

College students celebrate Shaw's small ones



Above, a station was set up for children to make custom designs with clay. Below, while the music played, these 2-year-olds pretended to be a train.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

Students from a local college showed their support for The Month of the Military Child by providing art projects, story time, group games and music at the Child Development Center April 21.

Command Post: Shaw's information hub

By Ms. Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

(The following is the second article in the People of the Night series.)

Many people already know there are people working on the flightline 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. Some of those same people may also think all other units at Shaw close shop at 4:30 p.m. every day, but that is not the case. There is a flight that is always there — watching, listening, observing and ready for whatever may happen, day or night.

The 20th Fighter Wing Command Post always has people working, waiting to receive information and disseminate it to those who need to know.

According to Lt. Col. Haynes, 20th FW Command Post chief, communication is at the heart of the Command Post's daily and nightly routine, and it's important for the next shift coming in to

know what happened on the shift before them.

First Lt. Fotini Russo, 20th FW Command Post operations officer, said her flight is the information hub of Shaw.

"This is a place where information is gathered and dispersed," said Lt. Russo. "A huge variety of issues come through us to be released, from force protection condition changes to changes in the weather or emergency situations. We always have people here to accept the information, assess the situation and move on through the proper procedures."

Col. Haynes said the primary mission of the Command Post is to receive emergency action messages. He added that because these messages can come through at any time, having an on-call person, as other flights do, is not an option.

A part of the procedures for emergency situations is deciding what action needs to be taken and who needs to be involved among base leadership before the beginning of the next duty day. Lt. Russo said the Command Post is the eyes and ears of the commander, which means the staff must be alert.

During the night, multiple Command Post controllers are always on duty. According to Airman 1st Class Daniel Alonzo, 20th

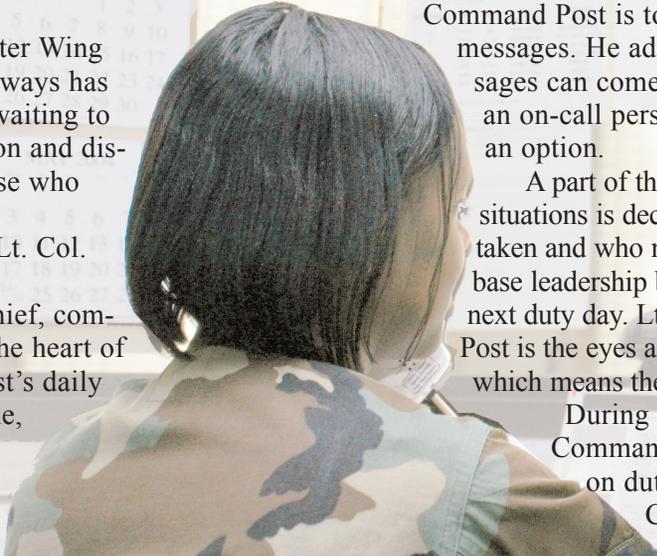
FW Command Post controller, working at night can be rather slow but there are reports that must be completed at the end of each Zulu-time day. The information in these reports comes from events that have happened throughout the day, so data must be shared between controllers leaving for the day and those coming in for the night.

"What happens during the morning can have an impact on what goes for the rest of the day into the night," said Col. Haynes. "There is never a time for anyone to say, 'I didn't know because it didn't happen on my shift.'"

If there is an emergency situation, the controllers on duty must complete the personnel recall on their own. According to Lt. Russo, many of the controllers come to work for the Command Post directly from technical training school, but they are fully trained to handle emergency situations quickly and confidently.

Airman Alonzo said he enjoys working in the Command Post because it is satisfying to distribute the information that aids base and Air Force leaders in making decisions.

"Decisions can't be made without information, and we're a part of that," said Airman Alonzo. "Sometimes those decisions have to be made when most people are asleep, but someone is always here ready to take the call."

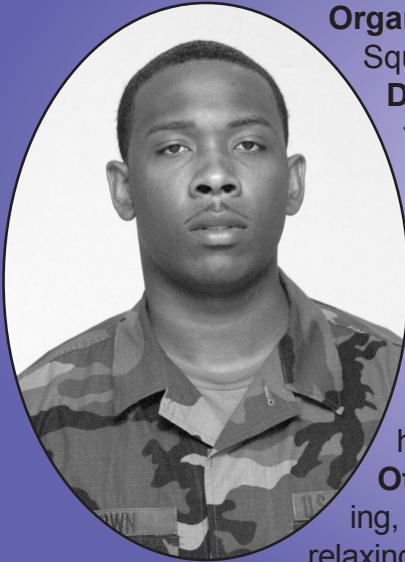




Spirit Spotlight



Airman 1st Class Antoine Brown



Organization: 20th Comptroller Squadron
Duty title: Customer support technician
Job duties: Log travel vouchers daily, update e-mail addresses, e-mail paid travel vouchers to customers and help with leave web
Hometown: Trenton, N.J.
Time in service: One and a half years
Off-duty interests: Weight training, playing basketball, reading and relaxing

Words I live by: "Lead, follow or get out of the way."

Airman 1st Class Malika Patterson



Organization: 20th Medical Operations Squadron
Duty title: Medical technician
Job duties: Assist physician with direct patient care, screenings and discussion of preventative health awareness
Hometown: Troy, Ala.
Time in service: One and a half years
Off-duty interests: Reading and playing with nephews

Words I live by: "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall." -- *Psalms 55:22*