

## Commander's Connection



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

Col. Sam Angelella (center) and other Shaw leaders start the 1.5-mile run portion of their physical fitness evaluation Jan. 30.

*"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](mailto: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** My daughter catches the bus at the 5000-area shoppette. I'm concerned because there is no crosswalk, and no cars stop for children to cross the street. I think a crosswalk should be put there.

**A** Thank you for your concern. We have looked at the area and determined a marked crosswalk is not required.

However, we will provide signs on both sides of the road, cautioning drivers to watch for

children crossing the street. Also, the 20th Security Forces Squadron will increase their patrol of this area during morning and afternoon hours for loading and unloading of children.

Additionally, an article on pedestrian safety, published by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, will be placed in the Feb. 13 edition of *The Shaw Spirit*.

Again, thank you for your safety concern and we look forward to making our community a safer environment.

# Balance priorities, reap rewards

By Lt. Col. Terry Hamilton  
20th Medical Support Squadron commander

"Where's Mommy?" These were the first words out of my son Jake's mouth after his school awards ceremony last week. He made his way over to Dad, proudly clutching his awards, but his expression dimmed when he noticed I wasn't there.

I frequently counsel people on expectations, core values and policies. But I also counsel on the importance of finding balance in life. Great accomplishments on the job are wonderful, but making time for education, faith and family is also vital. I believe people are more effective if they can harmonize their priorities in life. Of course, this doesn't just happen; it takes work.

One of the best pieces of advice I ever received was, "Get good at compartmentalizing." This means, focus on what you're doing at a specific moment without distraction. When you are at work, focus on work. When you're at home, give that your undivided attention. Show the ones you care about they are important. There will be times

when personal matters will, and sometimes should, interject during the work day. However, you have to keep your "house" in order, so it doesn't routinely jeopardize assigned responsibilities.

I sometimes find it's a lot easier to focus on work at work than it is to focus on home at home. It takes determination.

Last year, I made a New Year's resolution I really tried hard to keep. Instead of showing up extra early for work, I wake my child in the morning and offer some words of encouragement. That extra 15 minutes is a pittance to pay for the difference it makes in the mind of my child.

If you were fortunate enough to hear the speaker at a recent Airman Leadership School graduation, you know he reminded us that years down the road, no co-worker would remember the day we left work for an hour for a parent-teacher conference, or requested a day of leave for a family event. But our families will, and aren't they the ones who matter most?

In addition to devoting quality time, it's important to involve your family in what you do for a living. Help them understand the contributions you

both make to the Air Force mission. My family understands what I do is far more than just a job. They share the pride that comes with that. A positive attitude makes all the difference in the world, especially when it comes time for another move.

Bring your family to your workplace, unit parties and wing functions.

If you've been away, or involved in a major project, reconnect with your special ones as soon as possible. Make "dates" with them. Most importantly, just be together.

With all this being said, should everyone get an hour off every time some personal issue arises? Of course not. We each have serious responsibilities and are accountable for our performance. We must continue to sacrifice, in support of the mission we're entrusted to perform. To do anything less undermines our potential.

We all have different goals and interests. Whatever is important to you, make time for it in your life.

As for my son, thanks for the wake-up call. I know it's important to be there for you, and if it's possible, I will be there next time. It's a date.

## The Shaw Spirit

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