

Former Shaw vice CC to speak at Air Force ball

By Airman 1st Class Joel Mease
Staff writer

His eyes have seen the world change and the wisdom of a lifetime of military experience seems evident on his face.

The Air Force is turning 57 this week, and to celebrate the service's years of excellence in air power, one bluesuiter, who was born the same year, will be paying tribute during Shaw's Air Force Birthday Ball.

Retired Maj. Gen. L. D. Johnston has seen the Air Force grow and change throughout history, and he will share at the ball his view on where the force is heading in the future.

During his 31 years in the Air Force, the general had 19 assignments, with his final one as the Air Warfare Center com-

mander at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Between April 1991 and March 1993, Gen. Johnston served as vice commander for the 363rd Fighter Wing at Shaw.

"Shaw was at the tip of the spear when it came to community relations," said Gen. Johnston as he recalled his time here. "My wife and I made lifelong friends while stationed here. It is good to be back," he added.

"Team Shaw is honored to have this great American hero return to pay tribute to our Air Force, said Col. Michael Beale," 20th FW vice commander.

As a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours flying experience in the F-4 and F-16, Gen. Johnston has seen a great deal of change in the Air Force over the last 30 years.

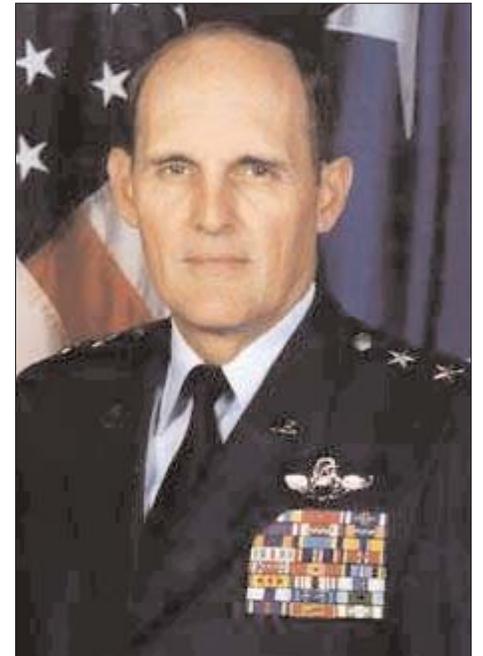
The Air Force has had the luxury of

aircraft it needed in the past because of the stability of a known threat, said the general. With recent events that have occurred and now an unstable threat with an unknown enemy, the Air Force has a greater need to develop and acquire new aircraft, he added.

The general said he is confident today's Airmen will step up to the challenge and meet the need for increased technology.

The Air Force is in great hands for the future, he added. "Gen. John Jumper and Secretary James Roche are both visionary leaders capable of leading the force in these times of transformation."

The Air Force Birthday Ball is set for Saturday at 6 p.m. in the Conference Center. Childcare is being offered at the Youth Center and Child Development Center from 6 to 11 p.m.



Maj. Gen. L.D. Johnston



Photo by Mrs. Tarsha Storey

Are you registered to vote?



Col. Mike Beale, 20th Fighter Wing vice commander, receives assistance recently from unit voting representative Senior Master Sgt. George Stickle, 609th Air Support Squadron. Col. Beale and other Shaw members filled out requests for absentee ballots at the BX and Mission Support building during Armed Forces Voting Week, held Sept. 3-11. The event allowed members to receive voting assistance. Active duty personnel and their families can access the Federal Voting Assistance Program by visiting www.fvap.gov. For more information call Maj. Jim Long at 895-9288.

Shaw's mission: paging through history

Transformation is no stranger to base, wing

By Master Sgt. Michael Gartland
20th Fighter Wing Historian

Over the years, Shaw has served the nation and the Air Force in various capacities. The original mission of the base, when it opened in 1941, was operating a primary flying school, training cadets and student officers to fly. Aviators also received advanced flight training at Shaw beginning in 1943, and fighter transition training beginning in 1945. Towards the end of World War II, the Army used Shaw to encamp 175 German prisoners of war.

The 20th Fighter Group, along with the 55th, 77th, and 79th Fighter Squadrons, arrived in October 1946. The group flew P-51 *Mustangs* and specialized in night fighter operations. In

preparation for becoming a separate, independent service the following year, the Air Force underwent a major organizational restructuring effort. It involved transitioning from a base unit system to the wing structure. This led to 9th Air Force activating the 20th Fighter Wing as the host unit at Shaw, and assigning the fighter group, a maintenance and supply group, an airdrome group, and a medical group as subordinate components.

The 20 FW received P-84 *Thunderjets*, Shaw's first jet aircraft, to replace its propeller-driven *Mustangs* in 1948. After being re-designated a fighter-bomber wing early in 1950, the wing deployed P-84s to Puerto Rico for a large-scale 6-week exercise.

Shaw's P-84s deployed to RAF Manston, England later in 1950, but this was no exercise. North Korea invaded South Korea in the summer of that year. To dissuade the Soviet Union from becoming involved in that conflict, the Air Force deployed one-third of its nuclear bomber fleet to airfields in England. The 20 FBW P-84s helped protect the vulnerable bombers from potential Soviet air strikes.

Aircraft and personnel returned to Shaw in April 1951, after having spent five months in England. Several months later, Shaw gained a new mission as the 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing and replaced the 20 FBW as the base's host unit.



Photo Courtesy of Mr. Norm Taylor

September 1948, a P- 51D assigned to the 77th Fighter Squadron sits on the runway.

Training gives pilots chance to “try it again”

Course helps F-16 C/J pilots better master their trade

By 1st Lt Gary Arasin
9th Air Force Public Affairs

The alarm pierced the cockpit and the pilot moved to take evasive measures as the surface-to-air missile honed in on the F-16 with pinpoint accuracy. Then the radio net was silent as the explosion rocked the horizon and the lead pilot's wingman.

However, instead of a commander who has to write a letter telling the spouse her husband had died heroically while defending his country, Lt. Col. Walter Sams, an instructor with the 20th Operations Support Squadron, steps behind the student in the simulator and asks what went wrong. Col. Sams serves as the opera-

tions group's "3-1" training instructor where he trains new groups of pilots two days each week on Air Force tactics, techniques and procedures.

Air Force Manual 3-1 is a classified manual the service established not long after the Korean War to standardize the AFTTPs that Colonel Sams teaches. Updated biannually, the manual standardizes what pilots across the Air Force learn and use -- same tactics, same maneuvers, said Colonel Sams.

Two separate courses are taught in support of this specialized training -- air-to-air tactics and the unique C/J mission of suppression of enemy air defense. The 16-plus hour courses are broken into three separate blocks, which consist of 10 hours of academic instruction, four and one-half hours of simulator time and two hours of self study. Once the pilots complete the training, they return to the squadron to implement the tactics the pilots are learning or relearning.

The training currently used here is unique to Shaw because the base is the only F-16 C/J unit with the

Mission Training Center simulator. The simulator allows four pilots to train in the simulator, mirroring the basic Air Force four-ship formation used in daily operations. The simulator gives the pilots a 360-degree vision, just like in the aircraft, Col. Sams said.

"We get them through a block of the instruction and then throw them right into the simulator," he said. "The sim allows the pilots to see their wingman and vice-versa giving them realistic training."

Realism is the end goal of the training. Flying an F-16 C/J through the skies of the southern United States places restrictions on pilots that can hamper training. For instance, pilots can't go supersonic. This and other limitations are not a factor with the simulator, said the colonel.

"We can pit the pilots against other aircraft or obstacles such as surface-to-air missile launches," he said. "This gives us the chance to throw them into these situations where we can stop and try again if

problems arise, something you can't often do in the cockpit while flying."

Some of the students, even after years of flying, think the experience is good. After flying the F-16 for more than 14 years, Maj. Brent Sprouse, 77th Fighter Squadron, said the course is a great chance to get refreshed on tactics that pilots can't use regularly.

"The sim allows you to retry and refine tactics you are practicing," the major said.

The courses also create a good forum for discussion. Capt. Steven Buryanek, 20th Fighter Wing Plans, agreed with Col. Sams on the removal of barriers pilots face when flying in local air space, but added that the course also removes other barriers to normal training.

"You are out of the normal environment of daily operations," said Capt. Buryanek, who has been flying for about eight years. "You don't have to deal with any of the normal distractions such as the phone or e-mail and can concentrate on the training."

Spirit Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Federico Melendez



Organization: 20th Aeromedical Dental Squadron
Duty title: NCO in charge of medical standards
Job duties: Ensure standards and supervise initial flight physicals
Home: Trujillo, Puerto Rico
Time in service: nine years
Family: Wife, Senior Airman Milagros, 20th Communications Squadron, and daughter, Sabrina

Words I live by: "To earn respect, you must respect yourself and others first."

Senior Airman Scott Heise / Max



Organization: 20th Security Forces Squadron K-9 unit
Duty title: Military working dog handler / Max - MWD
Job duties: Law enforcement patrolman
Home: Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Time in service: five years, Max - seven years
Family: Wife, Karri, and daughters, Mahaley and Brooklyn

Words I live by: "Ambulance ride at 3 a.m. - \$350, E.R. visit for puncture wound - \$1,500, dog assisted arrest - priceless."