

RED TAIL REVIEW

Vol. 7 No. 1 January 2014
477th Fighter Group



2013 in review

Commanders Comments



Happy New Year!

Welcome to the January UTA. I hope you take time to check out this month's installment of the Red Tail Review. It is a 2013 Year in Review edition and highlights some of the things we have accomplished and some of the things we endured together.

I thank each of you for your tremendous efforts and service over this last year and look forward to serving with you again in 2014. It is a worthwhile endeavor to take the time and review where we have been, where we are now and to look forward to where we are going.

2013 was full of accomplishments; they were great victories that you accomplished despite the challenges the

year brought in the form of budgetary challenges, furloughs and government shutdowns. Your service has been amazing.

2014 is sure to be filled with challenges and difficulties, as well as great opportunities for us to continue to chart the future of our Air Force.

One challenge we have at the beginning of every year is safety. This post holiday season is often a time that has a spike in accidents and incidents. Please keep your focus on the task at hand both here and at home. Your safety and continued service are critical to our success. Thanks again for your tremendous service in 2013. I am sure that you will accomplish even greater things in 2014.

Respectfully
Col Otten



Force support squadron earns AFRC awards

477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska -- Air Force Reserve Command named the 477th Force Support Squadron's military personnel program best in the command and bestowed top honors to its operations officer Dec 6.

For the second year in a row, the squadron's military personnel section earned the AFRC-level Gerrit D. Foster, Jr., Award, which is awarded annually, at the end of the fiscal year, to the command's top military personnel program. The AFRC Directorate of Personnel and Manpower Programs announced the awards in a memorandum.

"This is really something everyone in our military personnel section should be proud of," said Lt. Col. David Kurle, 477th FSS commander since Sept. 7. "These Citizen Airmen and civilians work extremely hard during the week and over unit training assemblies to meet the needs of the 477th Fighter Group.

"I am really happy for them, it validates a lot of effort over the past year," he said. Senior Master Sgt. R. Adam Keele, the section's superin-

endent for the past three-and-a-half years was also proud of his team's efforts.

"Obtaining the title 'Best MPS in AFRC' during a time of manning issues, dwindling resources, increasing workload and increased deployments for MPS members, speaks volumes about the caliber and resiliency of our Airmen," he said. "I think this is tremendous recognition of the fine work our MPS performed over the last year.

"We have served our customers with pride, passion and dedication," Keele said.

In addition to the MPS award, Capt. Magaret

Kuntz, the squadron's operations officer, was named the AFRC Personnel Company Grade Officer of the Year at the installation level. It was Kuntz's first time receiving this honor.

"This award is truly a recognition of the outstanding team found in the 477th Force Support Squadron," she said. "Their exceptional dedication to service is inspiring and motivating. It's an honor to lead such a fantastic group of Citizen Airmen."

Kuntz and the 477th FSS Military Personnel Section will go on to compete for the same awards at the Air Force level.



Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso

Red Tail Review Editorial Staff

Commander

Col. Tyler Otten

Public Affairs

Capt. Ashley Conner

Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso



The 477th Fighter Group Looks Back at 2013

by Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso
477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska --The 477th Fighter Group has made through another year, 2013 was a busy year full of significant accomplishments and a list of firsts for the organization. Here is a look back at some of the events that made up 2013.

JBER's first NCO leadership development course-Jan. 18

The 477th Fighter Group graduated its first Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development class. Ten NCOs from the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing and nine from the Air Force Reserve's 477th Fighter Group attended this course which is a combination of college level management and leadership instruction and practical hands on military application training targeted to mid-level enlisted personnel in a Citizen Airmen centric culture.



Alaska Reserve unit stands up Security Forces Squadron-Mar. 1

The 477th Security Forces Flight reached a new milestone when it transitioned to a squadron under the 477th Fighter Group here March 1. Once the squadron reaches fully operational capability in 2015 the squadron will deploy as a unit. Until then they will be supporting their active duty counterparts on JBER.



POLAR FORCE: 477th Fighter Group tests combat readiness alongside TFI partners-Apr. 5-8

The 477th Fighter Group participated in Polar Force 13-3, a two-phase operational readiness exercise designed to test the unit's ability to deploy on short notice as well as to operate and survive in a wartime environment. This is the first time that the Air Force Reserve 477th Fighter Group has fully participated alongside the Active Duty 673rd Air Base Wing and 3rd Wing as well the Air National Guard 176th Wing, demonstrating Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's commitment to Total Force Integration.



Reserve team wins JBER F-22 Load Crew of the Year -May 17

Three Reservists from the 477th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron were recently awarded the 2012 JBER F-22 Load Crew of the Year during a ceremony here May 17. This is the first time that a crew comprised of three Air Force Reserve members has won the JBER F-22 Load Crew of the Year. Tuttle, and Vice are both full time Air Reserve Technicians working each day alongside the 3rd Wing load crews. Baker is a traditional reservist who fulfills his Reserve commitment one weekend a month and two weeks a year

Reserve CES repairs World War II era airfield

Over 50 Reservists assigned to the 477th Civil Engineer Squadron completed repair work on a World War II era airfield during their annual tour May 27 - June 8. Every year the members of the 477th CES use their annual tour to support an Innovative Readiness Training project. The purpose of the IRT is to improve military readiness while simultaneously providing quality services to communities throughout America.



Civilian furloughs begin-12 July

Congressionally-mandated furloughs of more than 700 civilians locally and some 680,000 Department of defense civilians worldwide began July 8. Civilians here were required to take 11 days of unpaid leave between July 8 and Sept. 30, resulting in a 20 percent pay reduction during that period. The furloughs were part of Department of Defense-wide budget cuts due to sequestration.



“Spirit of Tuskegee” adorns Alaska Reserve F-22 flagship

An F-22 here has been transformed into the 477th Fighter Group flagship with the words “Spirit of Tuskegee” painted across the tail, a nod to the units Tuskegee Airmen heritage. Coordination began in 2011 to have the Reserve flagship tailflash painted with “Spirit of Tuskegee” to recognize the accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen. A flagship is a dedicated aircraft with the name of the unit commander and dedicated crew chief’s names painted on the aircraft. The 477th Fighter Group was previously the 477th Bombardment Group, a Tuskegee unit activated in 1944. The group’s 302nd Fighter Squadron historically was part of the 332nd Fighter Group, also known as “The Redtails” the famous all-black unit that fought both American prejudice and the axis powers in Europe.



Innovation advances F-22 as strategic force in the Pacific

The newest strategy in fighter employment will enable combat-ready F-22’s to rapidly refuel, rearm, and redeploy. The new concept was demonstrated here during a joint exercise held in August. The usual method of deploying fighters is structured around large footprint packages to a select few operating bases. The new rapid response force concept was developed by Lt. Col. Kevin Sutterfield, a Reserve F-22 pilot assigned to the 477th Fighter Group.

Force support squadron earns AFRC awards

Air Force Reserve Command named the 477th Force Support Squadron’s military personnel program best in the command and bestowed top honors to its operations officer Dec 6. For the second year in a row, the squadron’s military personnel section earned the AFRC-level Gerrit D. Foster, Jr., Award, which is awarded annually, at the end of the fiscal year, to the command’s top military personnel program. The AFRC Directorate of Personnel and Manpower Programs announced the awards in a memorandum.



During 2013 the 477th Fighter Group...

- Gained 82 Air Force Reserve members
- Processed 719 travel vouchers through finance
- Completed 373 physical health assessments

Resolved over 1500 communication trouble tickets

Fired more than 4,680 rounds during Combat Arms Classes held on UTA weekends

Members received over \$53,700 in Tuition Assistance

The Fighter Squadron flew the Raptor for 85 sorties totaling 138 flying hours in UTA status



Fighter Group Highlights

Newcomers

Welcome the following Airmen to the 477 FG Family

Airman 1st Class Michael Forro	477 AMDF
Airman 1st Class Brittany Herrington	477 FG
Staff Sgt. Bruce Roberts	477 CE
Senior Airman Juan Vargas	477 AMXS
Staff Sgt. Joshua Roberts	477 SFS
Tech. Sgt. John Smithdorff	477 MXS

Promotions

Take a look at who is flashing new rank...

Master Sgt. Taifa Petaway	477 FSS
Staff Sgt. Patrick Squires	477 MXS
Senior Airman Abelardo Rios	477 AMXS
Airman Joselito Moscare	477 AMDF

ABOVE 90 PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST SCORES

Fighter Group

Lt. Col. Steven Johnson
Lt. Col. Robert Churchill
Tech. Sgt. Luke Boser
Tech. Sgt. James Kukuk

477th FSS

Tech. Sgt. Heidi Venable

477th AMDF

Staff Sgt. Brent Wilkins

477th AMXS

Senior Airman Christopher Obrien

477th MXS

Staff Sgt. Melanie Kluss

477th CES

Senior Airman Jonathan Capua

477th OSF

Senior Airman Daniel Gallagher

477th SFS

Tech. Sgt. Timothy Tefft

302nd FS

Major David Balmer
Major Caleb Haley
Major Clayton Johnson
Major Ryan Pelkola

Fiscal Fitness

UNPAID DUTY AND TRAVEL ORDERS: All travel and military pay claims must be submitted within five working days of TDY finish or completion of tour. Recent AFRC policy dictates that new orders must not be published for members who have one outstanding order over 60 days or more than one outstanding order over 5 workdays. Let's submit travel and pay claims without delay.

FOUR TRAVEL DAYS FOR ANNUAL TRAINING:

For AT tours reservists are limited to a maximum of 4 calendar days of travel per fiscal year. To save travel

days, supervisors may permit late reporting during the morning of the first duty day, and early release during the afternoon on the last duty day.

CERTIFIED ACTIVE DUTY ORDERS: Reservists and their supervisors certify tours of active duty by signing military duty orders, AF Form 938. The certified orders are used for multiple purposes such as: 1) submit to the RPO for military pay, 2) attach to travel vouchers for travel pay, and 3) attach to ART timesheets to document military duty. So retain sufficient copies of certified orders to satisfy all uses.



NEWS BRIEFS

Saturday Feb. 8 2014 the 477th Fighter Group will host its First Annual Awards Banquet at the Arctic Warrior Events Center here on JBER. See your First Sgt. for more details.

You are now able to update your own GAL info
Go to <https://esd.us.af.mil/esdportal/> Once on the site, hover your cursor over the SELF HELP button and then select VIEW/UPDATE MY GAL. You will see a list of items you may need update yourself, as well as a list of agencies that my provide additional help.

Fisher House

Members of the 477th have been giving their time to help make dinners for guests at the Alaska Fisher House, they could use your help.
Please talk to your First Sgt.
for information as to how you can help.

Share a Ride

The share a ride van that comes to the Fighter Group now make a stop at Fighter Town, if you are interested in catching a ride on the van please contact
Joe McQueen @ 551-4752

Chapel Schedule

9a.m. - Liturgical Service, Chapel 2
10:30 a.m.- Catholic Mass, Chapel 1
11:30 a.m. - Contemporary Christian Service,
Chapel 2

Questions call Lt. Col. Pat Traver s @ 551-7265

PT TESTING

Members will complete all components of the PT test in Hangar 5 . Wear official PT gear, hand carry workout shoes, bring your ID card and arrive 15 minutes before testing time.

Redtail Review Feedback

The Redtail Review is the newsletter of the 477th FG. As a member of the unit you have a say in what goes in it! If there are things you would like to see more (or less of) e-mail your suggestions to: 477fg.pa@us.af.mil



Vice President Joe Biden visited Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Dec. 7 on his way back from multiple engagements in the Pacific region. During his brief stay, Biden took time to speak with representatives from each branch of service stationed here.



Senior Airman Scott McKinnis, 477th Maintenance Squadron was selected to represent the 477th Fighter Group at the meet-and-greet at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson passenger terminal Dec. 7. During the visit McKinnis was coined by the Vice President for his hard work and dedication to the Air Force Reserve.



Tech. Sgt. Andrew Eichorst, 477th AMXS, was recognized this week as the first reserve member selected as the 3rd Wing Outstanding Performer of the Week. Eichorst was presented a certificate from Col. David Nahom, 3rd Wing commander, for his performance as team lead for the replacement of \$1.75M vertical stabilizer. Eichorst lead a 10 man team during the entire repair process.

Around the Group

January 2014 7





477th Fighter Group
proudly presents
The 3rd Annual Ice
Fishing Tournament



1 Feb 2014 – 9am – 3pm
Palmer Elks Lodge on Finger Lake

PRIZES for Adults: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Longest Legal Fish caught during tournament hours

PRIZES for Children 12 and Under: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Longest Legal Fish

Tournament Registration is required @ The ELKS LODGE "LAKE SIDE"

\$15.00 Entry Fee—Children 12 and Under free with paying adult

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE / HOLES DRILLED FOR FREE / FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED

PRIZES & PRIZE DRAWINGS AFTER THE CONTEST

For additional information/directions please visit us at www.477fg.afrc.af.mil

<http://palmerelks.org/> or call 907-551-4777

