

The good news is you're in charge, the bad, inspection in two weeks



Captain Eddy takes charge to ensure that all aircraft in the vicinity of the Air Station fly safely. Under his leadership, the quality of Air Traffic Control at New River has reached a new high.

*Story and photo
by PFC Reggie Jones*

Nervousness is...taking charge of an air traffic control tower which averaged 13 incidents a year for three years, and being told that there will be an inspection by COMCAB East within two weeks.

Captain Steven M. Eddy, a nominee for Air Traffic Controller of the year, knows this feeling very well. Capt. Eddy reported to New River in July, 1982 and was assigned as Air Traffic Control Officer immediately before what can only be described as a disastrous inspection on Aug. 5 and 6.

After the Air Traffic Control tower and radar crew were judged unsatisfactory, and Capt. Eddy reviewed the results of the inspection, he formulated a plan to bring the quality of the air traffic control tower up and increased the proficiency of the crew.

First, he reorganized the facility to improve its overall operational effectiveness and streamlined the office and administrative processes.

Next, he instituted a highly effective short term remedial training program designed to quickly get the facility back on its feet by upgrading the professionalism and the standardization of all controllers. Finally, Capt. Eddy implemented a new,

dynamic training program including the establishment of realistic goals tailored to meet the needs of the Air Station.

Another inspection was given 60 days later. The result from that inspection was an above average, and according to the inspecting officers, the ATC facility was now at least on par with other facilities known to them.

COMCAB reinspected in January and the results were an overall grade of outstanding.

Capt. Eddy continued to provide inspirational leadership and professional guidance when a Capt. from the Inspector General's Office reinspected in April, 1983, the overall grade assigned was excellent with no discrepancies.

Since Capt. Eddy has taken charge, there have been no incidents or near air misses.

"I was very proud of the results of the program, but I couldn't have done it without the support of the officers and staff NCOs who assisted me. It seems to me that our officers and staff NCOs hadn't been given the leadership opportunity that should come with their rank. Through this program we made sure that they had the authority to do their jobs," concluded Capt. Eddy.