

Commander's Connection



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy Simon

Col. Sam Angelella (right) signs his Combined Federal Campaign form while speaking with 1st Lt. Albert Rampone, head of Shaw's part of the CFC.

"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Sam Angelella, 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 I have been having trouble getting appointments at the hospital. I called at 7 a.m. one day and was told there were none available. I've called this hotline before because I couldn't get an appointment for my son. I've been told repeatedly to call the appointment desk at 7 a.m. and there would be some available. There needs to be some changes made.

A Thank you for your call. We're happy to say your situation has been resolved. The 20th Medical Group is always looking for ways to accommodate patients. One way to keep track of issues is by using a patient advocate, whose purpose is to allow customers to voice concerns with the care they receive. The patient advocate can be reached at 895-6771 or patient.relations@shaw.af.mil.

New uniform feedback requested

By Chief Master Sgt. Gerald R. Murray
Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

There are many things that set airmen apart from the private sector of our great nation; one of the more obvious is the uniform. Airmen take pride in wearing the uniform well and presenting a professional appearance to each other, sister services and to the public.

Because our uniform is a source of great pride, changes can sometimes make us uneasy. That's why we're taking great care in the design and wear test of a new utility uniform to replace the current battle dress uniform.

The need for a distinctive Air Force utility uniform stems from years of feedback from the field on our current BDUs. Airmen through the years have complained of poor fit, the desire for better material, more functionality and more distinction from other services. The timing is right: our current uniform is supplied through Army sources, and as the Army looks at its own uniform and makes changes that suit their mission, it follows that we establish a source that can provide us with a uniform specifically designed to meet the needs of 21st century airmen.



Let me assure you, this is not change for the sake of change. It is a well-thought out proposal that will now go to the field in a wear test for your feedback.

Early in 2004, 300 airmen at nine test bases throughout the Air Force will wear the uniform and give feedback on its fit, durability, comfort and functionality.

We want your feedback as well — not shoot-from-the-hip feedback, but feedback that comes from seeing the uniform in action and thinking about how it will meet your needs based on your work environment. A website will be available that will provide a forum to capture comments and suggestions. We will use these comments, and feedback from the test participants, in our final decision about this uniform.

One of the great strengths of our Air Force and its airmen is the ability to adapt to new missions, technologies and an ever-changing world landscape; this new utility uniform is another example of seeing a need for improvement and moving forward. I believe it's a uniform fitting of the world's greatest expeditionary Air Force, and one that, if implemented, we will be proud to wear.

For more information about the new uniforms, visit <http://www.af.mil/uniform>.

THE SHAW SPIRIT READERSHIP SURVEY

The Shaw Spirit wants your opinions. While remaining anonymous, you can provide useful information about how to better serve you. Visit www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey/survey_index.htm to participate in the survey.

The Shaw Spirit

Shaw Air Force Base editorial staff

Col. Sam Angelella.....20th Fighter Wing commander
Maj. Lisa Caldwell.....Public Affairs chief
Staff Sgt. Stacy SimonInternal Information chief
stacy.simon@shaw.af.mil
Staff Sgt. Lee Watts.....Editor
spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil
Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash.....Staff writer
alicia.prakash@shaw.af.mil

Airman 1st Class Susan Penning.....Staff writer
penning.susan@shaw.af.mil

Adriene 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 or mail to:
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office
517 Lance Ave., Suite 107
Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. 29152-5041

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Standards keep force strong, nation safe

By Chief Master Sgt. Albert Hunter
20th Services Squadron superintendent

When a discussion arises about leadership, a debate will almost always surface. The debate will not be about the importance of leadership but about the certain philosophy and principles of leadership.

This will often lead to a disagreement of exactly the best leadership philosophy or principle to use to achieve the desired outcome. When the word leadership comes to mind, one may think of such people as Gen. Robert E. Lee, President John F. Kennedy or Coach Vince Lombardi.

Let's take the latter and discuss how his leadership philosophy can be tied into today's Air Force and in leading our troops.

Lombardi was the coach of the famous Green Bay Packers in the 1960's. During his tenure, he had to make some tough calls and unpopular decisions. He had to make decisions on calling plays, cutting players, disciplining players for being late and breaking curfew. He had the final say, and his word meant something. His players and assistant coaches may have not agreed with his decisions, but his entire team supported and respected his final word.

When he called the famous Packer sweep, and quarterback Bart Starr went into the huddle to call the play, it was executed. The quarterback did not change the play, nor did the other coaches challenge Lombardi's authority.

When a player missed a tackle, blocking assignment or fumbled the football, he knew exactly what was going to happen; there were no surprises, doubts or hidden agendas. The rules were established and enforced. The players knew the problem

was going to be properly addressed and corrected. If the player continued to make the same mistakes repeatedly and did not listen to his coaches or live up to Packer expectations, he no longer played for Green Bay. The saying was, "We don't do things like this and play for the Green Bay Packers."

Lombardi's famous grass drill consisted of running in place, hitting the ground when he blew a whistle, then getting back up and running in place again. What was the purpose of this drill? Why did the players continue to do it? Why didn't they just tell him they had enough and walk off the field? The reason was because the players believed in his leadership capabilities, goals, and most importantly, they respected and trusted him. They believed he was taking them in the right direction to win games and ultimately become champions.

Why did they respect him? Some reasons are that he instilled self-pride, discipline, teamwork, dedication, commitment, motivation, ownership, and he had high standards and expected nothing but the best from his players and his coaches.

Some may question whether this leadership style will work in the military today. The answer is yes, and we should use this style more often as leaders. As leaders, we must hold people accountable and responsible for their actions; even if we have to make those tough calls, unpopular decisions or discipline our subordinates to achieve the desired results. A leader inspires and motivates people toward a common goal or purpose.

It is important to let your subordinates know what your expectations are as a leader and what will happen if those expectations are not met. As supervisors, it is important to take an avid interest in your people, and take the time and effort to actu-

ally get to know them and to find their God-given talents. Take care of them, and they will take care of you. We must not only "talk the talk" but "walk the walk."

There will be times when our people will test us. They may not conform to standards or may become complacent on the job. This is the time to take action to correct behavior and maintain good order and discipline. How about just emulating what the Packers did and say, "We don't do these things in the military and if you continue, pack your bags and go elsewhere."

Just as everyone was not good enough to play football for the Packers, not everyone is fit for military duty, and it is up to us as leaders to identify and make the cuts necessary to have a strong force. It is also vital we properly recognize those who excel in their specific job, live by our creed and carry out our core values. These are the people we should spend our time and energy molding to become our future leaders.

As Lombardi did with his team, we should do with our team. We should mold our people through example with key traits such as pride, respect, commitment, integrity, teamwork and dedication to be the best!

I feel as leaders, if we would concentrate on this, our retention rates would significantly increase. As the Packers took pride in wearing their colors, we in the armed services must take pride in everything we do, because we are defending this great nation we so proudly serve. If a Packer dropped a pass he was given another chance, but if we fail to do our duty for this great nation, people may lose their lives. Thanks for serving your country!

It's the great pumpkin, Team Shaw



We are looking for Shaw's greatest pumpkin. Send a photo of your great pumpkin to spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil, or come by *The Shaw Spirit* office in the 20th Fighter Wing headquarters, building 1122, room 107, to have a picture taken. Photos will be accepted until Oct. 27.

Trick or treating will be conducted at Shaw Oct. 31 from 6 - 8 p.m. Since little "ghosts" are sometimes hard to see at night, drivers are urged to use extreme caution while driving through base housing during that time. Young children should be accompanied while trick or treating.



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