

DATE: 31 Jan 08

TIME: 1200

PLACE: Eglin Readiness Center Auditorium

SPEAKER: Lt Col Paul Sinopoli, Commander, 96th Comptroller Squadron, Eglin AFB Florida

SUBJECT: Comptroller Deployment Preparation and Processing

An assortment of snacks was provided to the attendees and Mr. Ken Pickler opened the meeting by introducing Lt Col Sinopoli.

The briefing began with a historical overview of how the Air Force was aligned leading up to the Vietnam War. The Air Force was primarily an expeditionary force, get in and get out. During the Cold War the Air Force operated under a large fixed main operating base concept. However, with the return of the fighting during the Gulf War, the Air Force again had to return to an Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) which was generated by the high OPSTEMPO. Since the end of the Cold War, deployments are up four fold. The deployments now operate with 1/3 fewer airmen and 2/3 fewer bases. AEF was established by CSAF Gen Ryan in 1998. At that time, cycle 1 was 15 months long and involved 60,000 airmen. Today's AEF is a 20 month cycle made up of over 300,000 airmen.

Lt Col Sinopoli continued by explaining the five theater commands: Northern, Southern, European, Pacific, and Central. Also, US African Command and US Special Operations Command. A few key principles of the AEF include a system of presenting forces to the unified commands. It provides a predictable system for airmen. Airmen can plan ahead because they know when they are expected to deploy. Required deployment training is accomplished and other necessary preparation can be accomplished without undue stress.

A "role playing" discussion was held where Lt Col Sinopoli, SMSgt Dewitt, and MSgt Hopkins showed how to fill 3 positions in AOR. A rundown of qualified candidates determined who was best suited to fill the requirements.

Mr. Pickler concluding the meeting by thanking Lt Col Sinopoli. Mr. Pickler also stated that all snacks leftover will be sent to the troops who are deployed. The meeting was concluded at approximately 1300.

Recorded by Brenda Dininger, Secretary, Gulf Coast Chapter.