

Commander's Connection



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Staff Sgt. Olen Kelley (left), 20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron medical technician, gives Col. Sam Angelella a mandatory flu shot Friday.

"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 seen articles in *The Shaw Spirit*, emails and heard briefings about the motorcycle safety requirements at Shaw. Motorcycle requirements seem to be understood base-wide. However, why have I seen civilian motorcyclists on base who are not wearing all the proper gear -- no jacket or gloves, sometimes not even the reflective vest?

A Thank you for your concern. As our policy letter mandates, motorcycle safety applies to all motorcycle riders on base, both military and civilians.

Count your many blessings

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

Thanksgiving is a wonderful national tradition that provides a special opportunity to recount our blessings as Americans.

Today, we have much for which to be thankful. We serve a free and peace-loving nation that appreciates what we do to preserve our security. Our total force of more than 700,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian airmen is blessed with world-class capability and training that has been tested and proven on the battlefield.

We are a force of professional airmen, forged in combat, but dedicated to the pursuit of peace and security, and situated on an unshakable foundation:

our integrity, excellence and the privilege of serving a cause greater than our own self interests.

For your service and support of those bedrock principles, we offer our sincere and humble thanks. You are the strength and power that symbolizes America's Air Force -- the world's greatest air and space power.

On this Thanksgiving Day, we are thankful for each of you who serve. You are remarkable people, many of whom are deployed far from home and engaged in the Global War on Terrorism. We encourage those not deployed to remember the families of deployed airmen and include them in your holiday plans.

We're very proud of you and your families who have answered our nation's call. Thank you for your dedication and professionalism while protecting our cherished freedoms. Happy Thanksgiving!

'Tis the season for safety

By Gen. Hal Hornburg
Air Combat Command commander

We are rapidly approaching one of the most festive times of the year -- Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. It's a time we spend with family and friends and also an occasion to reflect on the past year and make plans for what lies ahead in the new year. Throughout the command, our people have much to be thankful for, and I'm proud of each individual's efforts toward defending our great nation.

Many members of Air Combat Command will be on duty through the season, supporting global operations and fighting the war against terrorism. Let's be sure to recognize their sacrifices and provide ACC-style support for their families during the holiday season.

Many of our ACC members will be traveling significant distances on the highways or flying home to spend time with family and friends this season. Before their departure, please ensure your personnel are following smart safety practices by planning their travels well, not over-extending themselves and conducting a personal risk assessment to ensure they considered all of the potential risks such as unfamiliar roads, adverse-weather conditions, heavy traffic and travel delays.

Additionally, let's all be actively involved in preventing drinking and driving, ensuring seat-belt use and wear of protective gear, complying with posted speed limits and staying alert to surroundings. In particular, emphasize to each individual that he is an airman 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is a critical part of our war-fighting capability. Our people are our most valuable resource.

As we celebrate, make sure all commanders and front-line supervisors set the conditions for a safe and prosperous season for all members and their families. Let's begin 2004 safe and ready for the challenges ahead. Enjoy the time off, but don't celebrate so much that you forget to do the right thing. With that being said, Cynthia and I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

"We must never forget we are airmen 24/7. Operational risk management must remain a priority, even in the midst of holiday festivities." -- Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander

The Shaw Spirit

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