

RED TAIL REVIEW

Vol. 7 No. 2 February 2014

477th Fighter Group

A photograph showing two men in a hangar. On the left is an older man with a white beard, wearing a dark leather jacket and a black baseball cap with several patches. He is gesturing with his hands as if speaking. Next to him is a younger man in a military camouflage uniform. In the background, the nose and cockpit of a white F-16 fighter jet are visible.

Lt. Col. Leo R. Gray
visits with the 477th

Commanders Comments



Welcome to the February UTA.

I need to do some rumor control in this month's commentary. The National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force released its report last week. There will likely be a lot of hand wringing and gnashing of teeth over some of their recommendations. The two recommendations that will likely receive the most attention within the 477th are the recommendation to disestablish AFRC and fold those people into the RegAF MAJCOMs, and the recommendation to move associations to an i-wing structure that would have a single integrated chain of command within a single unit comprised of active and reserve members. Those recommendations are just that...recommendations.

Once again, I find myself in the unenviable position of encouraging all of you to remain calm and to stay focused on the mission at hand. The Air Force structure and our senior military and civilian leaders have a

lot of work to do before any of these recommendations come to fruition. There will be a long process of implementation for any of the recommendations to be implemented, if any of them are ultimately adopted. Our job is to continue to focus on our team, our mission and our efforts to continue the growth and maturation of the 477th Fighter Group. You are all doing amazing work. Please continue to do so, and remember that we do not know what the future holds in regards to the NCASAF report.

I thank you for your service and sacrifice. Stay focused and sharp as we operate this weekend, and have a great UTA.

Respectfully
Col Otten



**Red Tail Review
Editorial Staff**

Commander

Col. Tyler Otten

Public Affairs

Capt. Ashley Conner

Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso





477TH FIGHTER GROUP

Annual Award's Banquet

Saturday, February 8, 2014

AWEC

JBER, ALASKA



18:00-18:30 Social w/Cash Bar

18:30-2100 Dinner and Program

Military Dress: Mess Dress, Semi Formal, or Service Dress

Civilian Dress: Best Dress

Guest Speaker: Col Tyler Otten

477th Fighter Group Commander

\$25.00 per person



Make checks payable to the Arctic Reserve Top III and give to your Chief, First Sergeant, or the Command Chief



Original Tuskegee Airman visits Alaska F-22 Reserve Unit, JBER

By Capt. Ashley Conner

477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska --An original Tuskegee Airman had the chance to visit with the Airmen of the 477th Fighter Group that are continuing the Tuskegee legacy of excellence here Jan. 31.

After a tour of the 477th Fighter Group headquarters where Tuskegee Airmen photos and memorabilia adorn the walls, retired Lt. Col. Leo R. Gray, a P-51 pilot assigned to the 100th Pursuit Squadron during World War II spoke to Reservists.

“The Tuskegee Airmen experiment is a classic example of overcoming adversity,” said Gray. “They said we couldn’t do it. But we did.”

Gray joined the Army Air Corps and began his aviation cadet training in 1943. Little more than a year later he graduated from the Tuskegee Army Airfield as a 2nd Lieutenant, single engine pilot.

He arrived in Italy in March 1945 and flew 15 combat missions before the war ended while assigned to the 100th Pursuit Squadron. He eventually amassed a total of 750 flight hours. He left active duty in 1946, but remained in the Air Force Reserve until 1984.

Gray’s 100th Pursuit Squadron along with the 301st, 302nd and 99th Pursuit Squadrons all fell under the 332nd Fighter Group, better known as the Red Tails. Today the 302nd Fighter Squadron is Alaska’s only Reserve F-22 unit and falls under the 477th Fighter Group, which also traces its lineage back to the another Tuskegee unit, the 477th Bombardment Group.

While the Red Tails were known for their achievements, ultimately flying more than 15,000 sorties with 261 aerial victories to its credit, the group is also known for the adversity it faced.

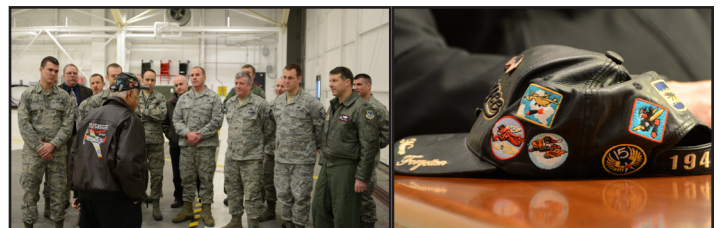


“Lt. Col. Gray and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen are shining examples of personal and professional courage,” said Col. Tyler Otten, 477th Fighter Group commander. “Not only did they exhibit that courage in aerial combat, they displayed it at home in America as they stood for the concept that our nation is stronger and better when we are united. We are thrilled to have him here to share some of his experiences with us and deepen our connection with our unit’s Tuskegee heritage.”

Before leaving the 477th Fighter Group to get a tour of the F-22 Grey shared some wisdom and also encouraged service members to continue to better themselves as individuals.

“You are part of our heritage Air Force. People don’t know that and it’s not widely publicized. The roots are there but it’s up to the people to spread the word about our Air Force’s history and how you are continuing our legacy,” said Grey

In addition to the 477th Fighter Group tour Gray lunched with JBER Airmen, spoke at the 3rd Wing All Call and attended the 673rd Air Base Wing promotion and award ceremony.



Guard, Reserve Aimen graduate JBER's first SNCO leadership development course

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

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF RICHARDSON, Alaska-- The 477th Fighter Group graduated its first Senior Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development class here Jan. 26.

Ten SNCO's from the Alaska Air Guard's 176th Wing and eight from the Air Force Reserve 477th Fighter Group attended this two day course. The class provided the senior noncommissioned officers the opportunity to explore in depth communication, trust, teamwork, and current Air Force Reserve leadership issues and initiatives.

"This course serves as a refresher for the NCO Academy as well as the SNCO Academy," said Tech. Sgt. Heidi Venable, 477th FG Education and Training NCOIC. "Because Reservists have the ability to do PME by correspondence it is nice for supervisors to have an opportunity for in person hands on training as well as a chance to interact with their peers experiencing similar leadership challenges."

This course uses lecture as well as discussion and experiential learning techniques to convey topic techniques followed with an analysis and feedback discussion. Attendees conducted a personalized assessment of their own leadership abilities and skills.

The 477th Fighter Group will be hosting a NCO Leadership Development Course in April, any Staff or Tech. Sgt. interested in attending the class can register by contacting the 477th Fighter Group Education and Training Office at 907-551-4750.



NEWS BRIEFS

NCO Leadership Development Course

The 477th FG will be hosting its second NCO Leadership Development Course

21 Apr - 2 May, 2014.

Staff Sgt. and Tech. Sgt. with current passing Fitness Assessment and Medically qualified are eligible for the 20 person class. How to register - Send AF Form 101 (mil status) or SF 182 (civilian status) to TSgt Venable, Education and Training. Templates and course information located on the 477th FG Sharepoint site. Students will receive two college credits in addition to meaningful, challenging, hands-on leadership training.

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 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



Fighter Group Highlights

Newcomers

Welcome the following Airmen to the 477 FG Family

Airman 1st Class James Hinton	477 CE
Airman 1st Class Connor Otten	477 MXS
Airman 1st Class Demetrius Williams	477 CE
Airman 1st Class Heather Duffy	477 MXS
Senior Airman Lapaige McFarland	477 AMXS
Staff Sgt. Justin Woolverton	477 OSF

Promotions

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

Senior Master Sgt. John Hutchinson	477 AMXS
Master Sgt. David Trim	477 MXS

The 477th Fighter Group would like to introduce the newly elected Top Three Board

President: Senior Master Sgt. John McClain
Vice President: Master Sgt. Kevin Norris
Secretary: Master Sgt. Taifa Pettaway
Treasurer: Master Sgt. Bryan Nicolos
Sgt At Arms: Master Sgt. Johnathon Orzechowski

Please congratulate your new Top Three Board and ask them how you can get involved in upcoming Fighter Group activity's.

ABOVE 90 PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST SCORES

477th FSS

Tech. Sgt. Chelsea Charbonneau

477th MXS

Master Sgt. Kanya Briner

477th CES

Senior Airman Darsheena Boker

Senior Airman Benjamin Howe

477th AMXS

Master Sgt. John Hutchinson

Master Sgt. Ernest Kunde

Senior Airman Pedro Saldivar

Senior Airman Juan Carlos Vargas

Airman 1st Class Anton Rozvodovski

Fiscal Fitness

NUMBER OF TRAVEL DAYS AUTHORIZED:

When flying to/from TDY locations the standard authorization is one travel day each way unless the actual travel time requires more days. TDY travelers are not automatically authorized two travel days from Alaska to TDY locations in CONUS.

SATO FEE: The fee charged by the Scheduled Airline Ticket Office (SATO) 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.

USE YOUR LEAVE WHEN YOU ACCRUE IT:

Military leave will be scheduled and taken during the tour it was earned unless mission circumstances do not afford the member the opportunity to do so.





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

15 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

