

## Commander's Connection



Photo by Airman 1st Class Amber McCarthy

Col. Sam Angelella (right), and Mickayla (center), daughter of Mrs. Margaret, 20th Services Squadron, and Mr. Howard Ketter, enjoy the Beach Party June 4 at Club Shaw with Buzzy (left), 20th SVS mascot.

"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** I'm calling concerning trash in the 5000 housing area. When I see trash, I pick it up and put it in the trash cans around the area. I can't do it alone; something else must be done. We have to live here and we have to keep this area beautiful. Thank you.

**A** We appreciate the pride you take in our community and your efforts to make Shaw a beautiful place to live. Plans to have a base-wide cleanup, to include housing areas, are currently under review. This event would get everyone on base involved in keeping Shaw beautiful. If you witness someone littering on base, please contact 20th Security Forces at 895-3670. Littering is an offense under South Carolina Code 16-11-700(C) and is punishable with a fine of \$80. Military members caught littering will also be subject to disciplinary action from their individual unit. Thank you for your concern

## Airman on the street

In honor of National Flag Day, June 14, "The Shaw Spirit" asks ...

# What does the U.S. flag mean to you?



**Tech. Sgt. Ruben Alvizures, 20th Communications Squadron** -- "I think of freedom, courage and country."

**Senior Airman Cherita Johnson, 682nd Air Support Operations Squadron** -- "It represents what we stand and live for every day."

**Tech. Sgt. Scott Micklon, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron** -- "It symbolizes freedom we all enjoy ... the security and safety it provides."

## The Shaw Spirit

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## Adapting the AEF — longer deployments, more forces

By Gen. John P. Jumper  
Chief of Staff of the Air Force

For the past 12 years, our Air Force has adapted to the demands of a changing world. Beginning in the early 1990s, we developed composite wings, expeditionary organizations and crisis-response packages that allowed us to rapidly deliver combat capability to combatant commanders. In 1998, we formalized the structure into 10 Air Expeditionary Force packages. These responsive air and space capabilities allow us to present forces in a consistent manner and conduct military operations across the spectrum of conflict.

Throughout the late 1990s, our AEF concept of operations has proven itself time and again. When major air and space operations diminished last year, we began the process of reestablishing the AEF battle rhythm. Our reconstitution target was in March, but the continued demands of global operations, additional contingencies in other theaters and a tasking to support Army operations with 2,000 of our expeditionary combat support forces required us to reassess our planning assumptions, and to adjust our AEFs to a new mission set. Simply put, the demands on our deployable forces have not diminished and are not expected to decline for some time. We have a new rotational requirement for nearly 20,000 Airmen — about three

times the demand prior to September 11, 2001. Further, the Air Force Component Commander in the U.S. Central Command area of operations has asked us to deploy people for longer tour lengths to allow greater continuity for expeditionary commanders in the field.

To adapt to this new set of circumstances, a change to the AEF rotational cycle expands the pool of deployable Airmen in each AEF. Beginning with AEF Cycle 5 in September 2004, the baseline deployment will be 120 days vice 90, and the AEF cycle will change from a fifteen-month rotational cycle to a twenty-month cycle. We will continue to expect that each Airman will deploy only once during each cycle, although some stressed specialties will deploy longer, and in greater frequency, until manpower levels are adjusted or the theater requirements diminish.

For those already deployed in AEFs 7/8 (Mar - May) and those deploying in AEF 9/10 (Jun - Aug), it is our intent to stick to our 90-day deployment cycle. For those identified to deploy in AEF 1/2 (Sep - Nov), you should prepare to be gone a minimum of four months. This evolution of the AEF is not a temporary adjustment. More appropriately, it is recognition of new demands around the world for air and space power. It is important to remember several fundamental principles regarding our AEF concept of operations.

First, we are not changing the basic composition of each AEF; each will continue to provide about 5 AEWs and 6 AEGs of capability during each vulnerability period. Our low density/high demand units will continue to follow DoD-approved deployment guidelines. Finally, Air Force global mobility forces will continue to follow our AEF Presence Policy, with mobility aviation units postured in multiple AEFs to support the USTRANSCOM mission and other Combatant Commander needs.

The 20-month cycle will continue to provide commanders and Airmen the ability to plan ahead, allowing a sense of predictability while providing greater continuity to the in-theater commander. Still, I recognize longer deployments will present challenges to our Reserve Component, possibly affecting the number of ARC volunteers, and requiring selected use of Presidential mobilization authority. We will manage these matters very carefully, ensuring equity and fairness across the Total Force.

In addition to extending tour lengths, it is my intent to expand our pool of deployable Airmen from our current level of about 272,000. I have asked all of our Major Commands to aggressively review the assumptions upon which they exclude Airmen from our AEFs and take immediate steps to maximize those postured in the Air Force Worldwide UTC System and our

AEF libraries. The MAJCOMs will posture the maximum number of manpower authorizations into standard UTCs, and if required, we will develop new ones to provide additional expeditionary capabilities. Residual authorizations will be postured into associated UTCs and will be coded to support AEF requirements across the range of military operations.

Let me be perfectly clear — in our Air Force, every Airman is expeditionary, every Airman will know his/her place in the AEF system, and every Airman will be prepared to support the Combatant Commander, whether deployed, in CONUS via reachback, or employed at home station. If you are wearing the uniform of the United States Air Force, you are a part of the AEF. We are at war today, and will remain engaged around the globe against a brutal and resilient enemy.

Every Airman — Active, Guard, Reserve, and Civilian — must be focused on our national commitment to the Global War on Terrorism. Our job is to deploy and deal with terrorists wherever they are in the world so we never again have to deal with them on our own soil. You will be the difference between our success and failure in this vital cause.

Once again, I want to thank each and every one of you for your dedication, professionalism, and service to our nation.

## Targeting pods gone, capability remains

By Lt. Col. Scott Long  
79th Fighter Squadron director of operations

Many people here might not know it, but June 1 marked the end of the first phase of the 20th Fighter Wing's roadmap to provide combatant commanders increased warfighting capability.

Within four months, the 79th FS upgraded 15 pilots, developed new force protection tactics and demonstrated the increased combat capability during exercises in March and May. Although the 79th FS temporarily relinquished control of the six targeting pods to the 169th FW at McEntire Air National Guard Station, S.C., the impact of the initial phase of targeting pod training will be felt for years.

Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses is the subset of Offensive Counterair, which seeks to neutralize, destroy, or temporarily degrade enemy surface-based air defenses. Destruction of Enemy Air Defenses is a subset of SEAD (pronounced SEED), which involves the physical destruction of enemy air defense assets. Prior to January, the 20th FW was limited to conventional weapons and near-precision IAMs in the DEAD

(pronounce DEED) role, but targeting pods have allowed pilots to achieve precision-level effects by employing laser-guided bombs against a variety of air-defense targets. Increased precision equates to a better chance of hitting the desired target, minimizing collateral damage and means not having to expose our forces a second time.

In March, the 79th FS was tasked to conduct Close Air Support missions in support of ground troops during the Operational Readiness Exercise here. The targeting pods allowed pin-point accuracy with limited collateral damage in a variety of scenarios with troops in close contact. Ground Forward Air Controllers from Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Stewart, Ga., as well as Air Forward Air Controllers from Pope AFB, N.C., helped the 79th FS coordinate simulated precision attacks against more than 100 vehicles, 10 enemy command posts, and numerous fuel and ammunition storage facilities, without a single case of fratricide.

In May, the 79th FS was the first Blk-50 unit to employ with targeting pods during a Maple Flag exercise in Cold Lake, Canada. During each large force employment mission, nearly 100 coalition aircraft

from nine different countries were exposed to advanced surface-to-air missile systems and fourth-generation air-to-air threats. Without DEAD assets, numerous coalition aircraft typically sustained heavy damage, whereas when Wild Weasels employed in the DEAD role, the number of direct surface-to-air missile hits was either eliminated completely or reduced significantly. Targeting pods were the critical link that allowed precise delivery of laser-guided munitions against a formidable air defense.

The targeting pods from Shaw recently sent to McEntire will return soon. The 55th FS will obtain several of them to employ laser-guided bombs during an upcoming exercise, Combat Hammer, and the 79th FS will again employ with them if called upon.

Shaw, for the first time, is not only capable of providing combatant commanders with the capability to locate critical air defense threats; but can now, with the help of targeting pods, destroy targets with precision-level accuracy and minimum collateral damage.

The pods may be temporarily gone, but Shaw's warriors are ready to pick up and employ precision-guided munitions anytime, anywhere.