

# RED TAIL REVIEW

Vol. 6 No. 10

477th Fighter Group

December 2013



stealthy **supercruise**, MANEUVER-  
ABILITY *integrated avionics* first-  
**AIR DOMINANCE**  
**kill low observable** *low aerodynamic design,*  
increased thrust stealthy **ADVANCED**  
FLIGHT CONTROLS **thrust vectoring**  
**HIGH THRUST-TO-WEIGHT RATIO**

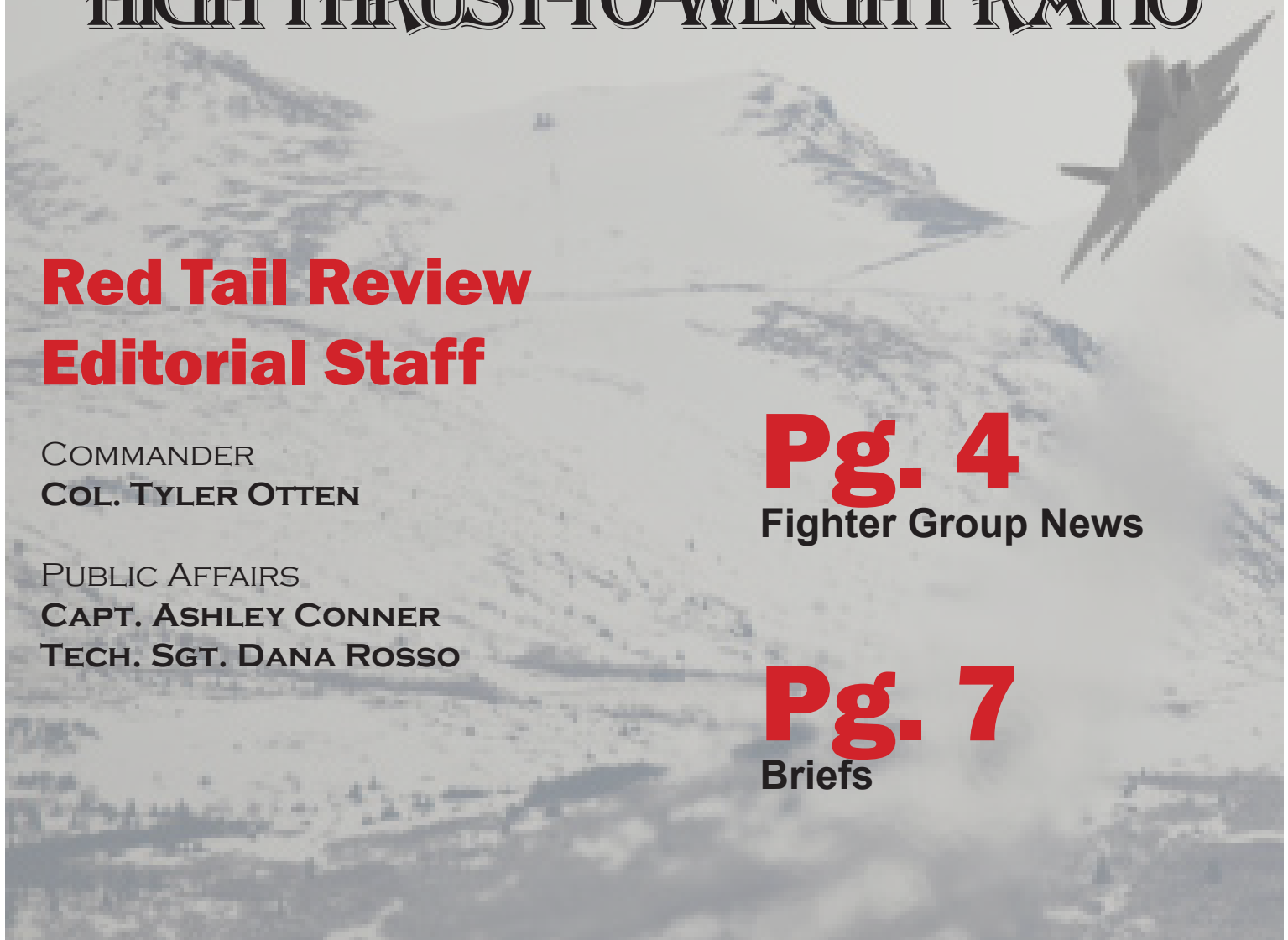
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# COMMANDERS COMMENTS



## **Col. Tyler Otten** **477th Fighter Group commander**

Hello all and welcome to the December UTA. I hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the rest of the holiday period. With Christmas and New Year's Day just around the corner this is a very busy time for all of us. For many of us this busy time is a happy one and we enjoy the time with family and friends. For others, however, it is a stressful time that isn't marked with joy and great times. In keeping with our efforts to forge a more effective team in the 477th, I ask each of you to be mindful of those around you here in the unit and in your off-base world. Please be on the lookout for those that may find themselves struggling during the holidays. Reach out to them and lend them whatever assistance

you can. If you or someone you know in the unit is struggling, please advise your leadership team or first sergeant. We are here to help and can help coordinate efforts to ensure that all of our team members are doing well and are cared for. We have resource available to help. I also ask that you keep our deployed 477th members and their families in mind this season.

We have had a number of Personal Identifiable Information violations here at JBER lately. Please be vigilant in your use of email. If you have any doubt, send it encrypted with FOUO markings. The worst violations are found in attachments that are sent to off base email accounts. Remember, that even if it is your own information you are putting at risk, it is still a violation. I am asking for your continued help with proper PII protection.

I thank you for your continued service and commitment to our effort here in the Fighter Group. I continue to be amazed at all you accomplish. I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Respectfully  
Col Otten



## Alaskan Raptors: Leveraging the total force to build combat capability

by Air Force 1st Lt. Matthew Chism  
JBER Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska --An F-22 Raptor flightline expeditor jogs outside, breaching the wall of frigid night air. His focus narrowed on ensuring that his team has the tools and parts they need to fix the jets.

Planning the next step in the process and communicating with the crew is crucial to completing the tasks efficiently. He and the other Airmen on his crew have rarely taken off their reflective belts in the last three weeks while working the midnight shift. There is no crowd to cheer them on, but their work will elicit a different type of roar in the morning.

This is just one of the functions more than 2,300 Airmen of the 3rd Wing and 477th Fighter Group perform to train and equip F-22s supporting the Pacific region.

Twenty four hours a day, they maintain readiness as part of the Air Force's first F-22 total force team.

"About half of the 477th Fighter Group partners with the 3rd Wing to execute the F-22 mission," said Air Force Col. Tyler Otten, 477th FG commander. "Our primary contribution is experience and longevity.

The 477th Fighter Group has been able to leverage those attributes by leading the standup of the Advanced Programs Office and filling critical roles in the operation--to include operations officer, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron chief, Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in charge, fighter squadron weapons officer and many other duties in support of the overall shared mission."

This shared responsibility has led the units through three Pacific Command Theater Security Package deployments, numerous Red Flag-Alaska exercises and innovations like the C-17 Globemaster/F-22 rapid response capability.

From the basics of training to the refined level of deployments, the pilots, maintenance and support personnel have partnered to carry out the F-22 mission. "We continuously seek opportunities to collaborate with our Total Force Integration teammates to solve operations and maintenance challenges associated with fifth-generation fighters," said Air Force Col. David Nahom, 3rd Wing commander.

An example of that capability is the Increment 3.1 upgrade, which enhanced ground mapping and targeting capability for Alaska F-22s. Though new technology is a force multiplier, the units also maximize home sta-

tion readiness by combining active duty and Reserve work schedules.

"When it comes to the readiness of the unit and our ability to go to war, it is not simply about having more pilots," said Air Force Capt. Michael Frye, a 525th Fighter Squadron flight commander. "Rather, our combat capability in the Raptor has everything to do with quality of pilots that we put into the air, something that TFI allows us to do at a moment's notice."

"Traditional Reservists are absolutely critical in allowing the squadron to quickly plus up our manning in the event of some sort of contingency operation," Frye said.

It has been six years since the active duty and Reserve F-22 units in Alaska began this partnership. What began as a TFI has now become the normal way of doing business.

"The Reservists work side by side with the active duty folks every single day," said Chief Master Sgt. Neal Raben, 3rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent. "You can't tell them apart. We count on them to have enough people day-to-day to accomplish the mission."

"The biggest benefit of TFI is leveraging the vast amounts of experience that these guys bring to the fight," Frye said. "I find that we rely quite heavily on the Reserve component to fill critical roles in our day-to-day operations."

When the first F-22 landed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, now a part of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, in August 2007, Air Force Gen. Paul Hester, then Pacific Air Forces commander, said "The unmatched capabilities of this superb airplane are simply unbelievable. It furnishes our Airmen with unrivaled air supremacy and provides us with the most lopsided and unfair advantages ever seen in the air power age." Advantages of the F-22 are amplified by the TFI as the units focus on the core AF mission, "Fly, Fight, and Win."

"Ultimately, what brings the Total Force team together is our shared mission," Otten said. "The active and Reserve component members form a cadre of great Americans serving their country by providing air power for furthering U.S. national objectives. It is awesome to watch."

"Every day I see active and Reserve Airmen partnering to implement their innovative ideas," Nahom said. "We have to continue to leverage our respective strengths to bring more combat capability to the warfighter."



# Newcomers

## 477th AMXS

Tech. Sgt. David Amundson

## 477th CES

Staff Sgt. Dandrick Gipson  
Staff Sgt. Keith Horen  
Capt. Zaqueo Salazar

## 477th FSS

Staff Sgt. Christopher Pace  
Airman Mtrna Sims

## 302nd FS

Master Sgt. Melinda Harris

## 477th AMDF

Airman Thomas Champion  
Airman First Class Kandyce Sweet

## 477th MXS

Staff Sgt. Malanie Kluss

## 477th OSF

Maj. Patrick Pearson

## 477th FG

Master Sgt. Andre Brown

# ABOVE



PHYSICAL FITNESS  
TEST SCORES

## Fighter Group

Maj. Christopher Castaneda

## Force Support Squadron

Lt. Col. David Kurle  
Capt. Margaret Kuntz  
Master Sgt. Kevin Norris

## Aerospace Medical Flight

Senior Airman Kendall Neilsen

## Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Wade Lawrence  
Senior Airman Aaron Witt

## Maintenance Squadron

Lt. Col. Michael Giedt  
Tech. Sgt. Brandon Sipes  
Tech. Sgt. Sterling Taylor  
Senior Airman Patrick Squires  
Senior Airman Ryan Weeks



# Promotions

**Master Sergeant to Senior Master Sergeant**  
Micheal Long 477 FSS

**Technical Sergeant to Master Sergeant**  
Daniel Fried 477 AMXS

**Staff Sergeant to Technical Sergeant**  
Timothy Hendrickson 477 AMXS  
Craig Miller 477 AMDF  
Michael Faris 477 CES  
Liliana Gallego 477 AMXS

**Senior Airman to Staff Sergeant**  
Donnie Cupples 477 MXS  
Christopher Harrel 477 MXS

**Airman First Class to Senior Airman**  
Jermaine James 477 AMXS

## Money Matters\$

**LEAVE TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH NON-DUTY DAYS:** When military members take leave the day before and the day after non-duty days, all the days (duty and non-duty) must be charged as leave. For example, if member takes leave Friday and Monday, then leave will be charged Fri, Sat, Sun, and Mon. Submit one leave request for the entire leave period.

**TDP RATE INCREASE:** The TRICARE Dental Program premium rate will increase beginning with the January 2014 payroll deduction for coverage effective 1 Feb 2014. The TDP premium rate period runs 1 Feb 2014 through 31 Jan 2015. The single premium rate will increase from \$10.66 to \$10.96, and the family premium rate will increase from \$31.96 to \$32.89. Information concerning the TRICARE Dental Program can be found at [www.metlife.com/tricare](http://www.metlife.com/tricare).

**MIXING ACTIVE AND INACTIVE DUTY:** Active duty tours and inactive duty tours cannot be performed on the same day. On a given day you can be paid for active duty or inactive duty, but not both. If your active duty tour is away from JBER, you will receive military pay for the travel days. For pay purposes those travel days are considered active duty days; therefore, you cannot be paid for inactive duty on the travel days. And if you perform a Readiness Management Period, you cannot be paid for any other duty types that day.

**RETAIN MILITARY LEAVE AND EARNINGS STATEMENTS:** You'd be wise to keep e-copies or hardcopies of your myPay LES's, especially the last one of each calendar year.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## 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 call Angela Earle @ 551-6421 for information as to how you can help.

## SNCO Leadership Development Course

The course that was scheduled 19-20 October has been rescheduled for 25-26 January. All Senior NCOs are welcome to submit a request to attend. This class will be held here at the 477FG building (9443) and currently there are 5 seats available.

Please keep in mind that this is a Saturday and Sunday course.

For details, please contact TSgt Venable at 551-4750

## 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



Do you have a supportive civilian boss? Nominate them for the **Patriot Award!**

To submit an application visit: <http://www.esgr.org/forms.asp?p=patriot>

## Chapel Schedule

9 a.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 Travers @ 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](mailto:477fg.pa@us.af.mil)