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# Not-So-Secret Weapon

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# From the E-Ring

## NOT-SO-SECRET WEAPON



Lt Gen Loren M. Reno

I'll read the rest of this fine journal along with you when it's published, but I want to add my thoughts on the theme of the ER this time, *Our Secret Weapon: Total Force of Guard, Reserve and Civilians*.

In addition to our active duty force and supporting contractors, the contributions of our guard, reserve, and civilian workforce round out the team we use in logistics to give our Warfighters all they need. None are on the second string...all bring value to the fight.

When you think about a team-of-five, you're probably thinking basketball. That is a rich analogy to what we do, given the need for technical skill, discipline, competitive edge, compliance with rules, and teamwork in both. In the recent NCAA tournament, did you also observe that the team with the best player didn't win as often as the team that was the best team?

I heard our Chief of Staff observe recently that "no one has greater value to our collective mission than another. We operate within a 'big tent' where everyone contributes." That is as true for maintainers and LROs as it is for active duty and civilians or guards (wo)men and reservists, for flight commanders and group commanders, and for the flightline and backshop.

When I was at Elmendorf recently, I met the SSgt who found corrosion on the F-22 ejection seat clevis rod, helped make a tool to expedite the repair, and led his shop in alerting the entire F-22 world about the issue. His name is Manuel E. Acuna, SSgt, USAFR. The coin I left him was to affirm him and to demonstrate to his entire shop the value I think he adds--not because he is in the AFRC, but because of his thoroughness, integrity, discipline, technical skill, courage, and teamwork. Those traits are not unique to one or two parts of our team...we all should live them.

I recall walking the line at the Mobility Rodeo a few years ago and being impressed with the experience of our ANG crew chiefs. If you look on my immediate staff, you'll find reserve officers in addition to my mobilization assistant, Maj Gen Anita Gallentine...but you won't be able to tell that they are reservists!

Let me turn to the civilian part of the team. I recently saw a note one of our 4-stars sent to the AF Chief of Staff. It summarized the results of a completed eight-step process to validate that airworthiness directives were being properly applied to our commercial derivative aircraft fleet. In addition to the significance of this issue, what caught my eye was that the leaders for this effort--that won CSAF praise--were two civilians. They led the multi-MAJCOM, contractor, and operating unit team.

Witness also that three of our MAJCOMs' logistics directorates are being led by members of the SES: AETC, AFSPC, and AFGSC. Basketball seasons are coming to a close, but the need for teamwork and outstanding player performance on our team continues. That's my view.

— LT GEN LOREN RENO

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