

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

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Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Spratt Says Funds for Shaw Projects Enacted

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that his request for a new \$8.5 million "Deployment Processing Center" at Shaw Air Force Base and \$3.4 million for new housing has been signed into law by the President.

Spratt, a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, said the funds were included in the conference report on the Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004, which was enacted today.

Spratt and U.S. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC) have been working to secure funding for the processing center since the first of the year.

"The military construction budget is tight this year, and was pared back by a billion dollars. I am extremely pleased that we were able to squeeze this project into the appropriation bill," Spratt said. "Senator Hollings is the reason the Senate Appropriations Committee approved it - his support of Shaw and this project in particular has been crucial."

Spratt said the military construction conference report also includes \$3.4 million in funding to support private construction of about 1,400 new housing units at Shaw to replace older units. "The housing project is a positive sign for Shaw's future, and this money means that it's on track," said Spratt.

Spratt said he has met with Air Force officials running the housing program. "They are confident the housing project will continue on schedule," said Spratt. "This means Shaw will begin to see its military family housing renovated and replaced as part of a full scale modernization effort."

Spratt said the President's defense budget for next year did not request funding for the center, even though the project is a pressing need, and the Air Force wants to build it. Shaw processes hundreds of Air Force personnel, using an assortment of old buildings, none designed for the mission. This center will facilitate processing and may give Shaw what amounts to a new mission, processing 9th Air Force and other personnel for overseas assignments.

"This is the fourth year we have been able to speed up funding of important military construction projects at Shaw," said Spratt. "In the last three years, we have helped secure funds for construction of a new dining hall, a new education center, and a new flight-line maintenance facility. Each of these is a plus for Shaw as we head into the biggest round yet of base closings."

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