



TRAINING AND DEPLOYING COMBAT-READY AIRMEN IN SEPTEMBER 2012

Mohawk

442nd Fighter Wing

www.442fw.afrc.af.mil

Whiteman AFB, Mo.

RPA money cut for fiscal year '12

Commentary by Brig. Gen. Eric S. Overturf
442nd Fighter Wing commander

This has been a difficult week for all of us in Reserve units. The Air Force Reserve underfunded several must-pay areas like drill weekends and military pay for active Guard and Reserve personnel. To make up the difference before the end of the fiscal year, Reserve personnel account (RPA) or "manday" money that had been distributed to Reserve units was recalled. This forced us to cancel or curtail hundreds of orders that we'd already published for reservists at Whiteman and our GSUs at Moody, Barksdale and Davis-Monthan Air Force Bases.

I don't know exactly why or where or how the decisions were made that got us into this mess, but I do know it caused a huge breach of trust with our reservists, their families and their civilian employers. I've been a part time reservist, and I know how much effort it can take to arrange for time off from a civilian job and time away from home, and I know how difficult it can be to undo all of that when orders are canceled.

I talked to commanders throughout



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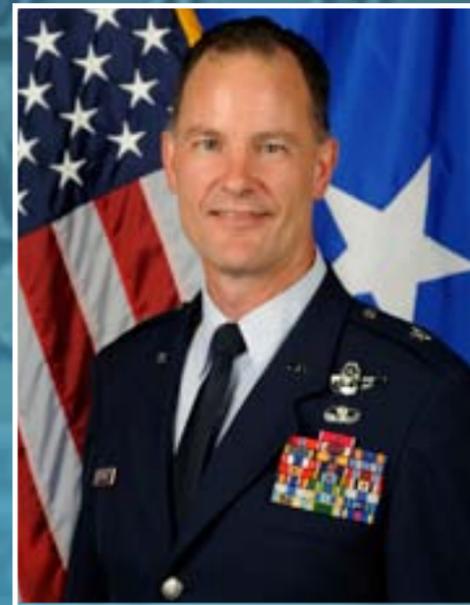
the wing about the mission impacts of cutting orders, like loading less weapons or launching less sorties at Barksdale, or training less A-10 student pilots at Davis-Monthan, or telling squadron commanders at Moody there's no funding to bring them to work, or disrupting our final preparation for next month's consolidated unit inspection at Whiteman.

I also heard about the personal impacts on single parents counting on paychecks to feed their kids, or employers scrambling to cancel extra work shifts scheduled to cover a Reserve employee's absence, or family members reworking plans to provide daycare for a reservist whose temporary duty just got canceled.

I can sum it up by saying this was one of the most difficult weeks of my career, because our own decisions within the Air Force Reserve broke faith with the very people who make

this the greatest Air Force in the world. I asked you to plan ahead and arrange your lives to provide military service to your country, and you came through like you always do when your nation calls. Unfortunately, I couldn't come through on my end of the bargain to provide funding for that military duty. I apologize on behalf of the Reserve command to all of you who were impacted. I am working up the chain of command to find out how and why we got to this point so we can make sure it never happens again.

I also want you to know that your leaders from the first level supervisors on up are doing all they can to minimize the impact on you and our mission to Train and Deploy Combat-Ready Airmen. I am continually impressed and amazed with the way the 442nd Fighter Wing deals with challenges. I saw the unit pulling together to handle this crisis as a team instead



of pursuing individual unit agendas. I saw leaders brainstorming ways to prioritize funds for mission critical events while still finding ways to care for individual Airmen in need. I saw commanders and chiefs and pilots and supervisors at all levels cutting their own orders requests to fund their people who were at risk of going without a meal or rent payment. I saw one wing made up of hundreds of great Americans working together with integrity for the mission and service to others before themselves. It reminded me that I have the best job in the world, even in the tough times. Thank you for your service and dedication- it's an honor to be your commander.



New rules mobilize Air Force reservists for national emergencies

By Col. Bob Thompson

Office of Air Force Reserve Public Affairs

WASHINGTON -- Officials are putting new policies and programs in place to mobilize Air Force reservists in response to national disasters and emergencies. This is the first time Title 10, or federal Reserve forces from all services have been planned and funded to be mobilized, like their National Guard counterparts, to assist the state governors during a crisis in the United States.

"This is a significant change for us and a tremendous benefit for American citizens," said Lt. Gen. James F. Jackson, commander and chief of Air Force Reserve. "Being able to mobilize our people will save lives and mitigate suffering and damage during disasters here at home."

[Read more](#)

TRAINING DEPLOYMENTS



A-10s compete at Hawgsmoke

By Tech. Sgt. Kent Kagarise

The 442nd Maintenance and Operations Groups went to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., Aug. 15 to participate in Hawgsmoke, an A-10 competition, Aug. 14-18.

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TIP OF THE SPEAR



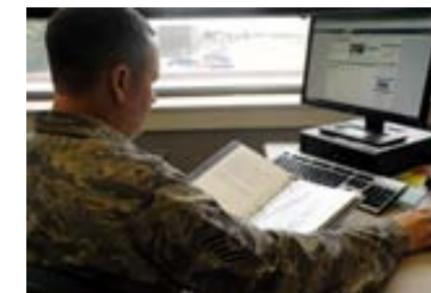
Jester named Tip of the Spear

By 917th Fighter Group

Tech. Sgt. Michael Jester is assigned to the 917th Maintenance Squadron as the phase inspection dock chief. He produced a 50 percent reduction in inspection time over five inspections.

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SUCCESSFUL INSPECTIONS



Wing in final prep phase for CUI

By Tech. Sgt. Tom Talbert

The 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman is in its final preparations for the upcoming combined unit inspection scheduled for Oct. 11-16. Inspectors will grade programs throughout the wing.

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