

31 August, 1983

To: All Pilots

It has come to my attention that many of you have been misinformed of the actual reasons for my resignation. I would like to clarify my position at this time as to the circumstances compelling me to make that reluctant decision.

A major concern for me was that the unit is divided in so many ways: the reservists (weekenders) versus air technicians and, even more severe, the air technicians versus air technicians. Complacency by a few senior officers is another problem. There are officers interfering with the operation of the base instead of attending to their assigned jobs. Also, there are officers who place more emphasis on their own self-advancement within the Air National Guard rather than the importance of the Guard being a viable force tasked with training and preparing for the defense of this country.

At this time, too, there are officers in command positions - air technicians and reservists - who have responsibilities, obligations and duties but no authority to act. The authority has been removed or diluted by certain individuals who have been allowed to undermine and destroy the policies of the commanders they work for by going "through the back door".

It seems to me that there are two groups trying to lead the unit and both are failing - not only the mission but also the people in the unit. Guidelines should be established as to who in the chain of command has authority and how the authority will be delegated. Until the guidelines are established, the unit will "float along" and be in constant discontent and turmoil. The chain of command should be re-established both in the reserve side and the air technician side. The position of Air Operations Officer becomes ineffective if his authority is subverted. The Vice-Wing Commander, Deputy Commander of Operations and the Squadron Commander cannot function if they are constantly undermined. After the guidelines are established, the Wing Commander should support these men in their command positions.

In my opinion until the program of self-advancement through abuse, deceit, intimidation and harrassment is eliminated, then and only then, will there be a sense of direction and mission effectiveness for the 144th FIW. The above situations have made my remaining in the 144th FIW not acceptable and, therefore, I submitted my resignation.



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