



## 123rd TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE WING

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### A Personal Message from Gen. Owen:

EDITOR'S NOTE: Voodoo Tales presents the following personal message from Brig. Gen. Jack H. Owen, commander of the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing:

To the Men of the 123d:

We have reached a major crossroads in the annals of the wing and I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep thanks to each one of you for the excellent job you have accomplished since our recall on Jan. 26.

At this point I find that my own reaction is one of mixed emotions: I am truly sorry that some of our number are destined for separate assignments, for the theoretical integrity of Air Guard units becomes a personal matter when you bid even a temporary farewell to your colleagues. At the same time, I think that we can look back with pride and forward with anticipation of new and perhaps more important tasks.

Over the past five months the cooperation of each man has been a source of personal pride to me as your commander. You have responded to the initial call with an admirable spirit and a "can-do" attitude. You have borne the inconvenience of this no-notice uncertainty with far greater cheeriness than anyone had a right to expect of you; your families have been most generally supportive and through you I offer my thanks to your wives, parents, and children.

Our mutual regret over having the unit split should be self evident, but I think we all have to understand that such decisions are made by men at the very top of command who bear the responsibility for our nation's and the world's security. Just this week I noticed this quotation and it seems that these words were never more appropriate:

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"It may be taken as our position, and the basis of our system, that every man who enjoys the protection of a free government owes not only a portion of his property but even of his personal services in defense of it."

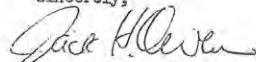
—George Washington

It seems to me that each one of us must want to be where he is needed the most and utilized in the most effective way. Therefore, as we turn this corner and part ways with some of you, I would urge upon you the thought that the best approach each of us can take is to do the best possible job of what ever is asked of us.

In coming months we will be having new experiences which one day we will look back upon, for the most part, as constructively interesting. For those of you who are going to the Far East, you will find that the Orient is a place of many wonders; Korea, for instance, has been improved as a military assignment and is a far cry from the Chosen we experienced in the 50's. In addition, there are large numbers of ANG troops who are being assigned there now as replacements and you will be working with men who have interests and backgrounds similar to your own. In contrast to what you may expect now, I can predict that you will see many familiar faces before you return to the States.

I wish you every good fortune in the months to come and I repeat my thanks for everything you have contributed to the unit to date. Good luck and Godspeed in your new assignments.

Sincerely,



JACK H. OWEN, Brig. Gen., USAF  
Commander

## Voodoo Tales

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"I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU THIS WAS  
A SECRET MISSION!"

### NOTICE

Due to the holidays, Voodoo Tales will not be published Friday. The final issue will appear July 12, prior to the various moves from Shewmaker.