

Accountability is responsibility

By Chief Master Sgt. Sharon Castillo
20th Communications Squadron superintendent

We are all familiar with the Air Force Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do. These three values continue to be reiterated to us on a regular basis. They have, in fact, become a way of life for Air Force members. These values are continually addressed and enforced in all forms of our professional training. So, why is the target sometimes missed?

I would like to focus your attention on accountability. According to my tattered, old, over-used *Webster's Dictionary*, accountable means to be answerable, and/or capable of being explained.

Accountability is a subcategory of the core value, Integrity First. In the 1997 edition of the *United States Air Force Core Values Blue Book*, under accountability it says, "no person of integrity tries to shift the blame to others or take credit for the work of others." It also states, "the buck stops here' says it best." This second example is impressively accurate. To me, it means if you see someone doing something you know is wrong, you should tell them about it. If it is illegal or immoral, you are obligated to inform their supervisor/chain of command.

On more than one occasion it has been

through a lack of accountability that individuals were able to continue unacceptable behavior, from minor infractions all the way up to felonious acts.

How often do you see individuals not wearing their head gear while in uniform? How about during retreat, have you ever witnessed someone running to his car or cowering in the doorway waiting for the music to end? If either of these examples sound familiar to you, then I ask you, did you address this with the individual or did you let it slide?

In addition, there are illegal or unsafe issues, ranging from inappropriate behavior or gestures to stealing government equipment. These offenses continue to happen and for some unknown reason, some people feel uncomfortable reporting the individual. By not reporting and being accountable, they now have become part of the problem, have possibly committed an illegal act themselves, and have not lived up to our core values.

It is OK to be accountable; it is the right thing to do. It is okay to keep your supervisors/chain of command informed. It is not okay to be unaccountable for what you may have witnessed. In fact, in some cases it is illegal for you to let it slide. Don't let someone else dictate how you conduct yourself and how you use these core values. Maintain your integrity... be accountable.

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 Staff Sgt. Josef Cole

Col. Billy Uhle congratulates winners at the 20th Fighter Wing Quarterly Awards Luncheon Wednesday.

"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 What are the base rules for passing formations on roads, or for how organizations should conduct their formations? While on Patrol Road, I came upon a long formation. I'm aware of my responsibility to safely pass troops in formation, but doesn't the formation have the same responsibility to be safe?

A We are all under the same obligation to prepare for the new physical fitness test, but this doesn't mean we should sacrifice safety. Base runners should wear reflective clothing or a reflective belt during hours of darkness. If a vehicle is trying to pass (and vehicles passing formations must not exceed 10 mph), move as far to the side of the road as you can. We must be responsible and respectful of each other. (See related article on Page 22.)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Watts

In sickness and health...

Tech. Sgts. Chester, 20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, and Cindy (Smith) Wilds, 20th Medical Operations Squadron, are married by Ms. Elaine Hood, 20th ADOS command section secretary and notary public, at Shaw's medical treatment facility April 23. Due to a deployment, the couple exchanged vows earlier than scheduled so coworkers could attend.

The Shaw Spirit

Shaw Air Force Base editorial staff

Col. Sam Angelella.....20th Fighter Wing commander

Maj. Lisa Caldwell.....Public Affairs chief

Staff Sgt. Lee Watts.....Internal Information chief
earl.watts@shaw.af.mil

Airman 1st Class Susan Penning..... Editor
spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil

Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash.....Staff writer
alicia.prakash@shaw.af.mil

Ms. Adriene M. 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**, call (803) 895-2018, fax (803) 895-2017 or mail to:
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office
517 Lance Ave., Suite 107
Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. 29152-5041

The Shaw Spirit is published by the Camden Media Co., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 20th Fighter Wing.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of *The Shaw Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, includ-

ing inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by DoD, the Air Force or the Camden Media Co., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The 20th Fighter Wing commander and public affairs office are the determining authority as to whether a particular item will appear and its placement within the paper.

All copy submitted will be edited to conform to Air Force and local policy and style standards. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

Direct classified ads to Camden Media Co. at (800) 450-1437 or fax (803) 432-7609 or e-mail **skaress@ci-camden.com**. All are run on a space-available basis.

Classified ads may also be dropped off at *The Shaw Spirit* office in Bldg. 1122.