



Newslines

Gate closure

The Polifka Gate will close Monday through July 5 for construction.

Change of command

Col. Sam Angelella will turn over command of the 20th Fighter Wing to Col. Philip M. Ruhlman at 9 a.m. Thursday at Hangar 1614.

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Jackson will relinquish command of the 20th Civil Engineer Squadron to Lt. Col. Mark Bednar at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Fire Department.

Lt. Col. Kelly J. Larson will turn over command of the 20th Component Maintenance Squadron to Maj. Michael J. Costello at 8:30 a.m. June 25 at Hangar 1614.

Tests for SMSgt

Beginning in December, Master Sergeants competing for promotion to Senior Master Sergeant will test between December 6 - 17 on the supervisory examination. Testing after December 17 will be considered out-of-cycle. For more information, call Master Sgt. Lisa Rice at 895-1597.

Weekend Weather

Saturday



PM t-storms
High: 94
Low: 74

Courtesy of the 20th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight

Sunday



Partly cloudy
High: 90
Low: 75

20th FW CC leaves Team Shaw, memories

As a wing commander moves on to another assignment, he takes memories with him and leaves behind a piece of history. Master Sgt. Michael Gartland, 20th Fighter Wing historian, had the recent opportunity to interview Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and discuss his thoughts prior to leaving Team Shaw.

Sgt. Gartland: How did your previous assignment as commander of the 332rd Air Expeditionary Wing in Kuwait prepare you for the challenge of deploying forces back to the same area of responsibility for Operation Iraqi Freedom?

Col. Angelella: The experience was invaluable. I could describe for our deploying members what it was going to be like from the time they got on the airplane here to the time they were engaged in operations, to include the travel, living conditions, preparation and equipment required. I think I was also able to allay some of their fears of the unknown.

I gave them an opportunity to ask questions from someone who was actually there. I also understood the importance of filling the taskings and having people there on time, because the troops over there can't wait around for people to



Col. Angelella and his wife, Marci

Photo by Staff Sgt. Josef Cole

decide whether or not they're going to go. OIF is our number one mission right now. So, I think being on the receiving end of deploying units was invaluable.

Sgt. Gartland: What challenges faced you, as a CONUS-based wing commander, having a large proportion of your folks deployed for the war?

Col. Angelella: My mission is to nurture and develop Airmen, to

deploy them when called to duty, and to have them ready to fight when ordered. Rather than having problems associated with deploying people, it actually makes you focus because you have a clear mission. You can tailor your training to that clear mission rather than wondering what you're training for.

The other thing, of course, that becomes a large portion of your mission when you have people deployed is taking care of their families. The outstanding work of our family support center, the group commanders, and the senior enlisted and officer spouses is critical in the care and feeding of all our Shaw families. It lets our deployed people concentrate on their job and it reassures the people here everything is going to be okay. We assist in a variety of ways, from helping people change their oil, to cutting their grass, to showing them where to get professional care for the things we can't handle.

Sgt. Gartland: Just before the war kicked off, there was an influx here of South Carolina Army National Guard troops. What assistance are they providing?

Col. Angelella: Having them here to help us out is a blessing. Specifically, although most people

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FSC offers advice for financial investing.



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deploy for 90 days on an AEF, now being updated to 120 days, the security forces are deployed for 180 days at a time because of the security environment in the AOR. Not only are the security requirements high in the AOR, but homeland security and the requirements for protecting the base and our personnel have also increased. So, the National Guardsmen are actually augmenting our security forces here at home, serving alongside them, and filling in for those members who are deployed.

Sgt. Gartland: Did the Operation Noble Eagle mission affect aircrew training or readiness?

Col. Angelella: We have been flying homeland defense missions since 9/11 -- the only active-duty wing to do so. But I have to tell you, with the brilliant group and squadron commanders we have -- and I mean that, brilliant -- they have been able to reflow our maintenance, our operations, and our support to ensure our maintainers stay current, the airplanes keep flying, and not one pilot has lost qualification throughout. That's remarkable, especially at such a large fighter wing with such a large commitment. So my hat's off to them; we've never a problem. We could always do more if we weren't performing these critical ONE missions, but through some good, hard work, they're able to make it happen.

Sgt. Gartland: Where there any problems in bedding down the Green Mountain Boys?

Col. Angelella: That was another blessing; it gave us a little bit of a break. Like Gen. Hornburg and Gen. Jumper say, "an Airman is an Airman with a capital A," whether he's active duty, Reserve, or Guard. I would say it was a seamless transition. We recently had a homeland defense evaluation in the 20th Fighter Wing, and the lessons we learned from that North American Aerospace Defense Command inspection made the transition even better for the Vermont Air National Guard. We had a lot of support from 1st Air Force, NORAD, and ACC during that whole transition period.

We're working together even today to make sure we're able to continuously support the NORAD mission. Right now, as the Green Mountain Boys prepare to deploy, we're working together again and the 20th Fighter Wing is prepared to respond to any homeland defense tasking. When they return, I anticipate another seamless transition back over to them.

Sgt. Gartland: What benefits did we gain by reorganizing into three, 24-aircraft fighter squadrons?

Col. Angelella: Overall, force structure changes are always an attempt to consolidate resources more economically. This economy of resources has focused our training and maintenance into three fighter squadrons. None of our commitments have gone away, but the change optimized our operational capability and improved our combat efficiency. That is the benefit.

Sgt. Gartland: How have aircraft modifications and weapons upgrades made our F-16CJ fleet more desirable to the warfighting commanders?

Col. Angelella: We are part of the CCIP, which is the Common Configuration Improvement Program. All of the Block 30, 40, and 50 aircraft will end up with a common configuration. Right

now, the 55th Fighter Squadron has several aircraft at the depot being modified with avionics hardware, software updates and new weapons systems. That will enable us to do our mission even better as the Air Force's and the world's premier fighter wing.

They are the most advanced systems on any F-16 in the world, and they are right here at Shaw. Everything -- our maintenance, our training -- is geared towards giving the warfighter, the combatant commander, what he needs to accomplish his mission.

Sgt. Gartland: What do construction projects such as the deployment processing center and aircraft maintenance units mean to the wing?

Col. Angelella: Again, we're developing and nurturing Airmen. This world-class operation deserves world-class facilities. We just opened the new education center to replace a building built in 1945 by German prisoners of war. This is all part of a continuing upgrade. Other buildings that are old have been modified several times.

In the future, fighters bedded down here at Shaw will be smart enough to call back to the maintenance unit themselves, order parts, and have those parts delivered to the flight line before they even land. The aircraft maintenance unit project is part of that vision, to get us moving in that direction.

With the increasing deployment mission we have, the deployment processing center is going to keep our people out of the rain. It will keep them in one facility; they are going to be able to issue, process, and deploy from one location -- another economy of resources.

We're also building a lot of things for our Airmen in the dormitory area. You'll notice the new dining facility makes it almost a small-community campus area. Airmen can easily walk from the dorms to the fitness center, to the dining hall, or to the education center.

In the future, we plan to increase the size of the fitness center, modernize the dorms, and eventually replace the library. Also, we don't just take care of the 20th Fighter Wing here. We take care of Ninth Air Force and our other tenant units. The number one item on Shaw's military construction list right now is a new building for the 609th Air Communications Squadron.

I'm excited about the future here at Shaw as we continue to improve all the facilities. Our people really deserve world-class facilities for the work they do.

Sgt. Gartland: Why do so many distinguished visitors visit the 20th Fighter Wing?

Col. Angelella: As we become more engaged in the Global War on Terrorism, the United States Air Force and the United States of America are not going to do this alone, but rather through a coalition of countries and forces. Recognizing that, a lot of the countries that purchase equipment, such as F-16s, will visit Shaw to see how we do our mission.

We've sponsored exchange programs. We teach them how we develop and nurture our professional NCO corps, which I believe is the most professional in the world. The responsibility and education of our NCO corps far surpasses anything you might

find elsewhere. Other people recognize that and want to see how we do it.

They come to see our award-winning facilities like the tower simulator, propulsion flight, armament flight, and fuels flight. We've taken people to see our medical group, operations group, and homeland defense commitment. Some of our Airmen, officer and enlisted, are on-duty, 24/7/365; we never had that before the Operation Noble Eagle mission. So, it's not just foreign dignitaries who come to visit, it's also dignitaries from the United States, from 1st Air Force, from NORAD, from other military services, to see how we're accomplishing our mission.

Sgt. Gartland: How would you describe the relationship with Sumter's civic leaders?

Col. Angelella: Outstanding! I say this frequently, and I mean it every time: It goes without saying that commanding a fighter wing is an honor, but when I first found out about this assignment to Shaw I was told not about the fighter wing, but the community.

We have the model air force base-community relationship. When you enter town on the main street, you see a sign that says, "Welcome to Shaw-Sumter." The people here truly believe that. They help us take care of our families when our troops are deployed and they help us take care of our troops when they're here. We are a part of their community, and they are a part of ours.

Our honorary commanders program is a model for the Air Force. Every commander on base has a gracious civilian counterpart who participates in squadron events and also invites the squadron to civic events downtown, just to make us feel like we're more part of the community.

I was away for school for six weeks this spring. When people asked me where I was from, I would say Sumter I feel like that now; I feel like I'm from Sumter. I can't say enough about how wonderful the people are here in Sumter.

Sgt. Gartland: Is there anything else you'd like to discuss?

Col. Angelella: The thing that has made this assignment so special and meaningful to me has been the people -- the Airmen, the families, and the community from the bottom up: the children in the schools, the educators in the local area, the community leaders, the business partners, fellow wing commanders throughout Air Combat Command, group and squadron commanders, chiefs, first sergeants, yourself -- all of the Airmen. All of the civilians we have here, people in the headquarters, and all of the associate units -- I wish I had time to thank everyone by name.

I really feel like I'm turning over a well-tuned, world-class organization to the new commander, not because of anything I did, but because of everything these people did while I watched. It really is satisfying to do that with confidence.

I thank Brig. Gen. Bill Rew for leaving the wing to me in great shape and such a high state of readiness. I wish all of Team Shaw the very best, and know they will continue their superior performance as they welcome Col. Philip Ruhlman, his wife Lina, and their son to Shaw.

(See related photos on Page 8.)

Report confirms base drinking water is safe

By Lt. Col. Jim Harcarik
20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron
bioenvironmental engineering flight commander

The annual Consumer Confidence Report on the quality of water delivered by Shaw Air Force Base during calendar year 2003 was recently released. Under the "Consumer Confidence Reporting Rule" of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, community water systems are required to report water quality information to the consuming public. As required by regulation, results reported in 2004 are based upon samples collected and analyzed in 2003.

Following is the annual report.

Sources of Water

Shaw's well water sources are from the Upper and Lower Black Creek Aquifers. The aquifers feed the following wells:

- Well 1 (South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control well identification number G43119), located in Building 523 on Lance Avenue
- Well 2 is permanently capped
- Well 3 (SCDHEC well identification number G43121), located in Building 2233 on Rhodes Avenue
- Well 4 (SCDHEC well identification number G43122), located in Building 2004 on Rhodes Avenue

■ Well 5 (SCDHEC well identification number G43123), located in Building 1415 on Patrol Road

■ Well 6 (SCDHEC well identification number G43124), located in Building 3656 on Elm Street

■ Well 7 (SCDHEC well identification number G43125), located in Building 5640 on Sycamore Street

Following last year's CCR, SCDHEC conducted a "source water" assessment for Shaw. This report is available for public review at www.scdhec.net/water/html/srcwtr.html or by contacting 2nd Lt. Mark Caspar at 895-6196.

Monitoring of Your Drinking Water

Shaw routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. Our water system uses only Environmental Protection Agency-approved laboratory methods to analyze drinking water. Bioenvironmental Engineering personnel routinely take water samples from the distribution system and residents' taps. Samples are then taken to an accredited laboratory where full-spectrum water quality analyses are performed. Compliance samples are also validated on a regular basis through monitoring performed by SCDHEC.

Important Telephone Numbers

All sources of drinking water are subject to poten-

tial contamination by substances naturally occurring or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can also be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Detected Compounds

Shaw constantly monitors for various constituents in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. Table 1 lists only those compounds detected at levels greater than laboratory method detection limits. Many other compounds are also analyzed, but were not present or were below the detection limits of the laboratory equipment.

What does this mean?

Shaw's system had no violations. We're proud your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined your water is

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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.)

■ An Airman was apprehended for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Underage Consumption of Alcohol and Open Container while operating his vehicle in the vicinity of a base dormitory.

■ An Airman reported his bicycle stolen from his carport at his base housing residence.

■ An Airman was apprehended for Simple Assault for assaulting an airman in the vicinity of a base dormitory.

■ There were 16 traffic citations issued during the 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.



Question Corner ?

Question: Gifts from foreign governments exceeding the U.S. value of \$285 must be reported according to which Air Force Instruction?

Answer to last week's question: On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson officially established Flag Day and National Flag Day is currently observed June 14.

Last week's winner: Staff Sgt. William Updyke, 20th 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 and receive two free tickets to the Air Force Birthday Ballset for Sept. 18.

Traffic Tips

When driving in fog:

- Take fog-related weather warnings seriously
- Turn on wipers, defroster and low beam headlights
- Turn off the radio to avoid distractions and listen for car horns or engines
- Brake cautiously, since moisture can make roads slick
- If conditions are too dangerous to continue, pull off the road, turn on emergency flashers and wait for improved conditions



DUI/DWI Statistics

Last incident: 5 days
Last unit: 20th CES
2004 total: 25
2003 total: 28

(As of Wednesday)

Punishment: Military members who receive a DUI/DWI are subject to: reduction in rank, forfeiture of pay and driving privileges, extra duty, Article 15 actions and more.

AADD
Past week's saves: 24

Shaw's Airmen Against Drunk Driving offer free, confidential rides back to base for members who are intoxicated. For a ride, call 983-9722.

SMSgt. David B. Reid Airman Leadership School graduates

The following Team Shaw members completed Senior Master Sgt. David B. Reid Airman Leadership School Class 04-E. The graduation ceremony was June 10 at the Conference Center. The speaker was Lt. Col. Bradford Reinert, 6th Maintenance Group deputy commander, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

20th Fighter Wing

Senior Airman Evett Ybarra

20th Maintenance Group

Senior Airman Latonya Stuckey

20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Joshua Burns;
Senior Airman Tanesha Foster;
Senior Airman Joshua Gilreath; Senior Airman Jason Hamrick; Senior Airman Joanne Parker; Senior Airman Mitchell Ward; Senior Airman Jimmy Welsh Jr.

20th Component Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Kenneth Boston; Senior Airman James Johnson; Senior Airman James Winter; Senior Airman Jeremy Witmer

20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Jeremy Davis; Senior Airman Deidra Grant; Senior Airman Richard Harris;

Senior Airman Joseph Rinker Jr.

20th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Staff Sgt. Nadia Besant

20th Civil Engineer Squadron

Staff Sgt. James Phillips; Senior Airman Ronald Cooper; Senior Airman Brandon Floyd; Senior Airman Jason Tilley

20th Communications Squadron

Senior Airman Michael Booker; Senior Airman Ryder Hayes; Senior Airman Sean Hill

20th Mission Support Squadron

Senior Airman Karen Brown

20th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Terry Bufkin Jr.

20th Services Squadron

Senior Airman Regina Kelly; Senior Airman Tia Thomas

20th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Senior Airman Juston Lafler; Senior Airman Ancele Prince; Senior Airman Onita Richardson; Senior Airman Kylish Thomas

20th Medical Operations Squadron

Senior Airman Taewon Cash

9th Information Warfare Flight

Senior Airman William Horton Jr.

28th Operational Weather Squadron

Senior Airman Jason Lesch; Senior Airman Raymond Polansky Jr.

609th Air Communications Squadron

Senior Airman Bj Howell; Senior Airman Lucas McNeil; Senior Airman Andrew Souza

337th Recruiting Squadron

Senior Airman Clifton Fulkerson

682nd Air Support Operations Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Jenkins

15th Air Support Squadron

Senior Airman Katina Zantt

31st Intelligence Squadron

Senior Airman Scott Baskin; Senior Airman Tennille Watts

Award winners:

John Levitow Award: Sgt. Jenkins

Academic Award: Airman Lesch

Leadership Award: Airman Lafler

Distinguished Graduates: Airmen Fulkerson, Lesch, Winter and Horton



20th FW commander bids farewell to Shaw



Col. Sam Angelella (center), 20th Fighter Wing commander, and other senior leaders take part in a base jet pull Nov. 14, 2003. The colonel, who took command here in February 2003, is preparing for a PCS to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Belgium.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Watts



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Above, Col. Angelella prepares for a shot at the 20th Medical Operations Squadron immunizations clinic Nov. 1, 2003.

Below left, Col. Angelella, his son Tony, and daughter Mia finish a 5-K run in base housing Sept. 13, 2003.

Below right, in a ceremony here Feb. 27, 2004, Col. Angelella recognizes the Honorable Joe McElveen (left), Mayor, City of Sumter, as the 20th FW's 2004 honorary commander.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber McCarthy



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Watts

Above, Col. Angelella operates an excavator while demolishing Carolina Pines Dining Facility June 5, 2003. The area became additional parking for dorm residents and the Chief Master Sgt. Emerson E. Williams Dining Facility was built across the street.

Right, Col. Angelella (center) speaks with E-4s and below at an Airmen's breakfast Jan. 9, 2004. During the meals, which are held quarterly, Airmen have an opportunity to ask questions and comment on base issues.

Right, Col. Angelella thanks civilian workers at a picnic at Memorial Lake on base Sept. 9, 2003. The event honored those employees responsible for the upkeep of Shaw grounds.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy Simon



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

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safe at these levels.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Acronyms and Definitions

The following definitions are provided to assist with terms used in the report:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) -- regulatory agency whose mission is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment -- air, land, and sea.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) -- recognized as the lead federal agency for protecting the health and safety of people at home and abroad, providing credible information to enhance health decisions, and promoting health through strong partnerships.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control (SCDHEC) -- regulatory agency responsible for enforcing environmental regulations in the state of South Carolina.

Non-Detects (ND) -- laboratory analysis indicates the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) -- one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter -- one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

90th Percentile -- utilized for lead and copper levels and computed as fol-

lows:

1. The results of all lead or copper samples taken during a monitoring period shall be placed in ascending order, from the sample with the lowest concentration to the sample with the highest concentration. Each sampling result shall be assigned a number, ascending by single integers beginning with the number one for the sample with the lowest contaminant level. The number assigned to the sample with the highest contaminant level shall be equal to the total number of samples taken;

2. The number of samples taken during the monitoring period shall be multiplied by 0.9;

3. The contaminant concentration in the numbered sample yielded by the calculation in paragraph 2 is the 90th percentile contaminant level.

Action Level (AL) -- the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) -- the "Maximum Allowed"

(MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal -- the "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Method Detection Limit (MDL) -- the lowest concentration of a contaminant that can be detected using the required EPA sampling and analysis methods. An MDL is specific for each contaminant and type of analysis performed.

Questions?

If you have any questions or would like additional copies of this report, please contact the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight **895-6196**.

All Shaw members are invited to attend any of our regularly scheduled Water Quality Team meetings, held on the first Tuesday of every month at 2 p.m. in the Environmental Flight

Detected Compounds Table Inorganic Contaminants

This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2003.

Contaminant	Violation	Level Detected	Range of Detection	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	No	0.5200 (1)	(2)	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Fluoride (3)	No	0.99	.099	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead	No	ND (1)	(2)	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	No	1.9	0.34 - 1.9	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

(1) This value represents the 90th percentile value, used for compliance reporting. 90% of results in the test set were below this level.

(2) The 90th percentile is reported as an exact number. Therefore, no range is required for these results.

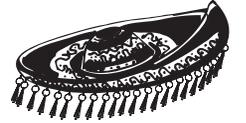
(3) Samples for these compounds are not required to be analyzed on an annual basis. This data represents the most recent round of samplings taken in 2002.



Hispanic Heritage Dance

The Hispanic Heritage Committee is scheduled to host a dance June 25 from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Club Shaw. The cost is \$3 in advance, \$5 at the door. Music to be featured includes soca, salsa, merengue, Spanish Reggae, bachata, dance hall and more. Refreshments will be available.

To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Staff Sgt. Jose Maldonado at jose.maldonado@shaw.af.mil or call Staff Sgt. Vince Jervier at 895-2970.



Web site explains National Security Personnel System

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Defense has launched a new Web site to educate civilian employees about the new National Security Personnel System introducing sweeping changes in the way the department hires, pays, promotes, disciplines and fires civilian employees.

Brad Bunn, acting deputy program executive officer, NSPS Program Executive Office, explained the site, www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/, is meant to help DoD employees understand the new personnel system.

"Change is difficult, and lack of information about coming changes often leads to stress and anxiety and misperceptions about what those changes really mean," he said. "We recognize that, and are committed to communicating to our employees what NSPS will mean to them. We will be open, honest, and clear about NSPS, and our Web site is designed to encourage employee involvement, interest and minimize misconceptions."

He also emphasized the site will help those affected by the changes to understand the rationale and benefits of NSPS and it will be useful in keeping employees informed as the system evolves.

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act, allowing the DoD new authority to develop new civilian human resources, labor-management relations and employee appeals systems.

The new Web site offers an overview of what DoD employees can expect from the new personnel system, as well as information regarding issues of labor-management and employee unions, and links to NSPS-related documents.

One of the more powerful features of the NSPS Web site is a mechanism for visitors to submit comments and ideas about NSPS directly to the executive office, Mr. Bunn said.

"We continuously monitor the input from visitors, and the ideas and comments we receive through the Web site will help us gauge what employees and other

stakeholders are really concerned about," he said.

The site will be a primary NSPS communication vehicle, and will be used throughout all phases of the NSPS design and implementation process.

"It certainly won't be our only means of communication, but it's a central source of information on NSPS," he explained. "We want to ensure DoD employees have a reliable, continuing source of information as the system develops."

The Web site is the second attempt by NSPS to get the word out about the new personnel system. A previous Web site was taken down as a result of the three-week strategic review of the NSPS design and implementation process directed by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in April.

Mr. Bunn said the new site reflects a conscious effort to minimize confusion about plans for NSPS.

"We decided to redesign the site giving it a new look and feel, to ensure it reflects the results of the strategic review," said Mr. Bunn. "We encourage our Web site visitors to offer their comments and suggestions about how the new site can become even better."



Air Force News

F-16CJ accident report released

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. -- Pilot error caused two F-16CJs to collide Mar. 9 during a training mission over the Atlantic Ocean approximately 35 miles southeast of Myrtle Beach, S.C., according to a report Air Force officials released recently.

The two F-16CJs landed safely at Shaw, and both pilots were uninjured. The aircraft, assigned to the 79th Fighter Squadron, sustained a combined damage estimated at \$208,000. The collision occurred during a basic fighter maneuver engagement.

The investigation found improper task prioritization and channelized attention led to mishap pilot two's failure to control the distance between the two aircraft. *(Brief courtesy of ACC News Service.)*

Upgrade delays online job search

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- People will be unable to complete or update online resumes for Air Force civilian employment today

through June 26 for a computer system upgrade.

New job vacancies will not be posted during this time, and deadlines for those already posted will be extended.

For more information, call the Air Force Customer Service Center at **(800) 616-3775** and press 3 for employment opportunities and verification. *(Brief courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service.)*

Patient safety: Air Force priority

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. -- Although the National Patient Safety Foundation celebrates Patient Safety Awareness week in March, Air Force Medical Service officials take it on as a year-round process.

"Delivery of safe and effective patient care hinges on detecting, assessing, eliminating and/or controlling actual and potential risk to patients and staff, while enhancing performance," said Lt. Col. Beth Kohsin. She is the Air Force patient safety program manager with the Air Force Medical Support Agency.

Col. Kohsin has been traveling to military installations to educate service members on medical-team training designed to reduce the risks of health care.

"(AFMS officials are) striving to modify basic beliefs on how to deliver safer and more

effective health care," Colonel Kohsin said.

She said they are constantly reminding people that patient safety is the application of operation risk management to health care.

Commanders are responsible for routine application of risk identification, risk reduction and avoidance, and risk management in the planning and execution of all aspects of health care, she said.

With more than 60% of preventable medical events and near misses in the military involving some aspect of the medication process, the Air Force has focused a lot of its attention on pharmacy operations.

"The Air Force is currently the only service to standardize pharmacy automation," Col. Kohsin said. "Through this automation initiative, which includes bar coding and visual imagery technology, (officials are) able to verify medications dispensed to patients are the ones prescribed."

"Since the implementation of the automated bar coding, errors when dispensing medications have become nearly obsolete," said Staff Sgt. Tami Estep, 20th Medical Support Squadron pharmacy technician.

(Brief courtesy of Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs. Airman 1st Class Susan Penning contributed to this article.)