



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND AIR FORCES (USCENTAF)
379TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
AL UDEID AB, QATAR

9 July 2003

Col Howard Hunt
379th Maintenance Group Commander
Al Udeid AB, Qatar

Colonel Hunt,

Sir I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation for all that you have done for both the 379th and 485th Maintenance Groups. Your leadership and mentoring has been inspiring during the past five months of deployment.

You inherited a rainbow organization made up from every possible combination of Active Duty, Guard and Reserve forces. You brought us all together as one team in Tabuk, where we were able to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles, to accomplish record-breaking aircraft generation. Your calm approach to every situation kept us on an even keel when the world was going crazy around us. You made this "hell hole" a place where we all felt your total support and a place where we could perform our wartime duties with confidence and pride.

Once we moved to Al Udeid, your leadership again brought calm to a stormy organization that was converting from contingency operations to a steady state facility while still flying wartime missions. You integrated active and guard units together as one organization supporting eight different types of aircraft. You placed your trust and confidence in us and gave us everything we needed to succeed.

For me personally, you have been a tremendous mentor and a wonderful friend. I count myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work for, and with you. I have learned so much through the opportunities you have given me and I deeply appreciate the trust and confidence you placed in me. I have learned and experienced more under your command than at any other time in my career. I will always cherish these memories of a war fought with a great leader and, as others have told you, I would follow you anywhere, any time.


RANDY D. BUCKNER, Lt Col, USAF
Commander, 379 EMXS