

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 \$12 Million for Shaw Clears First Hurdle

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that his requests for \$12 million in additional funding for Shaw Air Force Base and Poinsett Range were included in the defense bill recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The House passed its version of the 2005 Defense Authorization Bill on May 20 by a vote of 391-34. Spratt, a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, said a conference committee is likely to convene sometime in early June to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills.

"Funding is tight in this budget environment, and I am pleased that we have cleared the first hurdle, securing

- \$5 million in new military hardware for Poinsett Range.
- \$3.7 million for a new library at Shaw Air Force Base.
- \$3.3 million for a Shaw-Wateree River sewage outfall line.

The House-passed bill contains \$5 million to equip the 12,500-acre Poinsett Electronic Combat Range with the latest in military electronic warfare threat simulation technology.

"The Joint Threat Emitter is an advanced, mobile, and rapidly programmable threat simulator capable of generating all known ground based electronic warfare threats. For forces that see action as often as our pilots from Shaw and McIntyre, they need this advanced Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) combat training system at Poinsett," said Spratt. "This is another feature to help make Poinsett state-of-the art."

The \$3.7 million library project will provide a 1,700 square meter facility to replace the current base library that was constructed as a dining facility in 1953. "The existing library is slightly over 1,000 square meters, with an inefficient layout

that does not meet Air Force standards,” said Spratt. “The new library will provide better work space, better study areas, and when coupled with the newly constructed education center, will give Shaw one of the Air Force’s best educational environments.”

The Shaw-Wateree River sewer line project will construct an 8,000 meter discharge line from Shaw to the Wateree River. It is required to achieve compliance with effluent discharge limits in the new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System. “This project is important because it is an environmental compliance issue,” Spratt said.

Spratt noted that “over the last four years, we have helped secure funds for construction of a new dining hall, a new education center, a new flight-line maintenance facility, and a new deployment control center. Equally important this year is the Joint Threat Emitter system, which will enhance Poinsett’s training capabilities for military aircraft up and down the East Coast. Each of these is a plus for Shaw as we head into the biggest round yet of base closings.”

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