

Limited-notice ORIs ensure daily readiness

By Gen. Hal Hornburg
Air Combat Command commander

In recent years, thousands of Airmen have deployed and experienced expeditionary operations in physically demanding locations. At home, our Airmen are equally engaged in counter-terrorism operations and at the same time maintain an increased vigilance on our installations. Most units have returned to a robust training schedule while reconstituting the forces following Operation Iraqi Freedom. Furthermore, many units continue to conduct frequent operational readiness exercises and full-spectrum threat response readiness training. Being prepared to deploy and ready to fight is understood by every Airman, every day.

Our Air Force is the best in the world. One reason for our success is the continuous evaluation of mission performance. However, in today's high ops tempo environment, excessive preparation for an inspection with a string of successive OREs is unnecessary and counter-productive. An inspector general inspection is only one of many events on a mission lineup card, and in Air Combat Command we run marathons, not sprints.

For this reason, I've directed that all readiness inspections for active-duty flying wings not be scheduled in advance. Instead, wings will receive a minimum of 72-hours notice before an operational readiness inspection. Additionally, I've asked the ACC IG to standardize simulations, reduce unit deliverables and streamline pre-inspection coordination processes across the board. However, this does not mean inspection standards will change or that less than a "Satisfactory" rating is acceptable. Inspections

will continue to be aligned with the air expeditionary force cycles and the intervals between inspections will remain the same.

Prioritizing training, conducting quarterly OREs and implementing improvements based on

lessons learned are keys to a successful inspection.

Wing exercise schedules should be based on attaining proper readiness levels. The goal should be to maximize combat

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readiness, not to receive an "Outstanding" rating on an ORI. Performance will be measured on how the mission is performed every day, not on the results of one inspection.

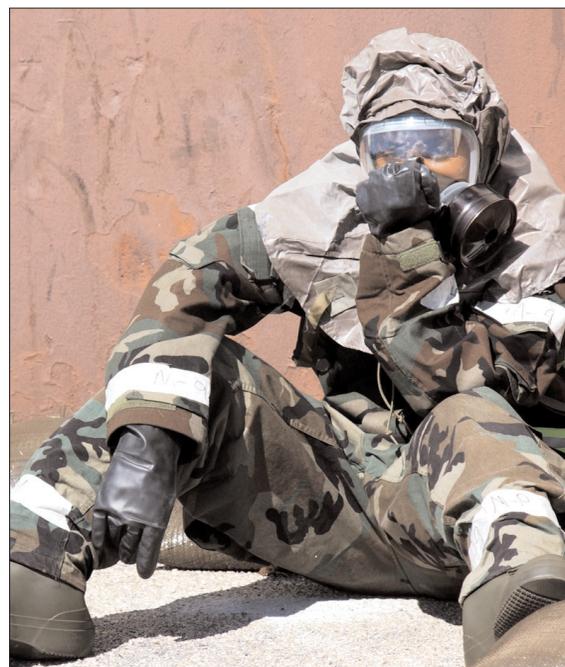


Photo by Staff Sgt. Josef Cole

An Airman with the 20th Fighter Wing takes cover during an ability to survive and operate portion of Shaw's most recent operational readiness exercise.

Commander's Connection

Editor's note: Due to Col. Sam Angelella's TDY, Col. Billy Uhle, 20th Fighter Wing vice commander, will answer Commander's Connection questions.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Col. Billy Uhle shows his appreciation for those who volunteer service to Shaw by attending the annual volunteer barbecue Monday.

"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*.

Kudos

On Easter morning, I had duty at the Sycamore Gate. At 7:30 a.m., I was pleasantly surprised to see the 20th FW command spouses bring an Easter basket full of fruits and candies. This was their way of saying, "Thank you for the job you are doing and the sacrifice you are making by being away from your family at this time."

As one of the Army augmentees working with the 20th Security Forces Squadron, I was touched by the kindness, love and sacrifice they made for my partner and me. This was truly in keeping with the spirit of Easter. Team Shaw can be proud of their 20th FW command spouses for their generosity and concern for the troops.

The Shaw Spirit

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