

Shaw's history: bombers to fighters

By Master Sgt. Michael Gartland
20th Fighter Wing Historian

The 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing arrived from Langley Air Force Base, Va., in April 1951, replacing the 20th Fighter-Bomber Wing as host organization at Shaw. Its operational units included two RF-80 squadrons and one RB-26 squadron. The latter unit specialized in nighttime photo reconnaissance.

During the 1950s, Air Force crews learned to fly reconnaissance missions in several types of airplanes including RF-84s, RB-57s, RB-66s, and F-101s.

The 363rd TRW also participated in joint exercises and deployed for significant operations.

On Nov. 27, 1957, an RF-101 Voodoo crew set a new transcontinental speed record of 3 hours and 7 minutes, flying from California's Ontario County Airport to Floyd Bennett Airfield, Long Island, N.Y. The following year, personnel and

aircraft deployed from Shaw to the Middle East for the first time during the Lebanon Crisis of 1958.

The 363rd TRW RF-101s, RB-66s, and WB-66s supported operation Blue Bat and the Composite Air Strike Force from Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The CASF was similar to a single rotation of today's aerospace expeditionary force.

In the autumn of 1962, the 363rd TRW deployed RF-101s and personnel to Homestead AFB, Fla., to photograph construction activity associated with the deployment of Soviet intermediate and medium range ballistic missiles in Cuba. The nuclear missiles posed a serious threat to the United States and forced President Kennedy to impose a blockade while heightening the nation's defensive posture. After several weeks on the brink of nuclear war, the Soviets backed down and stopped construction.

In presenting the 363rd TRW an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its service during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Pres. Kennedy said, "May I say gentleman, that you take excellent pictures..."

The 363rd TRW began operating RF-4C Phantom II aircraft in 1965. It also permanently deployed three squadrons of RF-101s, RB-66s, and RF-4s to Southeast Asia. The primary mission of those units remaining at Shaw for the remainder of the war was to train reconnaissance crews.

In the 1970s, the mission shifted to training crews to support operations in the European Theater. This Cold War mission also involved regularly deploying to Royal Air Force Alconbury to practice wartime missions with units already in that theater.



Courtesy Photo

This RF-4C Phantom II was used at Shaw in the 1960s for tactical reconnaissance.

Pediatrics Clinic serves Shaw's littlest members

By Airman 1st Class Susan Penning
Staff writer

When you walk through the door, a jungle-scene mural captures your attention. You stop and admire the monkeys. Above you on the corner TV, you hear the voice of Woody and Buzz Light Year. As you approach the front desk, you observe a paper hanging on the wall listing all the cartoon channels available to tune in to.

Shaw's Pediatric Clinic treats Shaw's littlest members. The clinic opens at 7:30 a.m. and patients are typically seen in 15-minute intervals until approximately 4 p.m.

Airman Cheri Clemens, 20th Medical Operations Squadron health services management, said Shaw's clinic is unique because staff members take extra care to make sure patients are seen in a timely manner.

"Providing patients with quick care is important to us," she said.

Staff Sgt. Derek Odom, Pediatric Clinic assistant NCO in charge, said Shaw's facility is also set apart because patients and doctors can develop a close bond.

"Our facility is smaller than some others," he said. "This allows parents and patients to open up and feel more comfortable when they come in to see us. We also take the time to educate both parents and patients in-depth about their health issues."

An additional method the clinic uses to put patients at ease is the artwork in the patient rooms.

Members of the Pediatric Clinic staff redecorated patient rooms and the hallway earlier this year with bright cartoon-inspired murals.

"There is a Winnie the Pooh-inspired room as well as jungle, Scooby Doo, space and sea-themed rooms," said Sgt. Odom.

"The staff members here at the clinic give 100% to ensure all patients get the quality of care they need," he added.

The Pediatric Clinic is located between the main medical treatment facility on base and the Tricare building.

Airman 1st Class Donald Ennis (left), 20th Medical Operations Squadron, weighs Keondra, daughter of Army Staff Sgt. Nada Morant, 414th Transportation Company, Orangeburg, S.C., during a Pediatric Health Fair here Sept. 15.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning



Spirit Spotlight



Senior Airman Jennifer Williams



Organization: 28th Operational Weather Squadron

Duty title: Weather apprentice

Job duties: Deliver weather briefings

Hometown: Jacksonville, N.C.

Time in service: Two years, nine months

Family: Son, Michael

Off-duty interests: Playing with my son and softball

Words I live by: "Help control the pet population, have your pet spayed or neutered."

Senior Airman Thomas Gayman



Organization: 20th Component Maintenance Squadron

Duty title: Egress Journeyman

Job duties: Repair and maintain jet ejection seat and canopy system components

Hometown: Los Angeles

Time in service: Two years, nine months

Family: Wife, Tammy and daughter, Skylar

Off-duty interests: Enjoying family and watching football

Words I live by: "Work hard, play hard."