

Wolf Pack catches end-of-year money

By Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan
Warrior staff

The Wolf Pack spent more than \$8 million in fallout money this fiscal year, all of which went toward improving mission effectiveness and quality of life for Airmen here.

Purchases included land mobile radios, aircraft parts, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems for the dorms, and fitness center equipment; the Wolf Pack bought everything on its priority list and spent all of the funds it had before the end of the fiscal year.

FALLOUT MONEY

The fallout money is built up over the fiscal year when the actual price of an item came in lower than the original estimate. "For example, we estimated to replace a water heater in the dorms for \$150,000," said Capt. Richard McBride, 8th Comptroller Squadron budget officer.

How the money fell



By the numbers

Mission Support Group	\$3,057,700
Base wide buys	\$2,820,400
Maintenance Group	\$2,048,000
Operations Group	\$416,300
Wing Staff	\$89,600
Medical Group	\$8,000
Total	\$8,440,000

Graphic by Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan

"The actual bill for the water heater is \$145,000 which creates \$5,000 in 'fall out.' This \$5,000 now can be spent on other wing requirements before Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year."

Every organization in the Air Force gets fallout money, and once they spend that money, they send the leftovers down the chain.

So if the Air Staff has extra money, they'll send it to PACAF who, in turn, sends its leftovers to the Wolf Pack along with other bases in the command. Then it's our chance to buy the stuff we need.

Another angle is that this money gets chased by the time zones around the world because Sept. 30 starts and stops at the International Date Line.

The Wolf Pack is one of the first bases to see midnight, if it doesn't spend all of its money, "the funds go back to PACAF which they then disseminate to other open bases," Capt. McBride said.

RESPONSIBLE SPENDING

Spending \$8 million dollars fairly and responsibly, under deadlines and added pressure, is a team effort. Although Col. Jeff "Wolf" Lofgren, 8th Fighter Wing commander, is ultimately responsible for spending oversight, it takes many people throughout the chain to complete the mission.

Once an Airman makes a request, it travels up the chain, step-by-step, all the way to the wing commander. The wing commander then prioritizes the requests, with the help of the Financial Management Board.

THE 12TH MONTH

"Planning for the end-of-year closeout starts from day one of the new fiscal year," Capt. McBride said. "It's a continual process that is managed for 12 months."

That being said, not everything can be planned in advance. One thing the money wolves have to wait on is guidance from PACAF and Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Japan. Also, they have to wait for all of the fallout funds.

All dollars not spent by the 12th month are pulled-back and Col. Lofgren re-applies it to his priority list.

"At that point, it is a race to spend every dollar before Sept. 30," said Capt. McBride.

"The last three weeks of the fiscal year we work at least 14 hours per day because we are receiving and spending 'fall out' dollars within the wing and from PACAF," he said. "I compare it to a marathon where only the strongest and most prepared will be successful," he said.