



Newslines

Appreciation Day

E-6s -- E-1s and their families are invited to the annual Junior Enlisted Appreciation Day 1 p.m. today at Lake Wateree.

Eight cabins will be available for overnight use along with music, food, beverages and activities. Transportation will be provided. For more information, call Master Sgt. Brian Morgan at **895-2746**.

Med Group closure

The 20th Medical Group will be closed August 13 for an official function.

For medical emergencies, call **911** or seek care at the nearest emergency room. For non-emergencies, call **895-2273**.

MPF closure

The Military Personnel Flight will be closed Aug. 13 at 12:30 p.m. for an official function. The customer service desk will remain open.

For more information, call Chief Arnell Credle or Maj. David Stanfield at **895-1600**.

Disposition of effects

Any persons having claims against the estate of Tech. Sgt. Steve W. Vereen should contact 1st Lt. Peter Cusack at **895-9601**.

(More Newslines on Page 4)

Weekend Weather

Saturday



Partly cloudy
High: 88
Low: 60

Sunday



Sunny
High: 91
Low: 62

Courtesy of the 20th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight

AADD: privilege, not entitlement

Volunteers offer time to get Shaw members home safely

By Senior Airman Ron Haynes
20th Component Maintenance Squadron

Can you remember a time in your life when you needed to call your parents to pick you up because you were in a jam? Remember how relieved and glad you were when they pulled up in their car? After all, who wouldn't be thankful for a free and safe ride home?

Airmen Against Drunk Driving is a volunteer organization that provides free rides home to Shaw members who have been drinking. The service is anonymous for those who act appropriately and respectfully.

Recently, there have been several incidents where AADD was forced to take action to protect its volunteers because of pranks, abusive callers and inappropriate behavior.

Regardless of how much you have had to drink, you are not released from your responsibility as a military member. We must always remember we are Airmen 24/7.

Because the AADD program gives callers the right to remain anonymous, a few people believe this is a ticket to do or say whatever they want without repercussions.

The first thing alcohol impairs is your judgment. That is why it is so important to have a responsible plan before one drop of liquor is consumed. Part of that responsibility includes the choice to designate or be a designated driver. This choice shows you are acting unselfishly and being courteous to our drivers, who would probably prefer

to spend their personal time doing something other than chauffeuring. AADD is not designed to be a first option, but there are many people who plan on using AADD even before they start drinking.

"The purpose of the program is to save lives ... to rescue Airmen who wind up in a situation where driving under the influence would be deadly," said Col. Philip Ruhlman, 20th Fighter Wing commander. "However, recently we have observed personnel abusing AADD and that's just not right."

Here's something you may not know: AADD is not an additional duty or assigned detail, but is completely run by volunteers who make the sacrifice of waking up in the middle of the night. They do it because they sincerely care about you getting home safely. Many volunteers help out because they have experienced the tragedy of losing someone who made the poor decision to drive drunk.

The program never turns someone away simply for needing a ride home; even those who use the program compulsively.

Something to keep in mind, however: If someone is disrespecting a volunteer, they will not receive a ride from AADD. When you call AADD for support, you will be required to give the dispatcher a phone number where you can be reached, and you must also have your military ID with you. The dispatcher will then take down information about where you are and where you need to go.

Remember to wait outside for the driver and do not try to bring a drink in the volunteer's vehicle with you. This may sound obvious, but two Airmen brought an open container with them and were arrested by security forces.

AADD is anonymous, unless you give someone a reason to find out who you are. Most people who use AADD act with respect and appreciation for the service we provide. But those few who act inappropriately cause the program to lose volunteers.

Be aware, drivers have been instructed to drop off people at the gate who are acting aggressively, directing profanity or making sexual advances at drivers. If a military member is refused a ride, he or she will be directed to call a cab, friend, reporting official or first sergeant for pickup.

In March, the AADD program was modified to provide more reliable service. Instead of two volunteers with cell phones, both phones now go to one person whose responsibility is to dispatch drivers. Since this change, AADD has provided twice as many rides per month.

AADD operates from 4 p.m. Thursdays to 8 p.m. on the last non-duty day — usually Sundays — and has driven more than 700 people home since Jan. 1.

The program is always looking for volunteers. For more information, e-mail Senior Airman Ron Haynes at haynes.ronald@shaw.af.mil.

(Airman 1st Class Susan Penning contributed to this article.)



Page 19:

OSI urges Team Shaw to watch out for fraud.

Page 21:

Buying a car? The FSC has tips to help.



Shaw wives enter wild blue yonder

By 2nd Lt. Bryan Cox
Internal Information chief

When your office is a single-seat cockpit and you spend most days working miles above the ground, it may be difficult to show your spouse what you do for a living.

"I've been married four years and, until now, I've never seen him [in the air], just from the ground," said Capt. Stefanie Williams, 20th Communications Squadron planning and implementations flight commander. Her husband is Capt. Matt Williams, 77th Fighter Squadron pilot. "He talks about what flying is like, but hearing about flying isn't the same as seeing him do it," she said.

Capt. P.K. Carlton, 55th FS Flight A commander, spent three months coordinating the idea of bringing wives aboard an aircraft to see their husbands in the air.

"We want to take care of our families and seeing your husband fly is a

unique privilege," said Capt. Carlton. "The rules say it's legal to give wives a flight as long as it's not in a fighter; all you need is a crew willing to do it. Our pilots practice aerial refueling so my thought was to put the wives in the back of a tanker and let them watch their husbands on an actual mission."

The 77th Aerial Refueling Squadron at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., agreed to host the spouses during a training mission with Shaw jets. After approval by both commands, 35 wives climbed aboard a KC-135 July 29 to meet 17 Shaw F-16s in the skies.

During the three-hour mission each spouse waited for her chance to squeeze into the rear and watch her husband pull up to the refueling boom just a few feet away.

"I'm really excited to see him in the jet, but to be honest he's more excited to have me see him," Mrs. Yvonne Fraser said about her hus-



Photo by 2nd Lt. Bryan Cox

Mrs. Sara McCarty, wife of Capt. Matt McCarty, 77th FS pilot, listens to Master Sgt. Barry Bradley, 77th ARS, explain aerial refueling procedures from the boom operator position of a KC-135.

band Maj. Russ Fraser, 79th FS assistant director of operations.

"It could be years before these ladies have a chance to do this again," said Capt. Carlton. "Our

pilots do a great job every day, but often all people see of them is when the jets take off and land. I'm happy we're able to let them share this part of their lives."

Beware: identity theft closer than you think

By Ms. Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

People use the internet every day with the thought that it's extremely useful. Some people answer personal questions posed by telemarketers without giving it a second thought. There are also people who think a check card is as safe as cash. However, according to agents with Shaw's Office of Special Investigations, these actions can be as dangerous as they are convenient. They also say protection can be as simple as being educated.

"It's an educational process but we are willing to educate," said Special Agent Rodney White, Shaw OSI. "We want to be more active on base so more people are aware of fraud and the ways it can happen to them."

OSI gives briefings at the First Term Airman Course, Right Start, to government purchase card holders and finance and accounting representatives on base. They also work directly with the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

According to Special Agent Tonya Stott, Shaw OSI, by releasing personal information over the phone and on the internet, people are making themselves susceptible to identity theft and other fraud crimes. The Federal Trade Commission reported that identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States with 23 million victims over the past five years and 10 million victims in 2003.

"Never release your social security number and date of birth together," said Agent Stott. "By doing this, people are releasing their entire life histories and leaving themselves open to fraud and other crimes. Criminals have become more sophisticated and can use this information to do things like apply for loans and obtain credit cards."

When someone's information is used, there could be blemishes on their credit of which they are not aware. Some people only become aware of a problem with their credit when they apply for a loan or a job and are rejected. Agent White suggests checking credit reports periodically to make sure all the information is accurate. He also suggests using the three main credit bureaus to obtain the reports. They are: Equifax at (800) 685-1111 or www.equifax.com, Transunion at (800) 685-4213 or www.transunion.com and Experian at (866) 200-6020 or www.experian.com.

"Requesting a free credit report online from other companies may mean others are able to see your credit information as well," said Agent White. "Pay the few dollars to get the report from a trustworthy agency. If you believe there are discrepancies on your report, you can also contact

the companies to request a free copy of your credit report. The web sites also offer information on how to read the reports."

According to Agent Stott, there are several fraud scams that have come to their attention. People have received information on these scams through phone calls, emails to personal and government accounts and letters.

One such scam is being identified by Shaw's OSI as the Spanish lottery scam. Individuals are receiving letters with their names and addresses on them saying they have won money from a Spanish sweepstakes lottery company. The individuals are asked to supply account information in order for the money to be deposited to their accounts.

In another scam, someone may be contacted through email by an accountant from what sounds like a legitimate bank saying their client has died and the person is the only living relative they have been able to locate. They are told to collect the large sum of money before it is confiscated by the bank. The person is asked to supply account information so the accountant and the person being told they are the only next of kin can split the money. Agent Stott said situations like this should always be questioned.

"When something seems too good to be true, it usually is," said the agent. "Don't respond with any of your personal information. These situations should be brought to OSI's so we can handle it and make others aware of to protect them as well."

Agent White offers the following as ways for people to protect themselves:

- Don't carry your social security card if you know the number. Also, do not include your social security number on your checks.
- If an email looks suspicious, don't respond to it. Forward the information to your commander or to OSI for the matter to be handled.
- Say no to telemarketers. Telemarketers call at peak times when they believe people are going to be home such as in the evenings or early afternoons. In some cases, if you do not say the word "no", it is taken as an implied "yes" for the service or product the company is offering.
- Buy and use a shredder. There are people who go through trash for the express purpose of finding someone's personal information. If you receive mail for pre-approved credit cards and you don't intend to apply, don't just throw away the application; shred it to avoid someone finding the information and using your name to obtain the credit card
- Be very careful with checkbooks. People have gone to court and some to jail because of lost or stolen checks. Once a police report is filed, it will be used as proof that something that

may still appear on your credit was not your fault when it comes time to buy a car or house and apply credit cards. If you order checks, pick them up at your financial institution instead of having them sent to your home.

■ Don't sign the back of credit cards. Not signing them means identification will be required when it is used to make in-store purchases.

For more information, call OSI at 895-2403.



Be aware of fraud

If you can answer yes to any of the following questions about a check you are going to deposit, you may want to reconsider:

- Is the check for merchandise you sold on the internet?
- Is the check written out for more than the price of the item?
- Were you instructed to wire money out of the country as soon as possible?
- Is the check from someone you have only communicated with through email or express mail?
- Is the check from an individual or business other than the person purchasing the item?
- Were you told you were the winner in a lottery you didn't enter?
- Were you asked to help with distributing money from another country?
- Were you approached by a stranger to cash a check with the promise of receiving a portion of the money?



Seminar helps members get best 'deal on wheels'

By Airman 1st Class Susan Penning
Staff writer

Buying a car may never be the cheapest way to get around, but when it comes to convenience and flexibility, it can't be beat. A recent seminar at the Family Support Center helped members make sure they aren't 'taken for a ride' when they visit a dealership.

The FSC, along with the Air Force Aid Society, sponsored a car-buying seminar July 29 on base. During the workshop, participants received advice on what type of vehicles to look for, how to get a good deal and how to shop for the best interest rate.

1st Lt. Brad Morris, 20th Fighter Wing Legal Office assistant staff judge advocate, kicked off the evening by offering smart-buying tips and information targeted at first-time buyers.

"If you are a young Airman just getting on your feet financially, it's foolish to think you can purchase a brand-new vehicle and not be strained by the payments every month," he said.

According to Air Force officials, buyers typically underestimate by two-thirds what purchasing a car will actually cost them.

Lt. Morris suggests taking at least one month of serious looking and budget-working before settling on a vehicle. He said in addition to having patience, it's important to understand exactly what you are binding yourself to when signing on the dotted line.

"The reason the 'fine print' in contracts is so small is probably because they don't want you to read it," he said. "If you bring a contract to the Legal Office before you make a purchase, someone will review it for you -- the emphasis being on *before*. It's much easier for us to help someone before they buy a vehicle, rather than after, when we are dealing with a legally-binding contract."

In addition, Lt. Morris said co-signing, which makes a second person liable if the first person defaults on a loan, should be avoided if possible or used with extreme caution.

Mr. James Giffin, a local registered investment representative who spoke at the seminar, offered some additional tips. "Stay within your price range, get all promises in writing and consider whether the transaction will be best for your budget."

Mr. Giffin said vehicle buying doesn't have to be intimidating or scary, and buyers should never feel pressured by salespeople. "You are in charge," he said.

To figure out what a vehicle should be selling for, Mr. Giffin suggests visiting the National Automobile Dealers' Association price book at www.nada.org.

During the seminar, members were taught to treat the purchase, financing and trade-in as three separate transactions. In other words, the purchase should be done at one location, the financing at another (wherever the best interest rate is), and the vehicle you currently own should be sold privately to net a greater profit.

New vs. used

According to information provided by the FSC, in the first two years, the average new vehicle loses 40% of its value. However, it still retains most of its usefulness. So, if a top concern is lowering the cost of ownership, a pre-owned vehicle may be the best choice.

The FSC offers the following perks of buying pre-owned:

- Because of a lower initial cost, used-car buyers will pay lower taxes and less in insurance premiums.
- The defects may have already been fixed under the original warranty and service contract.
- You'll need to worry less about your vehicle being damaged or stolen.



2nd Lt. Chris Wireman, 28th Operational Weather Squadron, gets car-buying tips at the FSC July 29.

Buying privately from an owner can mean big savings, but there is usually no warranty, so members should be extra cautious.

Doing the numbers

Paying in full is always best because it means no monthly payments or hefty interest charges. For those who don't have enough money saved to pay in full, the FSC suggests putting as much money down as possible, then shopping smart for financing options. A good rule of thumb: A long loan = bad news. If possible, ensure the term of the loan is no more than three years. The longer the loan, the more interest is paid. Also, a drawn-out loan is a financial risk. Insurance companies will only pay the 'book' value of your car if it is stolen or seriously damaged, which may not be enough to pay the amount you still owe.

Whether you are purchasing your first or fifteenth vehicle, the FSC encourages smart planning and research beforehand. Remember: You may not be able to purchase your dream car right now, but making sound financial choices today will reap big benefits tomorrow.



Members attending the seminar were encouraged to take their time and do appropriate research before purchasing a vehicle.

Photos by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Airman crossing out of blue, into green

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Editor

After being in the Air Force for less than three years, a member of Team Shaw is starting a process to "cross into the green."

Airman 1st Class Jeremiah Hatch, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron electronic warfare systems technician, is transferring his service from Air Force to Army under the new Defense Department program intended to rebalance the size of the military.

Both the House and the Senate have shown an interest in hiking Army strength by perhaps tens of thousands over the next few years, although the final number has not yet been set, officials said.

"We admire everyone who serves in the nation's uniform," said Lt. Gen. Buster Hagenbeck, the Army's uniformed personnel chief, "but I know that anyone who looks closely at today's Army will find a lot to be excited about - we are growing, and we need experienced people to lead that transition."

Where necessary, the Army plans to use bonuses to stimulate the needed service transfers and to carefully guide the experience mix so that pro-

motions stay strong.

Airman Hatch said he is not sure about or focused on the bonuses in joining the Army, but he is looking forward to doing new, different things.

"I think transferring to the Army will increase my personal happiness," he said.

Airman Hatch said his coworkers think he is crazy, but that is not necessarily so.

"I think it's a really great opportunity for him," said Master Sgt. Larry Tate, 20th

CMS Electronic Warfare Systems assistant section chief. He said Airman Hatch

seems to have a sense

of adventure and in his current job dealing with electrical systems on equipment for jets, the adventurous side of him is not fulfilled.

"I think he wants to work with more weapons and tactics," he the master sergeant. "Here he deals with electronics."

When Airman Hatch expressed interest in joining special forces in the Air Force, he was told he could

not train out of his career field at that time. With Operation Blue to Green, he will have the opportunity to be part of the special forces in the Army.

The Army will continue to have a sizable demand in areas that share much common ground with other services in knowledge, skill and ability. These include law enforcement, health care, communications and intelligence.

Lt. Gen. Hagenbeck said the program is being designed to make certain there is no break in service and no impact on the Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits already banked by a service member.

Airmen interested in becoming a Soldier should visit the military personnel flight to complete a Department of Defense Form 368, *Request for Conditional Release*.

After the form is completed by the Airman, his commander and an Army

recruiter, the request is sent to Air Force Personnel Center.

"AFPC will approve or deny the request," said Senior

Airman Elizabeth Roberts, 20th Mission Support Squadron retirements and separations counselor.

She said the process of sending and receiving the request through



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

Airman Hatch said he is looking forward to his transition from Airman to Soldier.

AFPC takes about four weeks.

In order to qualify, the Airman must be eligible for re-enlistment, must be physically fit, and meet Army height and weight standards.

Upon approval, the new Soldier would be scheduled for a new, four-week warrior transition course which includes an orientation on organization, rank, uniform wear and career progression. It is planned as transition training, not boot camp, officials said.

For more information about Operation Blue to Green, call Separations in the 20th Mission Support Squadron at **895-1595**.

(Information courtesy of American Forces Press Service.)

YOU DRINK, YOU DRIVE, YOU LOSE