

Arctic Warriors are READY FOR WAR

ORI supplement to the Sourdough Sentinel



Time for combat, we're ready!

By Col. Michael Snodgrass
3rd Wing commander

It's show time! Next week's Pacific Air Forces Inspector General will give us an Operational Readiness Inspection that will validate that the 3rd Wing is MORE than ready for combat.

Our wing is widely recognized as not only diverse, but the most fully combat capable wing in the Air Force. Our recent past has tested our capabilities in many areas, and the perception is that we are up to any challenge. Now it's time to prove it.

Our role as a lead Aerospace Expeditionary Force wing has directly contributed to our nation's winning effort in the War on Terrorism. About 5,000 Arctic Warriors have deployed around the globe for various contingencies and exercises since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Over 400 of our friends,

family members and coworkers are in harm's way today, answering their country's call to duty.

The road to the ORI has been grueling. We began this effort last July and continued to exercise in September, October, December, January, and March. With the high number of real world deployments we have had keeping parts of the wing from exercising, it has been difficult to rehearse with the entire orchestra. We have trained long and hard for this inspection, and your hard work and dedication will allow us to demonstrate how well we will survive, fly, fight and win in combat.

I see three areas as paramount to ORI success – attitude, communication and attention to detail.

Attitude: I believe that 10 percent of life is what actually happens, and 90 percent is how you react to it. Of all the things that life sends your way, the one thing you can control is your attitude. Having a good attitude

is not just about the ORI, it is a way to approach your life. It is a choice we all make every day. If you allow yourself to have a poor attitude ... and we have all seen people like this ... it infects the organization. A positive attitude also is infectious, but in the right way.

When the ORI hits, there will be curve balls, perhaps more severe weather, and you will respond first with your attitude and second with your skills and savvy. If you do your job with a sense of urgency and discipline, you will display that positive attitude that sets us apart as Americans. We will make mistakes, but that will not be the final word on how we are graded. We will be graded on how we react to the unexpected, and how we recover after an unanticipated event or an honest mistake. Show that you understand the scenario ... don't take shortcuts ... and live with the rules we are given by the IG. If we choose to have a good attitude – a positive outlook

toward our task and our team – nobody can take that away. A great attitude will not only help achieve success during the ORI, but in our future together as well.

Communication: Do not assume those around you know what you know...make SURE they know. Keep the information flowing up, down, and across the chain of command. Communicate your plan and ensure it's understood. Ask questions if you're on the receiving end of a message and don't fully understand it. Things will happen in the inspection that we do not like or agree with. When these events occur, work with the IG to explain why we operate in a certain way, and then communicate up the chain of command so the leadership understands the issue and our rationale.

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