



# **EATON RED TASKED WITH GREATEST HONOR & RESPONSIBILITY THAT THE U.S. PRESIDENT ENTRUSTS IN THE WAR ON TERROR**

During the Cold War, the President of the United States held his greatest trust in a moment of crisis with the Presidential Military Aide that carried at all times the Nuclear Football (that is, the briefcase that holds the nuclear launch codes and upon authorization would have started a nuclear launch against the Soviets). This individual had to be no less than perfect under pressure, truly the best that the military had to offer.

Now in the midst of the War on Terror, the greatest threat still comes from the skies, whether it be another 9/11-style airplane hijacking or the launch of a nuclear missile from one of our enemies. The President's greatest trust now lays in the hands of an extremely elite group of pilots that would be tasked with executing a Presidential shoot-down order, whether that be an enemy plane, missile, or even a hijacked commercial aircraft with American citizens on board.

An individual given the responsibility of this assignment, would have to be:

- The Top Graduate in Officer Candidate School
- The Top Graduate in Euro-NATO Pilot Training
- The Top Graduate in F16 School
- A Winner of numerous Aerial Achievement Medals and Air Medals
- The Leader of First Strike Missions on enemy targets when our Nation has gone to War
- A truly World-Class Pilot
- A highly Principled and Disciplined Man
- An individual with a long history of Success in Everything that he has done since childhood

*and if a Presidential Shoot-Down Order were given in Colorado, the individual tasked with carrying out this mission on a moment's notice with certainty and perfection would have to be:*

**-An Eaton Red**

**Indeed, the greatest responsibility for protecting our skies lays in the hands of 1988 Eaton Reds' graduate Major Jimmy Reeman.**

Born and raised in Eaton, Jimmy started playing Eaton Baseball in 1975 as a child. Then throughout his teenage years, Jimmy coached the next generation of Reds that looked up their hero wearing the Eaton pinstripes. He became a stand-out athlete in all sports, and led the Reds Baseball Team to nearly a dozen championships on the way to being named All-State, with a batting average above .400 as a senior in 1988. When times were tough, Jimmy was the guy you wanted at the plate. As just one example, after trailing late in a must-win district tournament game, Reeman stepped to the plate in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning and singled in his 5<sup>th</sup> RBI of the game to score the winning run.

These accomplishments and honors were small compared to where Jimmy was headed.

Jimmy played baseball at Florida Tech, where he was teammates with future Major League standout Tim Wakefield, president of his fraternity, and graduated with a degree in aviation in 1992. He then returned to Colorado and became an F-16 fighter pilot for the Air Force. Jimmy was accepted into Officer Training School, where he graduated #1 in his class in 1993. He then performed Euro-NATO Pilot Training, where again, he finished #1.

While we all remember watching the movie “Top Gun” in the 1980’s, Jimmy was living out the movie in the 1990’s, becoming one of the very, very few individuals on this planet to be accepted into the elite F-16 School in 1995. He did OK there too, graduating #1 in his class, showing himself to have “The Right Stuff”.

Now clearly known to be one of the top pilots in the world, Jimmy was one of a select few pilots that patrolled the southern skies above Iraq to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 688. In the mid-1990s, with Saddam Hussein ignoring the resolution and shooting at American fighter pilots, this was the most dangerous place in the world to be flying. For his actions during Operation Southern Watch, Jimmy was awarded the Aerial Achievement Medal.

When the President ordered the start to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Jimmy led the first wave of missions throughout Iraq, where he won yet another Aerial Achievement Award, as well as the distinguished Air Medal for his accomplishments in taking out enemy positions. The mission that Jimmy and his comrades completed led to the swiftest military victory over a major enemy in American history, and frankly, quite possibly, world history. The pinpoint accuracy of the fighter pilots allowed American ground troops to move into Baghdad with lightning speed and with a number of casualties that was well below even the most optimistic expectations.



Hero returns from leading first strike missions in Iraq



As amazing as Jimmy's military accomplishments are, Jimmy has achieved great success in every other aspect of life as well. Jimmy was a pilot for Delta Airlines for 8 years before leaving to become President of Fighter Pilot Enterprises, Inc., where Jimmy is currently building an international distribution team in direct sales, focused on proprietary laser technology employed in the health industry.

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All of this is in addition to being stationed at the Colorado Air National Guard to protect the skies above us.

**Jimmy is a deeply principled man, that instills the following...*In his own words***

**“Principles - Eaton Baseball (and my parents) helped instill 2 core principles that have led to success in aviation, business, and life: PASSION & DISCIPLINE. These two things applied in any endeavor yield great results.**

**Other credit is due to 3 individuals (in addition to my parents) that significantly impacted my success: Coach Danley, Quentin Goodwin, Rich Urano.**

**Pay attention to your coaches and teachers when they talk about non-academic subjects like goal-setting and discipline. I wrote down that I would be a combat fighter pilot when I was in junior high school.**

**Youth athletics teaches a great deal of principles that can be applied in any endeavor of your life. Play and practice with PASSION. Have the discipline to improve and execute properly. And don't forget to enjoy the camaraderie and fun that goes with competition and friends that are an intricate part of the game.**

**Playing Eaton Baseball was and always will be a privilege!”**

*From one of the many Reds that you coached and inspired to work hard to accomplish big dreams:*

***Congratulations on All of Your Success, Jimmy, and Thank You for Defending America.***

*The entire Eaton Baseball Family couldn't be any more proud of your amazing success, and couldn't feel any safer than it does knowing that one of its own is protecting the skies above us.*