

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

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Contact: Chuck Fant, 202-225-5501

Spratt Secures \$7 Million for Shaw AFB

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that his request for \$7 million in projects for Shaw Air Force Base had crossed the final hurdle, and is included in a recently enacted bill.

Spratt said \$3.7 million for a new library and \$3.3 million for a Shaw-Wateree River sewage outfall line are contained in the Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005.

"The budget this year is tight, and I am pleased that we succeeded in funding these two projects for Shaw," Spratt said.

The new \$3.7 million library, a state-of-the-art 1,700 square meter facility, will replace an existing 51 year old library. "The new building will mean 70% more space and vastly better educational tools for Shaw personnel and their families," Spratt said.

The Shaw-Wateree River sewer line project will include a 8,000 meter discharge line from Shaw to the Wateree River. The line is required to meet new federal pollution standards. "This is not only a necessity," said Spratt, "but it corrects one small negative in Shaw's profile for base closure review."

In addition to the \$7 million, Spratt is also seeking funding this year for 941 new housing units for Shaw. Spratt has championed a housing program that calls on private contractors to build and maintain military family housing on or near military bases. As a conferee on the Defense Authorization Bill, Spratt helped work out a way to eliminate the spending cap on the military housing privatization initiative, allowing new housing for almost 50,000 military families to continue on schedule.

"By eliminating the spending cap, 941 new housing units can be built at Shaw, starting next year. New housing will be an improvement for the base and a benefit for military families. At a time when we are asking so much of our military

families, quality of life has never been more important, and that quality begins with the homes where military families live,” Spratt said.

Over the last four years, Spratt has helped secure funds for a number of Shaw projects, including a new dining hall, a new education center, a new flight-line maintenance facility, and a new deployment center. “Each counts as a plus for Shaw as we head into the next round of military base closings,” Spratt said.

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