



***From my Perspective –
Looking Back to Look Forward***

A Micro View

Colonel Dennis W. Shumaker, USAF



Overview

Through the eyes of 25 years at the unit level

- Aircraft
- Technology
- People



Aircraft

- **Average USAF aircraft fleet age is 25 years**
 - **Some aircraft between 40-50 years**
 - **Expectation to fly some to 70-80 years—well past their designed service life**
- **Plan to sustain for twice the projected life cycle**
- **Mods & upgrades need to be executed in spirals**
 - **They are not the same as overhauls**

Fleet is getting older—must return to real cradle to grave management



Technology

- **Technology does not always equal less manning**
 - **Smart diagnostics will not free up manpower in every situation**
- **Develop & deliver support equipment on-time**
- **Advanced technology equals the need for more advanced technicians**
 - **Cannot trouble shoot a system that you do not understand**

Technology comes w/ a cost-don't forget training & equip to support



People

- **Invest/Reinvest in technicians**
 - The person who shows up at the jet must be the person who can fix it!
- **Currently developing generalist with little to no trouble shooting skills...**
 - Theory of operation, system integration, & TS below component level
- **Manning will not get better in near future**
 - There is no more fat--now cutting meat and bone

People have always been the solution—must invest in their training



Conclusion

- **Fleet is getting older—must return to real cradle to grave management**
- **Technology comes with a cost – don't forget training & equip to support**
- **People have always been the solution—must invest in their training**

It is time to go back to the future

“Return With Honor”



QUESTIONS?



U.S. AIR FORCE

“Return With Honor”