



Dear fellow Team Shaw members,

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality my family and I have enjoyed since our arrival here.

I am excited and proud to command the 20th Fighter Wing and to be among some of the most professional military members and civilians in the Air Force. I look forward to working with each of you as we face the challenges of the future.

Again, thank you for a memorable welcome to this premier wing and base.



*Sincerely,
Philip M. Ruhlman
Colonel, USAF
Commander*

Mentorship = success

By Lt. Col. Troy Molnar
20th Medical Support Squadron commander

Mentorship is a word we hear often in our Air Force. Our Air Force leaders describe mentorship as a key to developing the Air Force's greatest asset, our people.

What is mentorship? When many people discuss the word mentorship, they think of a structured one-dimensional approach. The supervisor will advise an individual on everything from career development to goals.

My experience has taught me mentorship is given at many levels and is received at many levels, not just from a supervisor. It is important to note mentorship is a gift that can be received as well as given. I have received as well as given mentoring to Airmen, NCOs, senior NCOs, and civilians in my more than 20-year career in the Air Force.

I experienced mentorship for the first time as an Airman basic. My first supervisor, a staff sergeant, advised me to go to college since I seemed "pretty sharp." While in college, I had other Air Force classmates who advised me to try for a commission. Fortunately for me, I listened to both suggestions and four years later, I was a second lieutenant. They mentored me to levels I had previously thought unachievable.

Once I arrived at my first duty station as a manpower officer, a civilian employee who retired as a chief master

sergeant took me under his wing. He told me the manpower career field was going to take a big cut in about two years, and I might get caught up in the cut. I listened in disbelief. I asked him, "What do I do now?" He advised me to go back to school and get a Master's degree in hospital administration, then apply for the Medical Service Corps. Again, I listened to my mentor and thirty months later I was accepted into the Medical Service Corps.

I was truly amazed by my mentors' desires to help me reach new career goals. They helped to develop another key characteristic in me. The mentoring I received prompted me to develop

a strong desire to give the mentoring spirit back to others in the Air Force.

Over the years, I have been fortunate enough to help several people receive commissions, complete college courses, get special-duty assignments, cross train into other career fields and meet other career or personal goals.

I can't describe how good it feels to get a card, phone call or personal thank you for helping someone meet their goals. Without a doubt, mentoring is the most rewarding part of my Air Force career.

I encourage everyone to be a mentor and allow yourself to be mentored. You will find it can be contagious. Good mentors help to further develop our Air Force's future and current leaders.



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.

4th of July messages

By Dr. James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force
and Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON -- For the last 228 years our nation has been the beacon for peace, freedom and opportunity around the world. America earned that reputation through courageous acts of patriotism.

On Sunday, we'll celebrate with family and friends the joys of peace and the blessings of freedom. Please remember those who paid the ultimate price defending the values established by our forefathers. This Independence Day is especially meaningful as we support the rebirth of Iraqi sovereignty and defend freedom far from home. Please remember our deployed Airmen in your thoughts and prayers.

America looks to you as their representatives of pride, strength and perseverance in times of peace and war. We're proud of you and salute your great service. We wish you and your families a safe and happy 4th of July!

By Gen. Hal M. Hornburg
Air Combat Command commander

When our founding fathers adopted the Declaration of Independence, they sent the message that all peoples, groups, races and nations have an unalienable right to live free from the yoke of tyranny and oppression.

Sunday, we should look to the symbolic birth of our great Nation as a source of hope and inspiration. We should also reflect on the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters-in-arms who have fought and fallen in the name of freedom -- not just for Americans, but for all people.

We will also honor you today and all the noble work you do at home and abroad for the cause of liberty for all mankind. Your willingness to sacrifice and your professionalism, patriotism and warrior spirit have never faltered.

Cynthia joins me in sending our best wishes for a safe and joyous Independence Day.

Airman on the street

What do you value most about being an American?



"This country sets the example for others about what's right and what the world needs to make it a better place." -- **Senior Airman Matthew Flatt, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron**



"Coming home from overseas, I saw all these yellow ribbons. As Americans, we have pride in our country and support each other." -- **Senior Airman Dorothy Barron, 609th Air Intelligence Squadron**

ACC commander urges Airmen to keep safety at forefront

By Gen. Hal M. Hornburg
Air Combat Command commander

Thanks to all of you who made the "101 Critical Days of Summer" kick-off weekend a tremendous success! Air Combat Command did not experience a Class A mishap during the first "official" weekend of the 2004 summer.

This was a great start and a significant achievement, but recent events remind us we must continue to keep safety at the forefront of our summer activities. The July 4th holiday weekend is upon us and as we pause to celebrate our Nation's independence, many will reflect upon the freedoms and peace we so dearly cherish. While this is certainly deserving of a celebration with all the fireworks, merriment and high spirits we can muster, it would be unfortunate to spoil it with an injury or, worse yet, a fatality.

We must constantly remind ourselves the job of mishap prevention is never ending. Regardless of how you choose to celebrate this holiday, celebrate it responsibly. During last year's July 4 weekend we lost one Airman in a vehicle accident while 12 others suffered various injuries in a variety of mishaps. Seven of the mishaps occurred on the holiday, with one individual actually burned lighting fireworks.

Without question, the majority of our fatalities and serious injuries occur in private motor vehicle operations, and commonly involve drinking, excessive speed and failure to use seat belts.

Although each individual is ultimately responsible for their own safety, each of you is expected to set the proper example for others to follow. If you find yourself in the position to prevent an unsafe act, do it. Don't hesitate to remind someone else their reckless actions or disregard for

others can lead to tragic consequences.

All Airmen are expected to help those around them when it comes to appropriately planning and taking the precautions necessary to enjoy the extended weekend. You've already proven this past Memorial Day, it can be done. Looking out for others is nothing new to so many of you who willingly provide selfless service to others daily, in defense of the same freedoms we will remember during this holiday. I ask that you carry this same attitude forward and keep each other free from harm while driving, watching fireworks, boating, picnicking or playing sports. Regardless of what the activity may be, emphasizing safety awareness and maintaining vigilance are crucial for safely enjoying it.

As we reflect upon and participate in the events celebrating our Nation's independence, let us all have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

