

Welcome to RE's new website!

This is a significant improvement in communication. I hope that you check the web site and this link frequently. I plan to update my message to AFOSI IMAs at least monthly, if not more frequently.

ENLISTED MANNING - A BIG CONCERN

You will be hearing more about this, but I want all IMAs to know that we are about 40-50 enlisted IMAs short of our authorized strength. This impacts the health of the entire IMA force. This shortage has the attention of not only RE, but AFOSI/CC as well. Our first goal in improving this situation is to do all we can to retain the experienced IMAs that we have. I realize many factors go into the decision to retire or separate from the reserve program, including family and civilian career. What I don't want to see is someone leaving us because he or she has not had a mentor or has been treated poorly by an active duty supervisor. If you are contemplating leaving AFOSI, please discuss it with one of our reserve chiefs, your region active duty chief and the IMA to the region commander. I have talked to some friends who were excellent reserve agents who retired before their mandatory retirement. They all miss it. Unfortunately, retirement is an irrevocable decision once you actually retire.

We are also looking for talented men and women to be reserve agents and IMAs in other specialties. Former agents who are already trained are the best source of recruits for us because it eliminates the training factor. HQ AFOSI/RE receives a limited number of training slots at FLETC to train new IMAs. Despite those limitations, if you know of a well qualified person, especially an enlisted member, please recruit him or her.

IMA ASSIGNMENTS

Many IMAs have talked to me at conferences or when I'm at the Headquarters about assignments. In AFOSI, we re-assign IMAs more frequently than most organizations. In fact, in the last twelve months, RE has re-assigned about one-third of the IMA force. Every time RE processes an assignment, ARPC must take action so we are dependent on ARPC to complete the assignment action. RE has been working hard to put people in positions that take advantage of their skills, are appropriate for their grade, and that give our members a variety of experience to enhance their skills and promotion opportunities. With continuing retirements, promotions and recent recruits, it is a continuous process. Col Taylor, HQ AFOSI/RE, will be convening an IPT to address this situation. For now, please be patient. RE has made great strides in many areas (like this web site) and will be addressing this issue soon.

KNOW YOUR IMA CHIEF AND IMA TO REGION COMMANDER

Many of you had a chance to meet the IMA leaders, at the Training Assemblies in Alexandria, VA and San Antonio, TX in March and April. If you do not know your IMA chief or IMA to region commander, please introduce yourself (in person, phone, e-mail). The colonels and chiefs enjoy this and make good use of knowing your background. I am constantly impressed by the depth and breadth of knowledge and variety of civilian job experiences possessed by our IMAs. This request is directed at our entire IMA force, not just agents.

FEEDBACK

You can contact me as follows:

Col Steve O'Hern
Cell: (913) 488-4523