

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

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House Clears \$6.8 Million for Shaw AFB

WASHINGTON – The U.S. House of Representatives Thursday passed legislation that includes \$6.8 million for new maintenance facilities at Shaw Air Force Base, according to U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC).

Funding for the new facilities was not included in the President's budget but was added to the Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2003 at Spratt's request. The \$6.8 million is earmarked for three new aircraft maintenance facilities to serve the 20th Fighter Wing.

"The existing aircraft maintenance facilities date back to 1959 and have been added onto several times," said Spratt. "The buildings are old and the layout is inefficient and does not meet Air Force standards. The new fighter squadron maintenance facilities will provide more adequate space for training and oversight of aircraft maintenance, and house associated administrative functions. The new facilities will provide better office space, better work space, and better storage space."

Spratt said the new buildings will be located on the north end of the airfield, in place of the existing ones, and will cover 3,345 square meters. "These are very basic buildings," said Spratt, "but Shaw officials put these at the top of their list of new construction needs."

Spratt said that funding has been authorized by the House and Senate. The third hurdle was cleared when the House appropriations bill passed on Thursday, June 27. The next hurdle is passage of the Senate appropriations bill.

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