



News Release

United States Air Force

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COMMAND ACTION IN RESPONSE TO SAF IG ROI ON ACC VICE

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. -- The commander of Air Combat Command took administrative action against the command's vice commander on April 9, after reviewing the Secretary of the Air Force Inspector General Investigation report evaluating a complaint concerning remarks the two-star made at a conference in January.

The Air Force Inspector General's investigation into the matter determined that the remarks by Maj. Gen. James N. Post III, ACC Vice Commander, to a group of Airmen had a "chilling effect on some of the attendees and caused them to feel constrained from communicating with members of Congress."

The vice commander had addressed a group of more than 300 Airmen at a Weapons and Tactics Review Board at Nellis AFB, Nev., Jan. 10. In his response to a question about the status of the A-10, the general talked about the budget constraints facing the service and the reason for the proposed divestiture of the airframe. He also talked about the ongoing debate regarding the Air Force's decision regarding the need to divest the A-10. In the course of his remarks, he discussed the importance of loyalty to senior leader decisions and used the word "treason" in describing his thoughts on communication by Airmen counter to those decisions.

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The IG report surmised that Post's "choice of words had the effect of attempting to prevent some members from lawfully communicating with Congress," which is a violation of the U.S. Code and DoD Directives, whether that was his intention or not.

Gen. Hawk Carlisle, commander of Air Combat Command, issued a letter of reprimand as a result of the findings. General Post is moving from his position as the vice commander of Air Combat Command.

In taking this action, General Carlisle noted that he had carefully considered the information laid out in the IG report, discussed the matter with his Staff Judge Advocate, and reviewed General Post's response to the complaint and action before exercising his professional military judgment to reach a decision.

"General Post understands the impact of his actions and has expressed his sincere regret to me, a regret he extends to all Airmen," said General Carlisle.

For more information, contact Air Combat Command Public Affairs at (757) 764-5007 or e-mail accpa.operations@langley.af.mil.

STATEMENT FROM MAJ GEN JAMES N. POST III:

"My impromptu remarks at the January Weapons and Tactics conference regarding the future of the A-10 have regrettably sparked a lot of controversy and attention. This has served as a distraction from the important work of the command. The objective of my comment was simply meant to focus the attention of the audience on working within the command's constraints. It was sincerely never my intention to discourage anyone's access to their elected officials. I now understand how my poor choice of words may have led a few attendees to draw this conclusion and I offer my humble apology for causing any undue strain on the command and its mission. I absolutely respect and understand the decision made by General Carlisle and I hope my departure from ACC will enable the command to refocus on the mission as soon as possible. I have the utmost respect for the Combat Air Forces' Airmen who work every day to protect and defend the constitution and citizens of the United States."