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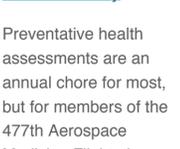
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# RED TAIL E-REVIEW



PHOTO: ©2015 JOHN M. DIBBS

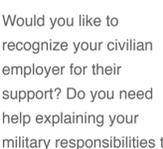
WATCH: Two JBER F-22 Raptor planes fly into Seattle for Combat Edge 2015.



## Med Flight keeps reservists ready

Preventative health assessments are an annual chore for most, but for members of the 477th Aerospace Medicine Flight, they are a critical function that keeps members qualified to continue to contribute the Air Force mission.

[Read more.](#)

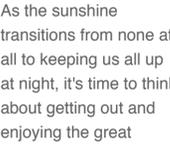


## Recognize your civilian employer

Would you like to recognize your civilian employer for their support? Do you need help explaining your military responsibilities to your civilian employer? The ESGR is an organization that can help you do both.

[Read more.](#)

[NOMINATE YOUR EMPLOYER](#)



## Think safety

As the sunshine transitions from none at all to keeping us all up at night, it's time to think about getting out and enjoying the great Alaska outdoors. It's also time to consider safety as you head out to partake in the myriad activities Alaska has to offer.

[Read more.](#)



## F-22 crew chiefs play NASCAR with hot pit refuels

by Airman 1st Class Louis Velasco  
477th Fighter Group Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmy Johnson and Danica Patrick are some of the most recognizable names in the world of NASCAR - even among the most casual sports fans. Drivers are front and center after a win, and deservedly so. The critical work the pit crew performs, however, is sometimes lost in the shuffle. A vehicle can stop for refueling, new tires, repairs or simple mechanical adjustments, to name a few, and be back in the race in minutes if not seconds. That speed can mean the difference between winning and losing the race.

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson has its own version of a high-speed pit crew - we call them aircraft maintainers.

"It's about efficiency," said Lt. Col. Robert Churchill, F-22 pilot from the 477th Fighter Group. "Hot-pitting is the quickest way to get the most sorties and is the key to mission combat capability." [Read more.](#)



## Every Airman has a story

Turning dreams into reality

More than 20 years ago Master Sgt. Shawn Arnold joined the Air Force as a member of the security police (now security forces.)

"I grew up as a military brat," said Arnold. "At the time, both my parents were in the Marines, the military was what I knew."

Plus, according to Arnold, military duty fell in line with his desire to serve; it was a way to give back to his country. After obtaining his bachelor's degree, Arnold crossed over into the Army as an officer, but resigned his commission in 2006 to become a teacher.

"Becoming a teacher, in my mind, was very similar to my service in the military in many regards, an extension of my commitment to service," said Arnold. "And I always wanted to be a teacher; it was a way to give back locally."

But it hadn't even been a year before Arnold says he started to miss the military life. Four years went by and Arnold honed his teaching skills using the leadership and communication skills he learned in the military to enhance his performance as an educator.

"The leadership skills I gained from the military definitely translated into the classroom and then later as an education administrator and now as a superintendent," said Arnold. "First leading small groups, then larger ones, along with concise, clear, timely communication, all skills I learned growing up in the military."

Then, according to Arnold, the opportunity to have the best of both worlds came up, and he jumped at the chance to put the uniform on once again.

[Read the full story here.](#)



## Great Alaskan Aviation Gathering

Airman 1st Class Heather Duffy, a Reserve Airman in the 477th Fighter Group, marshals Reserve F-22 pilot Maj. David Balmer into his parking location at the Alaska Aviation Gathering this past weekend. Members of the Air Force Reserve's 477th Fighter Group took the jet to be a part of the show that included more than 275 vendors and was attended by more than 23,000 visitors.

[Read more.](#)

### 2016 UTA Schedule

## Good to know...

### You're invited:

Join the 477th Force Support Squadron in a ceremony marking Senior Master Sgt. Neal Therrien's retirement Sunday June 7 at 3:30 p.m. in the Arctic Warrior Events Center, Sustinna Room.

### Silent Dessert Auction

Donate a dessert or bid on your favorite, or both. Sunday June 7 in the 477th Fighter Group Headquarters Building. Bidding will close at 3 p.m.

### JBER Gate/VCC Changes

Beginning May 11  
Post Road Gate Hours 0600-1800

Beginning May 18  
Arctic Valley Gate 1500-1800 Mon - Fri ONLY  
The Arctic Valley Gate will be closed on weekends

### June 1-July 18

The Boniface Gate will be open for **outbound traffic only** during this time period the Muldoon Gate will remain open 24/7 in order to help absorb displaced Boniface Gate traffic.

The Boniface Visitor Control Center will be closed for an AT/FP upgrade project

The Richardson Visitor Control Center is currently open 24/7.

Effective 19 July it's hours will shift to 0600-2100 M-F.

### Writing guide

Performance reports, promotion recommendation writing guide available [here](#).

## Recent promotions

### Congratulations to these 477th Fighter Group promotees:

From Airman 1st Class - to Senior Airman Michael Forro Jr.,  
477th Aerospace Medicine Flight

From Senior Airman - to Staff Sgt. Ashlee Elmore,  
477th Aerospace Medicine Flight

From Staff Sgt. - to Technical Sgt. Christian San Juan,  
477th Maintenance Squadron

### Newcomers

Welcome to the newest members of the 477th Fighter Group:

Staff Sgt. Miranda Wood,  
477th Aerospace Medicine Flight

Senior Airman Brendan Lee,  
477th Operations Support Flight

Senior Airman Colten Mullins,  
477th Maintenance Squadron

Airman Basic Anna Young  
477th Aerospace Medicine Flight

### Retirees

Bid farewell to these 477th members retiring:

Lt. Col. Michael Forcht,  
477th Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Neal Therrien,  
477th Force Support Squadron  
Communications Flight



## OPERATION CLEAN-SWEEP

More than 1,000 JBER personnel, including more than a dozen from the 477th Fighter Group, came together to conduct Operation Clean Sweep, May 5 through 9, on JBER.

The operation spanned the entire joint base, to include highways adjacent to the installation. Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians, wearing reflective vests or belts, worked together to pick up trash to make an impact on the cleanliness and appearance of the installation. [Read more.](#)

[Link to photos here.](#)



## 2015 UTA Schedule

May 2-3

June 6-7

August 1-2

September 12-13

October 3-4\*

November 7-8\*

December 5-6\*

\*All FY 16 UTA dates are tentative

## Fiscal Fitness

**USE YOUR LEAVE WHEN YOU ACCRUE IT:** Military leave will be scheduled and taken during the tour it was earned to ensure mission circumstances do not afford the member the opportunity to do so.

**TDY TRAVEL ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE DAYS:** Flights permitting, travelers should arrive no earlier than the day before the TDY begins and depart no later than one day after the TDY ends. Arriving too early or departing too late cause loss of per diem including no reimbursement for lodging cost and possible charging of leave days. Expenses for the extra days are the traveler's financial responsibility.

**SATO FEE:** The fee charged by the Scheduled Airline Ticket Office is reimbursable and should be claimed on travel vouchers. The SATO fee claim must be supported by either a receipt (usually written on the SATO itinerary) or a lost receipt form. This supporting document must be included with travel vouchers even though the amount is less than \$75.

**PREPARE ORDERS IN AROWS-R:** It is AFRC policy that AROWS-R will be used to prepare orders for AF reservists. All AF Forms 938, Request and Authorization for Active Duty Training/Active Duty Tour, and DD Forms 1610, Request and Authorization for TDY Travel, must be prepared using AROWS-R. Orders should not be prepared by the active duty units to which reservists are assigned.



## Commander's Comments

477th Fighter Group Warriors,

Welcome to the June UTA!

I can't say it enough but thank you for your service and your commitment to our unit and the Air Force. I've been in Command for almost three months and I wanted to pass some feedback to you on where we are as an organization and where we are going.

I am proud to say the 477th Fighter Group is in fantastic shape. Col. Otten left the group in a great place and our Citizen Airmen continue to do incredible things.

We deliver world-class F-22 air dominance for our nation. We provide support to the mission through all functions, including communications, logistics, services, medical, our military personnel section and the group staff.

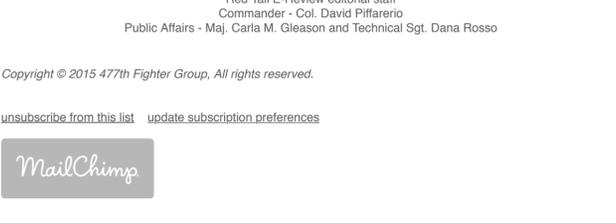
You guys are getting it done despite budget restraints, time restraints and manpower shortages. Be assured, we are working hard for you to ease some of those limitations.

Looking forward, every day I come into work and think of how we can make the mission more effective while taking care of our people. This is driving some thoughts on where we are going in 2015. These are our "Aimpoints" for the remainder of the year:

- Grow and Develop Mission Ready Airmen
- Support our Reserve Triad
- Provide integrated, flexible Air Dominance
- Explore Innovative Strategies
- Improve Community Relations

Whenever you are doing a task, day to day training, deploying or working at your civilian job, these Aimpoints should give you a sound basis on what we are doing as an organization and how you fit into it. Be safe, be smart, be disciplined and be good to each other.

This UTA stands to be another great opportunity to train the most lethal warriors in AFRC, let's get to work.



Red Tail E-Review editorial staff  
Commander - Col. David Piffaretti  
Public Affairs - Maj. Carla M. Gleason and Technical Sgt. Dana Rosso

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