



Protect the Mission: Losing Civilian Contracts OK if it Saves USAF Money

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ENID — Resource Management Decision 802. Under that decision, announced a year ago by Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Department of Defense is going to start scaling back the role of contractors in support services. Civilian flight simulator instructors at Vance Air Force Base are being affected.

These instructors currently work for Lear Siegler Services Inc., a private contracting company, but will become Department of Defense employees as of Oct. 1 — if they are hired back.

The goal of the RMD 802 is to save the Department of Defense money.

Senior DoD officials have said insourcing contracted services can reduce work force costs by as much as 40 percent while still maintaining mission capability, according to Directorate for Organizational and Management Planning, which is a part of the Office of the Director of Administration and Management. The General Accounting Office also says the change will result in cost savings.

Under RMD 802, 33,600 Department of Defense positions formerly filled by contractors must be filled by government employees between now and fiscal year 2015. Of those, 2,400 must be changed over this fiscal year. Overall, the Air Force must convert 14,400 contract positions to government service by FY 2015.

At Vance, there have been 110 applicants for 76 available simulator instructor positions, which is leaving a lot of people at the base with questions about the process.

This is a big change throughout the Department of Defense and at Vance, where simulator instructor positions have been filled by civilian contractors since 1991.

If the change does save Department of Defense money, that is a good thing, as long as the mission is not compromised.