

Commander's Connection



Photo by Mr. Keith Gedamke

Col. Sam Angelella (far right) and other veterans render a salute during a Memorial Day ceremony Monday at the General Mabry Memorial in Sumter.

"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

Why do pregnant military women have to wait until the eighth month of pregnancy to get permission to move out of the dorms?

A

Thank you for your question. According to Air Force Instruction 32-6005, *Unaccompanied Housing Management*, a request letter with the unit commander's approval may be submitted to the Unaccompanied Housing Manager to move from assigned dormitory housing to off-base housing at the fifth month of pregnancy. An earlier move may be requested if determined necessary by medical authority. To move to on-base housing, AFI 32-6001, *Family Housing Management*, states a single, pregnant service member may apply for housing 30 days prior to the expected delivery date. However, she will not be assigned housing until authorized with-dependent basic allowance for housing.

Airmen: vital role in U.S. success

By Gen. Hal Hornburg
Air Combat Command commander

In recent weeks, our endeavors to defeat terrorism and spread the blessings of liberty have faced serious challenges both on and off the fields of battle. It is critically important that we remain steadfast in our purpose and resolute in the performance of our duties. Despite perceptions to the contrary, we have achieved tremendous successes in Iraq, and you, America's Airmen, have played a pivotal role as you continue to serve and fight with honor and distinction.

Throughout Iraq, democracy, free enterprise, and modern conveniences are taking root. Iraqis have begun electing their own leaders, schools are reopening for boys and girls, and the port of Uhm Qasar boasts robust trade once again. Electrical power, safe drinking water, health care, and air transport are available to more Iraqis than ever before, some for the first time in their lives. And the Hammar marsh, one of the world's oldest wetlands, decimated by the previous regime during the 1990s, is well on its way to recovery (<http://www.usaid.gov/iraq/>). These are important, tangible signs of success -- the direct results of our efforts that began in earnest last year and continue today.

During the recent uprisings in the Sunni Triangle and An Najaf, U.S. Marine and Army forces exhibited extraordinary heroism and courage under fire. These warriors took the fight to the enemy, quelled the uprisings,

and restored order to a chaotic situation. But they didn't fight alone. ACC Airmen are proud to have been right there with them, bringing to bear expertise and firepower as only we can.

Each day, we generate and fly an average of 200 sorties over Iraq. During combat operations against enemy insurgents, our Airmen masterfully provided ground commanders with a precise view of the battlespace that aided planning and minimized our casualties. A third of these sorties were devoted to close air support, directed by our tactical air controllers who fought side by side with U.S. Army soldiers and Marines to ensure U.S. Air Force combat capabilities were fully integrated across the spectrum of combat operations.

These are only a few of the many success stories. Listing them all would require volumes. We each have a part to play, and we are making great things happen daily.

Let us not forget our purpose and our achievements. Don't allow yourself to be distracted by the shameful actions of a few that are so out of step with the values of our great Nation. So long as we persevere and continue to adhere to our Air Force core values, we will bring honor and credit to the United States, the Air Force, and ourselves.

As our battle cry has been, "Let's Roll," it is now, "Roll on!" We're doing the right things for the people of Iraq, our Nation, and, indeed, the world.



The Shaw Spirit

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Community, family define Team Shaw

By Lt. Col. Jay Ducharme
20th Comptroller Squadron commander

Ughhh, it's the Comptroller's turn to write again...no this isn't an article about budgets, or "a day in the life" of the money guy...it's about recognizing the many "Team Shaw" unsung heroes who take care of our "Town Shaw" families. I'd be remiss if before I depart I didn't publicly say thanks to all who made "Town Shaw" a great place to have raised a family the last two years.

Team Shaw has taken great care of Team Ducharme. Many of you are dual military, like us, while other families have two working spouses, or are single parents...we are all in the same boat. You know what I'm talking about when I say you can't raise children, have a career, and have a happy home life without many other people to rely on. For those who are not in this "boat" please read on; I can guarantee you also had many people who helped raise you, and it may be time you call them and say thank you as well.

Our "Team Ducharme" story is much the same as many others at Shaw; we have had many TDYs, late nights, early days, working weekends, exercises and deployments. Therefore, we are indebted to many others who stepped up to help feed us, watch our children, clean our house, mow our lawn, take the kids for sleepovers or to movies, or simply checked to ensure we were "safe and sound."

Team Shaw is made up of many people -- military, civilians, spouses, retirees -- and all of these caring people have taken good care of us at one time or another. This tribute is dedicated to those behind the scene -- unsung heroes -- who take care of all our children at Town Shaw.

I'll start with: "What an awesome place to raise our children." Ours have had many role models to emulate, like the older "kid-watchers" (not "babysitters" for our 9 and 7 year old) at Shaw; be it Ashley, Jesse, Mia, Mandy, Alex and Jo, or the neighbors and friends who have taken

them at a moment's notice like Steve and Vickie, Jim and Brenda, Steph and Rob, Stephen, Marilyn, Becky, Frank and Sue, Cheryl, Robin, Jennie and of course Boscoe. Lastly to Miss An, Mary, Trevor and Stilly, thanks for making our household chores easier; your help and support allowed us to enjoy more of our weekends instead of doing chores.

As you can see, my list goes on, and on, and I'm sure I've forgotten someone, but the point is, what a phenomenal group of people who all



pitch in because they know what it is like. I'm sure you've got your list as well...so have you said thank you to your friends lately for helping YOU so much?

I can't go any further without thanking those who watch our children at Town Shaw while we depart for duty each day. Yes, a town could not run smoothly without dedicated care givers at places like the Youth Center. These folks go about their lives taking care of our most prized possessions and not because they seek to get rich -- far from it -- but because they like "the little people." Once again, Team Ducharme never could have survived the last two years without Val, Deb, Mr D, Ms G, Alicesia, Maxine, Cynthia, Lee, Darien, Keesha, Linda, Patti, Amanda, Yisselle and Cassie....you are all

amazing folks! You've fed, helped with homework, played countless games and taught our girls many things; and your love to all the kids was obvious. All the parents owe you a HUGE debt of gratitude, two aspirin and some ear plugs!

There are so many integral parts to any superior team, and Town Shaw would not be as great a place to live without mentioning all the superior volunteers as well. These mentors do their magic in the evenings and on weekends. These folks are ones the Ducharmes will also very much miss when we leave...for instance, we were blessed with awesome ladies who taught Girl Scouts, Ms Christine and the Sunday school teachers, and Rachel and Michael who gave their free time to teach piano. We also had truly incredible soccer, basketball and baseball coaches each season. A common theme I've seen from all these mentors was none was "driven" to win at all costs or to get recognition for volunteering. Rather, they gave their time freely to teach games, religion and music and showed giving back to the community is not only fun, but what you do cheerfully with, and for, others!

Like the learned scholar Willy Wonka once said, "We've got so much time and so little to see...strike that, reverse it." My family and I won't forget the many life-long lessons taught to us in such a short time here: friendship, loyalty, trust and compassion were the common themes. Yes, there are lots of activities to participate in at Town Shaw. But it is the people who quietly go about ensuring everything gets done we will remember. Believe me, you do not go unnoticed -- you have made a difference, and you will be missed.

That is why Town Shaw has been so awesome for Team Ducharme. Towns (buildings, roads) don't take care of people; caring people take care of people...and we have been blessed with many. Thanks for the memories...you are always welcome in our home anytime, anywhere!

