

Men and Women of the 192d Fighter Wing,

This week I will retire from the Virginia Air National Guard after more than 28 years of service. Before I do that, I want to express my sincere appreciation for all you do one more time. Of the many emotions that one experiences on these last days, gratitude is the strongest for me. Having had the opportunity to serve our country is one thing, but serving with such an elite group of Americans as you are is a blessing I'll cherish forever. Your leadership, professionalism and friendship is second to none.

Today's Air National Guard is such an incredible organization. I can honestly say I have never seen a more educated disciplined, dedicated and professional group of men and women. I'm amazed everyday by what each of you do! The amazing things you get done are a true testament to the pioneering force of today's citizen- soldier by managing the demands of your civilian employment along with your military commitments. When I think of the people of the Air National Guard we all work together for the success of the mission whether you're deployed overseas, deployed in-place, working seamlessly in a joint billet, or working at the squadron, group, wing level you are making a difference! We are now a very integral part of the Total Force team.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your dedication to serve and most importantly your commitment to excellence. I wish each of you the BEST as you continue to make this the finest fighter wing in the world.

Sincerely,
Chief Kirby