



Newslines

Office closure

The War Readiness Office will be closed Wednesday and Thursday. Members with chemical warfare training on these days should pick up their gear Tuesday.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Coleitha Heffner at 895-5101.

Legal Office closed

The Legal Office will be closed Thursday and May 21 for scheduled training. For more information, call 895-1415.

Gate closure

The Main Gate will be closed May 28 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for painting. Passes will be issued at the Polifka Gate.

Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is set to have a blood drive May 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the SAFE Federal Credit Union parking lot on base. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Garrick Christian at 464-4952.

Change of Command

Lt. Col. Terry Hamilton will relinquish command of the 20th Medical Support Squadron to Lt. Col. D. Troy Molnar May 24 at 10 a.m. in Hangar 1614.

Shaw gets 21st century F-16s

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Editor

Team Shaw took a leap forward May 8 with receipt of one of the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world.

The aircraft, a 55th Fighter Squadron F-16CJ, returned from a process called the Common Configuration Implementation Program. CCIP is a modification designed to upgrade F-16s to the 21st-century level.

According to Lt. Col. Daniel

Gernert, 55th FS assistant deputy for operations, it will take approximately one year for all of Shaw's aircraft to complete the modifications.

Aircraft from the 55 FS are currently being flown to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, for the depot-level modifications. Aircraft from the 77th and 79th FSs will be phased in through January 2005 to keep Shaw operations running with minimal impact to the mission.

In addition to the wing's current combat capacity, Col. Gernert said when all of Shaw's jets have completed the upgrade, "Shaw will possess truly phenomenal capabilities to defend, deploy and decisively defeat any threat to our nation or our allies."

CCIP is a process. Though other Shaw jets have had some CCIP

modifications, the recently received aircraft is the first one from the 20th Fighter Wing to complete the process.

In early 2003, two jets here returned with some CCIP modifications. Those improvements updated targeting pods, chaff and flares. Targeting pods are required for most smart weapons. They help designate targets and direct munitions. Chaff is a system designed to counter radar-guided missiles, and flares counter heat-seeking missiles.

The jet that returned May 8 has upgrades of a Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Site and a LINK-16.

"The Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Site allows the pilot to look at a target and his weapon will key in on where his eyes

See Upgrades, Page 4



Maj. Ramsey said the five-hour flight from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to Shaw was a great way to try out the newest modifications on the F-16.

Image by Staff Sgt. Nathan Bevier

Weekend Weather

Saturday



Partly cloudy
High: 85
Low: 62

Courtesy of the 20th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight

Sunday



PM t-storms
High: 83
Low: 63



Let
Freedom
Ride

Page 3:
Shaw motorcycle club starts up.

Page 21:
Air Force member goes to the marine.

Coral
not
Corps



Commander's Connection



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash

Col. Sam Angelella speaks at the Sumter Chamber of Commerce's Red Carpet Breakfast at Shaw 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 I'm an active-duty member currently staffed at a unit which responds to 911/base emergencies. Recently, I was approached by a base official who instructed me to move my "emergency" vehicle from a parking area (adjacent to the dining facility) that was clearly marked "emergency vehicles only." I asked the gentleman why I needed to move my vehicle and his reasoning was, "I know it says 'emergency vehicles only,' but that's the post office's parking area." Please clarify.

A Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. The curb along Johnson Street, going around the east side of the dining facility, is designated as parking for emergency vehicles only. All associated agencies have been reminded of this.

Secretary, chief send message

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

"Since 1949, America has paid tribute to its men and women in uniform by celebrating Armed Forces Day on the third Saturday in May. Grateful Americans in every state will hold parades and fly Old Glory to honor those who have worn the uniform either as a Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine.

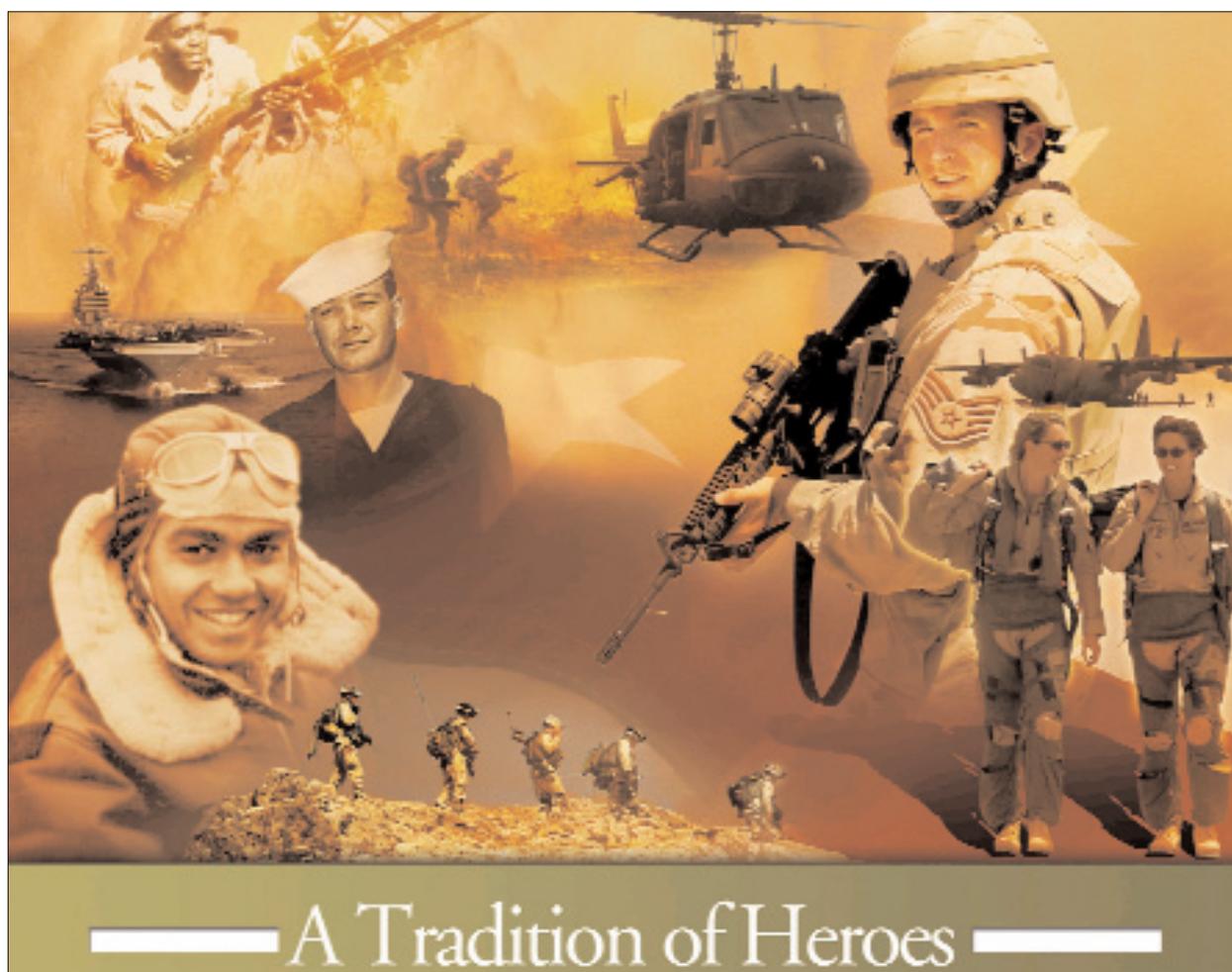
"It is indeed an important time to be a member of our nation's Armed Forces and espe-

cially to be an Airman. America needs your service today as much, if not more, than any other time in our country's history. America's security is a global issue as we continue the fight in the war on terrorism. Our country needs your steadfast devotion to protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

"Today, we serve a grateful nation. From shore to shore, Americans are proud of your professional competence, combat capabilities and unwavering courage to defend our country. They have seen firsthand your efforts in the mountains of

Afghanistan and the skies over Iraq and your steadfastness in protecting our homeland. They have reveled with us in your triumphs and cried with us when we lose brothers and sisters in battle.

"You represent the pride and patriotism of the United States. You are the standard for sacrifice, devotion and bravery. We are proud to serve with you. On this Armed Forces Day, let's remember those who came before us and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. May God bless all of you and our great nation."



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
Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash..... Editor
spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil
Airman 1st Class Susan Penning.....Staff writer
susan.penning@shaw.af.mil

Ms. Adriene M. Dicks.....Correspondent
adriene.dicks@shaw.af.mil

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**20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office
517 Lance Ave., Suite 107
Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. 29152-5041**

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focus," said Lt. Col. Scott Manning, 55th FS weapons training flight commander.

He said the previous system called for the pilot to maneuver the aircraft and point out the target.

According to Col. Gernert, the helmet projects images on a visor in front of the pilot's eyes, so wherever he turns his head, targeting and cueing information is available. "This feature makes attack on air and ground targets easier," he said.

CCIP modification allows block 50

F-16 CJs to carry the three versions of the attack pod. Those versions, Targeting Pod, Lightning Pod, and Sniper Pod, are the final pieces of equipment needed to enable Shaw's F-16s to drop laser-guided bombs and have video footage available.

"More importantly, it allows Shaw's F-16s to do almost every Air Force mission with greater accuracy and lethality," said Lt. Col. John Montgomery, 55th FS commander.

In addition to the attack pods, the upgrades include integration to the Logistics Information Network. For Shaw jets, it's referred to as LINK-16.

"With LINK-16, we'll have information piped into our cockpit displays from AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft or other controlling agencies without having to make a radio call," said Maj. Stuart Ramsey, 307th FS, Detachment 1, who flew the jet in from Hill AFB. Maj. Ramsey estimates the modified jets could be as much as three to four times as effective.

Col. Montgomery said LINK-16 has options and allows for flexibility to enhance not only training opportunities, but also Team Shaw's real-world capability to respond when called.

"The process of modifying aircraft and training personnel is time consuming and requires a great deal of effort from a wide variety of units and individuals," said Col. Gernert.

Col. Gernert said with smart planning, solid preparation, teamwork and dedication, the wing can meet and exceed all Air Force leadership expectations, bringing the F-16CJ up to its full combat capability.

"America's most advanced force protection team is taking a quantum leap forward in capability," he said.

(Staff Sgt. Lee Watts contributed to this story.)

Vigilance is Shaw's best defense against terrorism

By Staff Sgt. Lee Watts
Internal Information chief

In the global war against terrorism, one of the weapons of choice for the enemy is improvised explosive devices and suicide bombs.

According to Master Sgt. Mark Miller, 20th Fighter Wing anti-terrorism officer, "Force

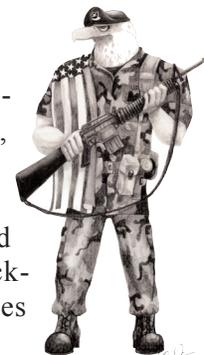
protection is everyone's business. The only thing preventing an adversary from successfully attacking Shaw is everyone's continued vigilance."

To keep Shaw a "hard target," he suggests the following:

◆ Challenge strangers and report individuals acting suspiciously or wearing articles of

clothing that appear inappropriate for the climate (i.e., bulky coats and sweaters on a temperate day.)

◆ Be observant and report any suspicious packages/items to Security Forces at 895-3669.



20th Security Forces Squadron Blotter

(Editor's note: The blotter includes incidents from the 20th Security Forces Squadron reports. The following information is intended to increase awareness of resource protection and safety concerns.)

■ A civilian reported her son's bicycle stolen from the front yard of their base housing residence.

■ An Airman was apprehended for having False License Plates/No Insurance.

■ Two Airmen were apprehended at the Class Six Shoppette for Contributing Alcohol to a Minor and Possession of Alcohol by a Minor.

■ Two civilians were detained for Possession of a Controlled Substance.

■ An Airman was apprehended for Violation of a No Contact Order while attempting to enter the installation.

■ A soldier was apprehended after a physical altercation with his spouse in their base housing residence.

■ Security Forces responded to 10 incidents/accidents involving POVs and GOVs.

■ There were (15) traffic tickets issued during the week.

In case of emergency, call 911. Direct routine questions and non-emergency concerns to the 20th SFS at 895-3670. If you have information about any crime, listed here or otherwise, call the 20th Security Forces Investigations section at 895-3600.

Traffic Tips

Listed below are some tips to consider prior to taking a long vehicle trip:

Plan -- To reach your destination, consider traffic patterns and prepare for delays.

Stay alert -- For your safety and the safety of others, watch for ramp closures and detours.

Tune in -- Check traffic reports on the radio or television before leaving.

Stay flexible -- Allow more time to reach your destination, and have an alternate route in mind in case of excessive delays or accidents.

Drive smart -- Use proper turning signals for lane changes. Keep a safe distance from the car ahead of you. Always buckle up.

Question Corner

Question: Which is faster: the F-15, F-16 or F-22?

Answer to last week's question: The first aircraft, flown by the Wright brothers, crashed the same day as the first flight, December 14, 1903.

Last week's winner: No correct answers were submitted last week.

The first person to e-mail *The Shaw Spirit* at spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil with the correct answer will get their name in next week's paper.



DUI/DWI Statistics

Last incident: 3 days

Last unit: 20th EMS

2004 total: 21

2003 total: 28

(As of Wednesday)

Punishment: At Shaw during 2003, more than 300 days of extra duty were assigned because of DUIs/DWIs.



AADD
Past week's saves: 27

Shaw's Airmen Against Drunk Driving offer free, confidential rides back to base for members who are intoxicated. For a ride, call 983-9722.

VA reaches out to newest combat veterans

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Veterans Affairs is expanding its efforts to reach veterans of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to ensure they are aware of earned benefits.

Mr. Anthony Principi, VA secretary, is sending a letter to more than 150,000 veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom who have recently separated from the military to thank them for their service. In the letter, he also reminds them of their eligibility for VA healthcare and other benefits.

"I want these men and women to know we are grateful for their service to our country," Mr. Principi said. "Those who served in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places around the world have risked their lives to make America more

secure. One of the ways the nation shows its gratitude is by ensuring veterans receive the benefits they deserve."

Mr. Principi's letter includes brochures and links to the department's Web pages containing more details about VA benefits, including an opportunity to apply for benefits online.

As the veterans continue to leave active duty, VA officials said they expect to mail about 10,000 letters each month. The first letters were sent Monday.

Department officials also mail information packets to all servicemembers separating from the military to remind them of eligibility for basic benefits, such as VA-guaranteed home loans and educational benefits. In addition, there are provisions in these pro-

grams for reservists and National Guard members.

The additional outreach to those recently deployed to combat areas alerts them to special eligibility that increases their access to healthcare for two years after separation from the military for illnesses and injuries resulting from military service. For those medical problems, VA waives copayments for inpatient and outpatient care. The VA focuses special attention on those with service-related disabilities, officials said. The department's goal is a seamless transition from military to VA services, with claims for financial benefits receiving expedited processing.

For seriously-wounded people, the VA has counselors working at the bedside of patients in military hospitals

with the largest numbers of casualties, to begin benefit applications before they leave the military. The department's social service people work at these military facilities to plan health-care coordination as servicemembers move from military to VA care. This helps ensure a smooth transition to a VA hospital or clinic near the veteran's intended residence for continued medical care, officials said.

"VA has learned many lessons since the Gulf War in 1991 and other conflicts, which will ensure this newest generation of war veterans receives the healthcare and assistance they deserve when they return to civilian life," Mr. Principi said. *(Information courtesy of American Forces Press Service.)*

ACC HONOR GUARD PROGRAM MANAGER OF THE YEAR

TECH. SGT. CHRIS BENJAMIN

Unit: 20th Services Squadron

Title: NCO in charge of Base Honor Guard

Accomplishments

- Volunteered off-duty time to train more than 30 Air National Guardsmen at McEntire ANG, S.C.
- Authored new honor guard training guides, reducing initial training from 40 to 20 hours
- Ensured honor guard was added to the 20th Fighter Wing quarterly/annual awards

Accolades

"Sgt. Benjamin is very motivated. His military image is elite. He supervises 21 individuals, and we always get positive feedback from the people who see the honor guard on and off base. He brings great professionalism to this unit." Master Sgt. Donna Collins, 20th SVS readiness superintendent



"I may not be the best, but I always give my best." - Sgt. Benjamin

2004 Iris Festival

The Iris Festival is set for May 27 - 30. The main area is Sumter's Swan Lake - Iris Gardens, but events will be held at locations throughout the city. For more information, call 436-2640 or log onto www.irisfestival.org.

South Carolina Air Force Association Award Winners

The following Shaw personnel accepted individual and unit awards from the South Carolina Air Force Association during the state convention held at Fort Jackson May 1:

Outstanding Officer



Capt. John Schutte,
20th Operations Support Squadron

Outstanding Enlisted



Master Sgt. Reginald Wyche,
20th OSS

Outstanding Civilian



Mr. Peter Connolly,
20th OSS

Outstanding Small Unit



(award accepted by)
Lt. Col. Roger Quinto,
20th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Team Shaw members stay in the blue

The following Team Shaw members re-enlisted during the month of April:

Chief master sergeant

Thomas Coaxum, 609th Air Communications Squadron

Senior master sergeant

Jeffrey Whaley, 609th Air Support Squadron

Master sergeants

George Dobney, 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Frank Evans, 20th Maintenance Group; Curtis Gill, 20th AMXS; Amy McNeill, 20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron; David Pursey, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron

Technical sergeants

Darryl Clark, 20th MXG; James Eubank Jr.,

20th MXG; David Gherke, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron; Susan Harrell, 20th CMS; Michael Hawkins, 337th Recruiting Squadron; Daniel Howery, 20th CMS; Makis Jeffrey, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Mariann Rosenquest, 337th RCS; Allyn Swavely Jr., 372nd Training Squadron; Richard Throgmorton, 28th Operational Weather Squadron; Roderick Walker, 9th Air Force

Staff sergeants

Jeremy Jenkins, 682nd Air Support Operations; Brian Lawson, 20th AMXS; James Longboat, 20th LRS; Nathan Moore, 20th EMS; Ira Norman III, 682nd ASOS; Timothy Payne Jr., 20th Communications Squadron; Jared Rodriguez, 20th

AMXS; Eric Smith, 20th CMS; Jeffrey Smith, 20th EMS; Michael Stewart, 20th AMXS; Orlando Thomas, 20th CS; Donnetta Visocky, 682nd ASOS

Senior Airmen

Justin Carrington, 682nd ASOS; Joshua Gestrich, 20th Fighter Wing; Alysha Jackson, 609th Air Operations Group; Michael Johnson, 31st Intelligence Squadron; Arnaldo Lefebrepineiro, 20th CS; Rory McDonald, 20th CS; Qiana Morris, 28th OWS; Edward Reed, 20th CES; Jessica Simpson, 20th Contracting Squadron; Shaun Smith, 609th ACOMS; Todd Swanson, 20th AMXS; Joshua Watson, 20th CS; Brian Williams, 20th CS

Airman 1st Class

Samuel Harris, 20th Mission Support Squadron

Stork Sorties



Feb. 20 -- Michael Eli to John and Beth Orlen

April 15 -- Nicholas Tyler to Jonathan and Dondi Delicate

If you would like your child's birth announced in the Stork Sorties section of *The Shaw Spirit*, send the date of birth, baby's full name and the first and last name of the parent(s) to spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil.

SMSgt. David B. Reid Airman Leadership School graduates

Congratulations to the graduates of Class 04-D. The ceremony was April 29 at the Conference Center.

20th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Senior Airman Tisha Heard

20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Timothy Davis; Senior Airman Joshua Ashton; Senior Airman Marcus Drysdale; Senior Airman Kevin Gajada; Senior Airman Scott Greiner; Senior Airman Joshua Jeffers; Senior Airman Douglas Luster; Senior Airman David Sanders; Senior Airman Jeremy Strickland; Senior Airman David Tackett Jr.

20th Component Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Manuel Daso; Staff Sgt. Daniel Davis; Senior Airman Kenneth Gutierrez; Senior Airman Mason Lowery; Senior Airman Christopher Morris; Senior Airman Caudell Ross; Senior Airman Brooke Talmage

20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Jacob Kempel

20th Medical Operations Squadron

Senior Airman William Cooney

20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jerry Varner

20th Mission Support Squadron

Senior Airman Natalie Benton; Senior Airman Carlton Wright

20th Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman Jay McGraw; Senior Airman Greg Osborn II; Senior Airman Adrian Pinckney

20th Communications Squadron

Senior Airman Matthew Blanchard; Senior Airman Brian Garber; Senior Airman La'Saun McNair; Senior Airman Amy Smith; Senior Airman Shannon Vital

20th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman DeMario Simmons

20th Services Squadron

Senior Airman Roger Wilkins

609th Air Intelligence Squadron

Senior Airman Omar Horlback; Senior Airman

Lashun Watkins

609th Combat Operations Squadron

Senior Airman Jennifer Bryant

609th Air Communications Squadron

Senior Airman Charles Morrow II; Senior Airman Nicholas Smith

28th Operational Weather Squadron

Senior Airman Renato Dapat

9th Information Warfare Squadron

Senior Airman Caesar Alvarado

31st Intelligence Squadron

Senior Airman Sean Kipfer; Senior Airman Christopher Stone; Senior Airman Crystal Trezza

15th Air Support Operations Squadron

Senior Airman Anthony Santistevan

Award winners:

John Levitow Award: A. Smith

Academic Award: Santistevan

Leadership Award: T. Davis

Distinguished Graduates: Bryant, Kipfer, Stone and Varner

9th Air Force member wins Air Force award

By Master Sgt. William T. Bailey
9th Air Force Public Affairs

Garnishing an Air Combat Command civilian of the year award is quite an honor, but winning at both ACC and Air Force level is twice as sweet.

Mr. Jim Evens, 9th Air Force/U.S. Central Command Air Forces lead financial analyst, was recently named U.S. Air Force's 2003 Financial Analysis Civilian of the Year. He was also ACC's Financial Analysis Civilian of the Year 2003.

"Mr. Evens is the backbone of funding our efforts in Southwest Asia. His experience and knowledge is crucial to the command properly handling the responsibility of the largest budget in ACE," said Lt Col Robert J. Blair, 9th AF/USCENTAF Comptroller commander.

Mr. Evens managed a \$1.8 billion budget for 9th AF and contingency funding in support of USCENTAF's Southwest Asia area of responsibility. He is responsible for funds management for more than 60 resource advisors, and he successfully deployed more than 400 comptroller



personnel to more than 40 locations, spending more than \$1.6 billion in direct support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

One of his accomplishments during the 2003 fiscal year is unparalleled in Air Force history. During an AOR site closing, Mr. Evens reduced 32% of open commitments and obligations from 13,500 to 4,300 line items in three months.

Receiving this honor was a pleasant surprise to Mr. Evens, and he credits his success to the people he works with.

"No job is done by just one person. It takes everybody working together to make any job successful," he said.

Mr. Evens is a retired Marine and has been a member of Team Shaw for 15 years and in the 9th AF/USCENTAF family for 11 years.

His prior military experience aids him in his duties.

"The main thing Jim brings to the table is his history as a troop on the ground — that perspective of the issues. It helps us keep our edge and handle things with the Airman in mind," Col. Blair said.

Pickell retirement

Tech. Sgt. Ramon Pickell, 20th Security Forces Squadron, is retiring after 21 years of service. He and his family have been at Shaw one year.

The childhood Army family member and his wife, Rebecca, have two children, Abigail and Timothy. After retirement, he plans to remain in the local area where his wife will become an educator.

The ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in the Conference Center.

Thiel retirement

Master Sgt. William Thiel, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron, is retiring after 26 years of service. He and his family have been at Shaw three years.

The Wooster, Ohio, native and his wife, Linda, have two children, Brian and Cassandra. After retirement, Sgt. Thiel plans to reside in Columbia, S.C.

The ceremony is scheduled for Thursday at 2:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Community Center.

Crisman retirement

Master Sgt. Lloyd Crisman, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, is retiring after 25 years of service. He and his wife, Joanne, have been at Shaw 18 years.

After retirement, the Edinboro, Pa., native plans to enjoy his home here, find a new job and continue his education in electronics.

The ceremony is scheduled for May 21 at 1 p.m. in the Conference Center.