

Commander's Connection



Photo by Staff Sgt. Josef Cole

Col. Philip Ruhlman (center) and his wife, Lina (right), are welcomed by Chief Patty Patterson (left), Sumter chief of police Thursday in the Conference Center.

"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Philip Ruhlman, 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 Many of my coworkers and I travel Patrol Road several times a day to accomplish our mission. This is more difficult with construction on part of the road, the skeet range occasionally shutting down the detour road, and the newly constructed road behind the FAMCAMP randomly closed for fitness tests. All this creates a problem for people who travel this road.

A We have some good news. The Health and Wellness Center is validating a new trail near the fitness test road. After approval, all future tests will be administered on the new trail, leaving the current road open for vehicle traffic. Currently, testing is to be set up with the HAWC staff, which coordinates with the skeet range for times. Additionally, the new road around the commercial vehicle inspection gate is set to open in July and will provide another route.

Message of support from AOR

Officer renders words of pride to troops

By Capt. Tiffany Law
379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron

Looking around this base, buildings are going up at a record pace and aircraft taxiing on the ramp are at a dizzying tempo. Make no mistake about it; this place is just as busy, if not busier, than any other base in the area of responsibility.

We have one major difference however, and we are very lucky for it. People here are not getting shot at or attacked on a daily basis. Does that make

our jobs here any less honorable? Heck no, our jobs are as important as it gets. We're the hub of the AOR.

Hundreds of support personnel on this base make the job easier every day. I am proud to be a part of such a team, but the success of this team effort is solely dependent on everyone pulling their own weight.

From the security forces guard standing out in the elements for 12 hours at a time to the civil engineer who digs a hole for communication wire, the pride each and every one of us takes in our duties reflects upon this base. If one person doesn't take the time and put forth the effort to get it done right the first time, the consequences can be fatal.

Pride in what you do is the heart of being an Airman. By rendering a crisp salute to a passing officer and the officer returning that salute, we are honoring the millions who have worn the uniform before us. By completing

the task at hand with the utmost professionalism and courtesy, you are honoring yourself as well as your unit. Everything you do is a reflection of the qualities and principles you stand for. If a task is completed less than satisfactorily, that is a direct reflection on you, and around here, it doesn't go unnoticed.

For example, every time I passed a young

Airman on third country national escort duty, he stood up and rendered a salute accompanied with a greeting. I thought to myself, this young man is a true profession-

al. Another young lady spent an hour every day picking up trash just because she thought it looked messy. I thought to myself, "Wow."

Both instances remind me of why I chose to join the U.S. Air Force.

As I near the end of my one-year tour here, I challenge all of you to continue to rise above and promote the professional Air Force image. Perform every task to the utmost of your ability because somebody is watching. It may not be your direct supervisor, it may not even be somebody you know, but I guarantee there are eyes absorbing the work you do. It doesn't go unnoticed, and it's not forgotten.

Your efforts directly impact the Soldiers and Airmen who are taking fire from the enemy daily.

At the end of the day, when you head back to home, I hope you feel the sense of pride in ownership I do and know you are doing an outstanding job.

“Pride in what you do is the heart of being an Airman ... By completing the task at hand with the utmost professionalism and courtesy, you are honoring yourself as well as your unit.”

Capt. Tiffany Law
379th Expeditionary Maintenance Operations Squadron

The Shaw Spirit

Shaw Air Force Base editorial staff

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



U.S. Air Force is 'people' corporation

By Mr. Christopher Aamold
20th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy base civil engineer

I'm writing this article from a hotel room in Ohio after reading the morning newspaper. Today's headlines included a story about a search-engine Web site becoming a publicly traded company. The site is truly an impressive operation, founded just six years ago. It is estimated to be worth \$35 billion, had \$1 billion in revenue last year and most importantly, my personal choice for internet search engines.

By contrast, the federal government was founded nearly 230 years ago. Its worth is estimated to be priceless, it spent thousands of dollars last year, and it is my current employer. Not a great comparison here, but have you ever considered parallels between your government job and what your civilian counterpart is doing?

For example, we, in the government, usually get money and spend all of it. The question to ask is "Do we spend it like a business?" I would say we, as a whole, certainly do not — especially not in the civilian business sense.

Consider a completely hypothetical situation. Imagine you or your commander switching job locations with a civilian counterpart away from Shaw for a month. What do you think would happen at Shaw? Would the proverbial belt tighten? Would spending be reduced? Would your area be generally run with a stronger, more enhanced business sense? I believe most of these things would happen. However, it would all be based on the concept of return on investment centered solely on the almighty dollar.

Businesses operate in a truly capitalistic manner. They are created and exist to produce either goods or services and sell them for a profit so they can make more goods or services and sell those for a profit, too. They rarely spend money on something that won't allow them to make more money. With the exception of a few squadrons, the Air Force generally doesn't operate in this fashion.

I contend the military operates a more enhanced concept of return on investment. When Shaw spent its money last year, some went toward mission operations, some went toward mission support operations and some went toward people support operations. My definition of people sup-

port includes everything from quality of life to family support to outdoor recreation.

Again, compare your situation to your counterparts off base. I think you'll find nearly all companies are void of dedicated people support programs such as those in the Air Force.

Ask yourself if they get days off to share in the company's success (UTE days)? Do they get 30 days of paid vacation every year? Do they get family days? Do they get to exercise on work time? It is also important to realize your counterparts generally can't use their time off to take advantage of the people support programs offered by the Air Force.

While I didn't set out to be an Air Force recruiter, especially since I am not military myself, it seems I've almost done just that. However, my real point is the Air Force tries to strike a balance with business value and quality of life. That is a hard balance to achieve and I witness Shaw leadership working to maintain it on a regular basis.

This is certainly not a corporation in the traditional sense of the word. It is more of a corporation interested in getting a great product and taking care of and keeping people as happy as possible.



Bring in the new

Left, the Shaw sign facing Highway 378 was demolished Monday by Col. Scott Mason, 20th Mission Support Group commander, and other contractors. Right, the new sign displays the Air Force symbol.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Lee Watts