

Red Tail Review

Aug 13-14, 2011



Reserve Warriors,



I can't begin to tell you how much I've enjoyed these first months as Commander of what is unquestionably the best unit in AFRC! I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you and your families a little better at the picnic on Sunday.

We have been busy preparing for reaching FOC, our AFRC UCI in June and laying the groundwork for transitioning to a Wing.

Recently, we briefed Lt. Gen. Stenner, Maj. Gen. Gourley and Maj. Gen. Padilla regarding the exceptional work each of you are doing to support and execute our mission. They are appreciative of your work and understand the demands of a growing organization.

There are many different topics I'd like to present to you, but I'll step aside and let you hear from Tech. Sgt. Ben Haynes who accompanied me and three others on a recent trip to attend the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. convention in Washington, DC. It was an experience none of us will forget. We had the honor of meeting the men who fought a war abroad to rid the world of fascism while fighting one at home for equality.

Keep your eyes open for an upcoming film by George Lucas about these brave warriors, titled "Red Tails." Also, we are in the process of establishing a local TAI chapter and will begin a membership drive soon as part of our Human Resources Development Council effort. You can learn more about these amazing American Airmen at www.tuskegeeairmen.org, but first a few words from Sgt. Haynes with his first-hand account of what it was like to meet these living legends.

-Col Bryan Radliff

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Tuskegee Airman Convention—Commentary

By: Tech. Sgt. Ben Haynes

Tuskegee Airmen. These two words really haven't had much of a meaning for me during my Air Force career. Reading the eight sentences that the PDG (Professional Development Guide) dedicates to them, I never really knew anything about the Tuskegee Airmen. That was before I recently had an eye opening experience, when I had a chance to meet some extraordinary men at the Tuskegee Airman Convention in Washington.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first American black military pilots and crewmen to serve during World War II. The Tuskegee Airmen Convention is held every year to celebrate and remember their lives and their many accomplishments. . This year's convention marked their 70th anniversary. The convention area was full of pictures and poster boards displaying the history and accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen.

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— News —

Medical Update

Did you know there have been some changes on the medical side of the house? Here are the highlights:

- Did you know that reserve members must be on orders for greater than 31 days in order to be eligible for medical care at the base hospitals and clinics?
- For orders less than 31 days and UTA's you are eligible for emergency care only and you are covered from the time you leave your house to report for duty until you return home. (Unless you stop along the way for personal reasons other than gas)
- Remember the Emergency Room is for emergencies not routine care or sick call.
- If you go to the Emergency Room for non-emergencies there is a chance that you will be billed and unless there is Line of Duty determination to cover the care it's YOUR bill.
- Most illness are not found to be in the line of duty unless they are deployment related.
- Reserve members that are not deployable cannot participate without a waiver from AFRC/SG --unit commanders can no longer over ride/waive this standard

Questions? Contact SMSgt John McLean for more information.

Family Day and Picnic This Sunday!

The Arctic Reserve Top III Presents the 2011 Family Picnic.

Who: Everyone in the 477th & your families

When: August 14, 2011

What Time: 1100-Signout

Where: 611 Chalet

Why: This is an opportunity to say "Thank you" to both you and your families.

Come enjoy some good food, drink, and great company.

There is a play structure for the kids, Sand Volleyball Court, Horse shoe pits and much more!

Base Access-DBIDS

In order to maintain smooth base access after **1 Oct. 2011**, all members (and family members) must be registered in the DBIDS program.

There are 2 locations to register: 1) Visitors Center at the Boniface Gate (Main Gate)— Please note, this is always very busy and will likely have a wait; 2) The Pass and ID office at the People Center (line badge office).

New Airman Leadership School (Correspondence Course)

A new distance learning course has been released to satisfy E-4 PME requirements (ALS).

Members can request course material in either PDF or print formats. It requires two tests.

Also, members are now required to self register thru the Air University Student Information System (AUSIS.) This also applies to those who have been waiting on course one to arrive.

Please see your training manager or Tech. Sgt. Joe McQueen for more information and registration instructions.

Look how fun it was last year!



— Announcements —

Promotions—Check out who's flashing new rank!



Airman to Airman 1st Class

Frances Wiley, CES



Airman 1st Class to Senior Airman

Scott McKinnis, MXS



Staff to Tech. Sgt.

Jennifer Pozomanning, AMDF



Tech. to Master Sgt.

Shanna Perry, MSgt FSS

Michelle Colley, AMDF

Reenlistments—These folks are committed!

- Tech. Sgt. Ben Haynes, MXS
- Staff Sgt. Nicholas Thompson, AMXS

Reserve Job Fair—For SPOUSES!

The first annual Joint Forces exclusive Spouse Job Fair will be on **14 October from 10AM-3PM at Hangar 18** on Elmendorf.

Due to the support and attention of Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Biden on the importance of helping our military spouses find work, Alaska has stepped up to coordinate this special event for the spouses!

Be on the look out soon for information on resume workshops to prepare for the job fair. Please tell your spouses so they can clear their calendars!

Military Youth Academy—Mentors Needed



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While walking around and trying to take all of this information in, you can start to see why there is a special gathering every year in their honor, but it really hits home when you talk to one of the Airmen. When you stand there and listen to them tell their story you're taken back to when they were flying into the deadliest airspace or when they fought for equal rights. Hearing a first-hand account of the story of the 101 men who stood up for their right to use the "white-only" club was amazing. You could see how proud they are of their accomplishments and how much it means to them that you took time out of your schedule to meet and talk with them.

They also loved to know that the legacy they started 70 years ago when they were a part of the 477th Bomber Group and 302nd Fighter Squadron is continued today here at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson with Reserve units, the 477th Fighter Group and the 302nd Fighter Squadron (Hellions). Telling them that two of the units they flew with have been reactivated and are now flying the most advanced fighter aircraft in world (the F-22) was just about as exciting to them as it was for me to be standing in their presence.

These incredible men and women not only fought and flew in some of the most daring missions of WWII, but they did it with a nearly-flawless record, paving the way for future black members of the military. They proved that having diversity in the military and treating each race equally pays off in a big way. Had they not been given the chance to follow their dreams of flying and defending the country that they love so much, we could have lost the war.

These brave and persistent Americans are living history. Having the opportunity to meet them and let them know how much I appreciate what they endured and to let them know that the torch they lit 70 years ago is still being carried forward today by the 477th and the 302nd at JBER AK was a terrific experience and one that I won't soon forget.