

RED TAIL REVIEW

Vol. 6 No. 8

477th Fighter Group

September 2013



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

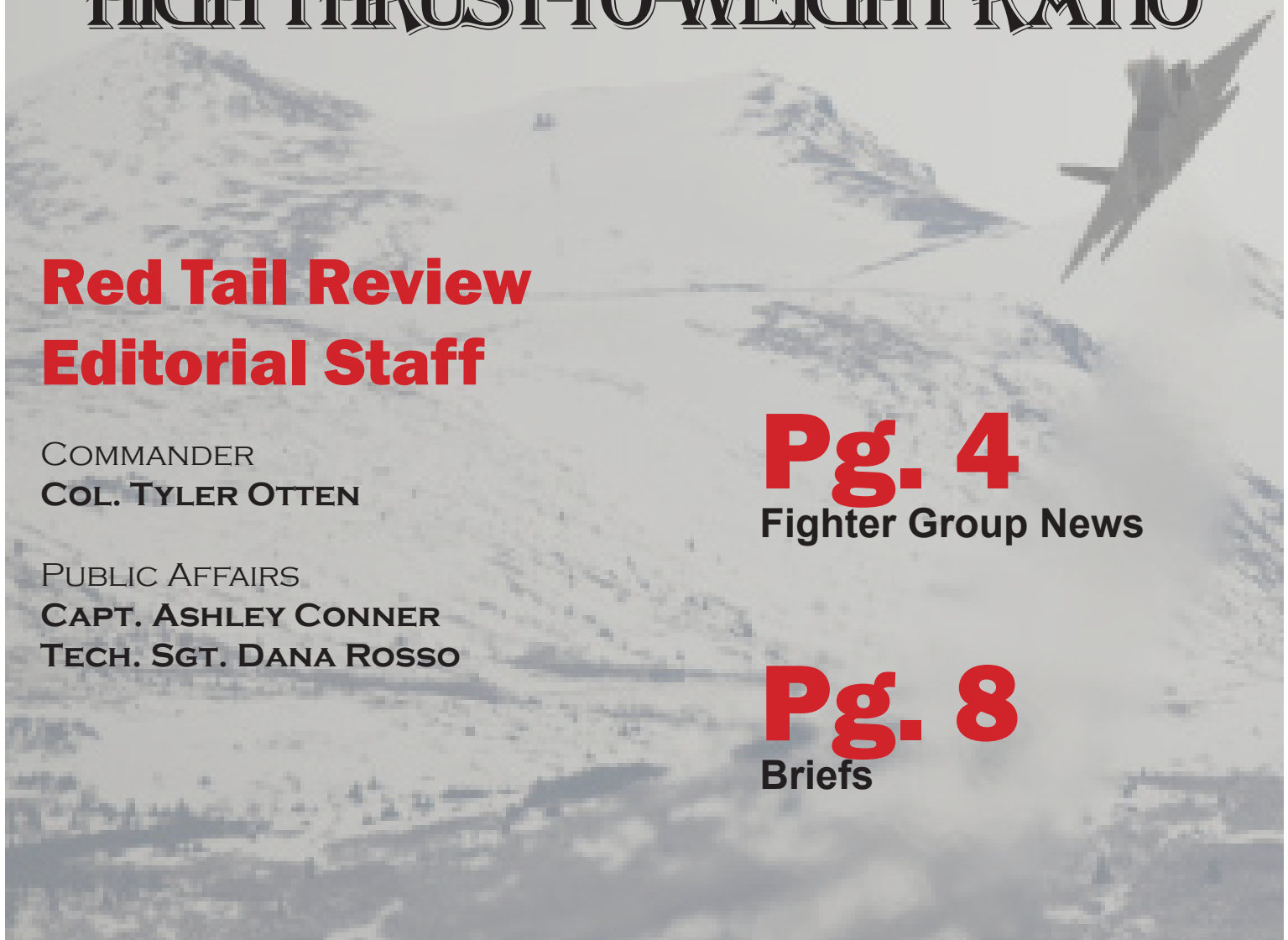
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COMMANDER
COL. TYLER OTTEN

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
CAPT. ASHLEY CONNER
TECH. SGT. DANA ROSSO

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COMMANDERS COMMENTS



Col. Tyler Otten
477th Fighter Group commander

Hello my fellow reservists. Welcome once again to our UTA weekend. I want to thank you all for the efforts you have made in recent months in the area of readiness. Our Individual Medical Readiness (IMR) stats have now made it over 80%, which is the AFRC standard. While we have met the goal, it will take continued focus to stay above on track. Thank you for the focus on this issue, and thanks in advance for keeping us above the bar. It is very important that we stay ready to deploy.

Being ready to deploy is part of getting on the road. While we are gone we still

have family and friends at home station. Families need our support, and we are working to increase the support structure here for our families whether we are deployed or not. One aspect of that is the Key Spouse program. We still need more volunteer spouses to help with this important program. Key Spouses are a key communication and education node for our families. They are trained and connected to the many JBER programs we can leverage to help care for our families. Please discuss the opportunity to help connect families with each other and the support structure the Air Force offers in the form of base services with your spouse.

As always, I thank you for your service and dedication to your nation. If you have been watching the news lately, it should be clear that the country needs your service and that your skills and commitment are still in great need. Thank you and have a great weekend.



Mrs. Alaska launches F-22 with crew chief husband

By Capt. Ashley Conner
477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- Airman 1st Class Jermaine James, 477th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, had some assistance launching F-22s from his wife, Mrs. Alaska, Gwynne James here Aug. 8.

"This was a once in a lifetime experience," said Gwynne. "I am honored to have the opportunity to experience what makes him happy on a daily basis. It makes me happy to see him happy.

Born and raised in Alaska, Gwynne competed in her first pageant in 2012 at 28 years old and took 2nd runner up. She almost didn't compete in this year's competition.

"Jermaine was not back from his technical training, but when he called home and said he would be getting in the day of the pageant I was excited and thought this would be such a great opportunity for us to get all dressed up and celebrate his return and our marriage," said Gwynne. "Although it is not a requirement for husbands to attend, it was so important to me for him to be present."

James, who was born and raised in Jamaica and moved to the U.S. when he was 15 years old, joined the 477th Fighter Group May 2012. The 477th FG, Alaska's only Reserve unit, provid-

ed an opportunity for James to serve his country and stay in the state he now calls home.

"I came to Alaska through the means of the military, it wasn't by choice but now I am so grateful that I was able to and now am able to embrace the last frontier," said James.

Being new to an F-22 unit James hadn't had the opportunity to show his wife what he does for a living until today.

"It was my first time being around an F-22," said Gwynne. "I was very impressed and gained such a greater

respect for what my husband does. He is so meticulous and that is exactly the kind of person who needs to be working on such a great jet...or any jet for that matter."

Her husband echoed similar sentiments about having his wife at work with him.

"I thought it was the greatest experience ever to share what I do on a daily basis with my wife, if she could come to work with me every day, I wouldn't mind it," said James.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso

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

By Capt. Ashley Conner
477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska -- 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.

“We are part of history. Whether we realize it or not, what we do on a day to day basis is writing the pages of history,” said, Col. Tyler Otten, 477th Fighter Group commander, who was the first pilot to fly the group’s flagship after the paint job. “Maintaining our connection to our lineage provides a foundation on which we build. The Tuskegee heritage of the 477th is rich with courage, service and commitment, which serves as a guide to our efforts today.”

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.

“The group’s Tuskegee heritage is at the core of

our history,” said Otten. “The courage, dedication and patriotism exhibited by the men of the 477th Bomb Group and the 302nd Fighter Squadron serve as motivation and examples for our service today. Against incredible opposition, the Tuskegee Airmen served their country. We should strive to emulate their courage and commitment in the face of whatever challenges are presented to us today. That is the Spirit of Tuskegee.”

The 477th was reactivated here in October

2007 when the group became the Air Force Reserve Command’s first F-22 Raptor unit and the only Air Force Reserve unit in Alaska. The 477th Fighter Group associates with the active duty 3rd Wing to maintain and fly the F-22’s assigned to the active duty.

“We have different challenges today on the national, Air Force, and personal levels yet our Air-

men continue to serve. Despite our current challenges the men and women of the 477th continue to serve their country, and do so admirably. The Tuskegee Airmen changed the shape and future of the Army Air Corps of their day. As we go forward with our Total Force Endeavor, we are shaping the future of the Air Force as well. While our challenges are not as systemic as the opposition the original Tuskegee Airmen faced, we do have challenges; they serve as great examples of courage and dedication.

The new tailflash was done here in conjunction with scheduled maintenance and was completed by Low Observable technicians assigned to the 477th Maintenance Squadron.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andy Eichorst



Reservist balances airline career, F-22 flying

By Capt. Ashley Conner
477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska --

Balancing a military career and family life can be challenging for some, but balancing a second civilian career provides an opportunity for one Alaska Reservist to live out his dream.

“Alaska provides a flying experience that is unmatched anywhere else,” said Maj. Wade Bridges, Reserve F-22

pilot assigned to the 302nd Fighter Squadron and Alaska Airlines First Officer. “Almost every pilot dreams of flying in the state of Alaska, so having the opportunity to fly the F-22 and fly for Alaska Airlines is an opportunity that I couldn’t pass up.”

Bridges transitioned from being a full time Air Reserve Technician to a Traditional Reservist when he was hired as a Boeing 737 pilot with Alaska Airlines in 2012. Between the two jobs he works on average 23 days a month which allows him time to fulfill the requirements of both jobs and still have about around 8 days off a month.

“Both organizations have options available to trade trips or move military days, which is very helpful in providing a monthly schedule to fulfill both commitments,” said Bridges. “Alaska Airlines is very accommodating to its military members and the Reserve unit is structured around most

members having a full time civilian job.”

After graduating from Oregon State Bridges commissioned into the Air Force and was an active duty F-16 pilot before transitioning to the Reserve in 2008 as an F-22 pilot in the 477th



Photo by Capt. Ashley Conner

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such a great history as Alaska Airlines, dating back to 1932, is exciting,” said Bridges. “The locations that they fly into are very interesting and challenging. From O’Hare airport in Chicago to Nome, AK, I have the opportunity to see a huge variation in locations.”

While two careers in aviation in Alaska have enabled Bridges to meet his professional goals it also helps the 477th Fighter Group meet their objectives.

“Without supportive employers, Traditional Reservists couldn’t do what they do,” said Col. Tyler Otten, 477th Fighter Group commander. “We place significant demands on our TRs in terms of normal training and deployments. Those demands would remain unmet if employers were unwilling to support their employees that continue to serve their country in the Air

Fighter Group, Alaska’s only Air Force Reserve unit. Both the 477th FG and the 302nd Fighter Squadron trace their history back to the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Working for two employers with such rich history is a perk for Bridges.

“Flying for a pany that has

ABOVE



PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST SCORES

Aerospace Medical Flight
Senior Airman Candice Rogan

Force Support Squadron
Staff Sgt. Aaron Carioto

Civil Engineer Squadron
Senior Airman Nathan Barnett
Staff Sgt. Justin Fletcher
Senior Airman Heather Vest

Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Staff Sgt. Bernard Taft
Senior Master Sgt. Scott Waugaman

Security Forces Squadron
Airman 1st Class Kyla Cahill
Master Sgt. John Harris

Maintenance Squadron
Tech. Sgt. Josa Garza

302nd Fighter Squadron
Maj. Wade Bridges

Money Matters\$

AROWS-R ORDERS AND TRAVEL

VOUCHER NOTIFICATIONS: Want to be contacted when your orders are ready and when your travel vouchers have been paid? AROWS-R provides capability for you to input email addresses, more than one if you prefer. Any email accounts will do: work, home, or other. Multiple email addresses ensure you will receive notice of published orders and paid travel vouchers. To update or add email addresses, sign into AROWS-R, click "My Account", and add or change the addresses in "Email Address" and "Travel Voucher Distribution List". If you add multiple addresses, you must separate them with a semicolon (;).

SEE YOUR RESERVE PAY OFFICE: There are many good reasons to contact your RPO. Here are a few: 1) change in marital status,

2) change state of legal residence, 3) change of address, 4) change number of dependents, 5) change in tax exemptions, and 6) change in direct deposit account. Note that changes for tax exemptions and direct deposit can be accomplished in myPay.

ADVANCE LEAVE: When military members request more leave days than they have currently accrued but will accrue before the end of their active duty tour, the days that exceed the current leave balance are known as advance leave. Note that in most cases advance leave is not authorized for Air Force reservists. The only exceptions are for emergencies or for non-prior-service enlistees while attending schools during the Christmas holiday recess. So unless you have an emergency or are a pipeline student, do not request more leave days than your current leave balance.



NEWS BRIEFS

JBER's Attic

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Attic (formerly known as the Airman's Attic) located in building 8515 off of 20th Street is open on Tuesdays for pay grades E1 to E4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays for pay grades E1 to E6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the first Saturday of the month for all pay grades from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They are looking for permanent volunteers to perform duties as assistant manager of the Attic. Please contact Senior Master Sgt. Jens Rueckert at 580-6820 or Susan Hoversten at 854-5959 if interested in the position.

AIR FORCE BALL

In honor of the Air Force's 66th Birthday JBER will be hosting an Air Force Ball at the Denaina Center, Saturday September 14 at 6 p.m. For more information contact Lt. Sharya Krause at 551-6508 or Master Sgt. David White at 552-4785 or follow the JBER Air Force Ball 2013 Facebook page. You can purchase tickets online at jberafball.com.

FILL STATION LIMITIATIONS

Until further notice mid-grade and premium grade fuel will be unavailable at the AAFES Joint Mall Express gas station.

Please see the JBER-Elmendorf Express for premium fuel or the JBER-Richardson Express for mid-grade and premium fuel needs.

Please address questions to AAFES Joint Mall express at 753-0323.

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

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

