to mass genocide and endanger our ethical being. The Holocaust is a lesson learned in how evil can be commonplace and acceptable to the point where no one takes a stand until it's too late.

The national Holocaust "Days of Remembrance" are Sunday through April 24. During this week the 20th Fighter Wing Military Equal Opportunity office would like to encourage the base community to use this time of remembrance to research and reflect on the atrocity of the Holocaust and learn the lesson of what evil can be imposed upon us when we fail to ensure all people are treated with dignity and respect. Humanity's responsibility is to take care of one another.