

# NOTES FROM THE:

## *Comptroller Training Flight*

by Captain Randy Toris

Happy New Year! Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Randy Toris, the successor to Maj JR Weilacher and his reign of glory at the FM Schoolhouse. It is my pleasure to serve as the Flight/CC for the team tasked with providing you the future of FM.

By press time, January will have hit us and the schoolhouse will already be in the thick of training tomorrow's FM warriors. Nine 3-level Apprentice courses will be in session and the 7-level Craftsman course will have already graduated 5 classes.

The final shipment from Bldg 920 at Sheppard AFB will have arrived closing the final chapter in Texas. Forty-eight years of memories, thousands of graduates, and countless FM successes around the world are proof positive that the Lone Star state did it their way: Big! Special thanks to Col Flowers and the AETC/FM crew in making the new facilities the top-notch training site envisioned by SAF/FM and one your future troops deserve. January's activity will open "the rest" of the doors at the new schoolhouse at Keesler AFB MS. With the move to Mississippi complete, we can now begin instructing the supplemental courses as well as the Basic Officer and FMSOC courses.

For those of you that haven't had the chance to visit us in the official capacity yet, we look forward to showing off your schoolhouse. You will not find a prouder, higher speed staff anywhere on the planet. The schoolhouse team will show you the result of the blood, sweat and tears they've invested here—this transition would never have happened were it not for them. The new instructors and staff as well as the few veteran Sheppard crewmembers fought hurricanes, months away from home, and a barrage of new building snafus to finely tune this machine. Very few of the Keesler team were on the project when AETC's Centers of Excellence initiative took root, but the schoolhouse crew picked up the baton and is running full speed—you'd have to see it to believe it! If you can't make the trip, that's okay—

you can reach out and touch us in any of the normal ways—telephone, e-mail, and even VTC! We look forward to hearing from the field as it keeps our expert staff on the cutting edge of the latest technologies and techniques. If a future class brings you to our new home in the 335th Training Squadron (81st Training Group, 81st Training Wing), welcome. The facilities, the instruction, the city of Biloxi and its surrounding areas are second to none.

We'll do our best to handle our newbies on the front end of their AF FM careers, so be ready with training plans and open arms...our promise to you is a fleet of highly motivated, totally dedicated, ready to be educated Combat Comptrollers. We're training our replacements and, like Granny used to say, we're leaving this place better than we found it. Accomplishing the FM mission of becoming strategic assets to the commander while getting resources to the war fighter begins in AETC, but definitely doesn't end here. Bases and MAJCOMs around the world are OUR final customers, but from your perspective we are merely an initial supplier to you in all of your roles. Once "The First Command" provides the fundamentals, you will have the starting point you need to put your own flavor on them so they can take you to your finish line.

We hope you're proud of our product—these graduates are *Aiming High, Crossing Into the Blue* and not letting anyone come close—in a manner of speaking. Our goal of adding some "vector" to what was once all "thrust" will show through in the results. Bosses, we'd love to have your best and brightest as instructors, so please keep us in mind while mentoring the troops. It's a vicious cycle: we need the best to make the best.

I will end my first article by drawing attention to the discussion Secretary Rumsfeld had about use of the term Commander in Chief. I agree, there is *only one* CINC, and unfortunately for our sister Services, this *only one* CINC hands out *only one* trophy per year—**Go Air Force**, make it seven in a row! **Beat Army and Sink Navy!**