

# RED TAIL REVIEW

Vol. 7 No. 6 June 2014

477th Fighter Group



## Commanders Comments



Hello everyone, and welcome to our June UTA. This is going to be another very busy weekend for us. We are having our UEI capstone event this weekend. Our AFRC Inspector General team arrives Thursday and departs Monday. If you see some unfamiliar faces around, introduce yourself and get to know them. Many of you will be participating in Airmen to IG Surveys as individuals or in a group setting. I ask that you are honest and forthright with the inspectors. They are here to help us find areas of weakness or non-compliance to which we are blind. As I have said many times, we cannot fix what we don't know about. They will likely be interested in challenges and limitations to mission accomplishment and development of our team. Share your thoughts with them. If you recognize areas of concern through the course of the interview process, please share them with your unit leadership as well.

I commented last month about summer safety, but it warrants repeating. We have had a pretty serious injury in the group via an ATV accident, and there was a significant bear attack on base a few weeks ago. Remember that Alaska is different. We are not the top of the food chain here and if injured in the wilderness, it may be a long while before help arrives. Plan accordingly, stick to your plan and practice good ORM.

Have a great UTA, stay focused and continue with your amazing service to our country. Your efforts here really do make a difference.

Respectfully Col Otten



**Red Tail Review  
Editorial Staff**

Commander

**Col. Tyler Otten**

Public Affairs

**Maj. Ashley Conner**

**Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso**



# Alaska Air Force Reserve F-22 unit flies milestone sortie

by Capt. Ashley Conner

477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** -- F-22 pilots from the 477th Fighter Group, Alaska's only Air Force Reserve unit, made history during the Unit Training Assembly weekend May 3.

With a combined total of 4000 flight hours, Col. David Piffarerio, Maj. Jonathan Gration, Ryan Pelkola and Chad Newkirk flew the most experienced four-ship flight in the history of the F-22.

“This is a milestone because it is the first time that pilots with this much flight time have flown together making it a significant event for the maturation of the F-22 program. We have incredible experience in the 477th Fighter Group,” said Piffarerio, 477th Fighter Group deputy group commander.

“It is also a testament to the role the Air Force Reserve plays in defense of our country.”

Typically active duty pilots will serve one or two assignments in a flying squadron before going to a non-flying assignment. In contrast, the Reserve is organized to allow Airmen to remain in place to train and bank experience while also maintaining civilian careers.

“The Air Force Reserve afforded me the opportunity to stay in Alaska and continue to fly the F-22,” said Pelkola, 302nd Fighter Squadron F-22 pilot. “It really is the best of both worlds.”

During the sortie, four pilots flew as “blue air” or good guys against four other “red air” or bad guys to defend the airspace. The eight strong sortie wouldn't have

been possible without the meticulous oversight and dedication of the maintainers.

“Despite being at a base where the weather conditions can be harsh and create maintenance challenges, the F-22's at JBER have one of the best sortie generation rates in the combat Air Force,” said Lt. Col. Aaron Heick, 477th Fighter Group deputy commander for maintenance. “The Reserve maintainers are a big piece of that since many of them have been taking care of the same planes since the unit stood up in 2007 and years of active duty experience before that.”



The Reserve has a tremendous wealth of experience that is being leveraged in partnership with the active duty to ensure the Alaska F-22's are employed to meet U.S. objectives.

“It is an exciting time to see a weapon system mature to the point that we see

the level of experience found in the pilots of the 477th Fighter Group,” said Col. Tyler Otten, 477th Fighter Group commander. “The Raptor plays a crucial role in our national interests. The 477th Fighter Group stands ready in our partnership with the active duty's 3rd Wing to defend those interests.”



# Fighter Group Highlights

Welcome the following Airmen to the 477 FG Family

Airman Valentina Botero  
Airman Andrea Jaque  
Airman 1st Class Zachary Phillips  
Senior Airman Elizabeth Wendoloski  
Staff Sgt. Randolph Rimple  
Staff Sgt. Jenise Perry  
Staff Sgt. Kerwin Narciso  
Staff Sgt. Virginia Jackson  
Tech. Sgt. Mishandray Etienne  
Tech. Sgt. Aimee Martell

## Promotions

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

Senior Airman Brittany Herrington	477th FSS
Staff Sgt. Brandon Pierce	477th MXS
Tech. Sgt. Ferdinand Torralba	477th CES
Tech. Sgt. Joel Jiskra	477th CES
Master Sgt. Edmund Kelleher	477th MXS

## ABOVE 90

### PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST SCORES

Lt. Col Matthew Giese	302nd FS
Capt. Jaime Sciarrino	477th FSS
Master Sgt. Gabrielle Clark	477th AMDF
Tech. Sgt. Chasity Perez	477th AMDF
Tech. Sgt. Neil Blakeslee	477th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Seth Roberts	477th FG
Tech. Sgt. Andre Andrews	477th FSS
Staff Sgt. Adam Ducharme	477th AMXS
Staff Sgt. David Hernandez	477th CES
Staff Sgt. William Medlin	477th FSS
Staff Sgt. David Hendrickson	477th SFS
Senior Airman Benjamin Ballard	477th AMXS
Senior Airman Erin McFadden	477th AMXS
Senior Airman Josiah Lobato	477th SFS

## Fi\$cal Fitness\$

**ORDERS FOR ANNUAL TRAINING:** Are you planning on doing some AT days before 1 Oct 14? In accordance with HQ AFRC instructions ensure AT orders are published by 31 July.

**TRAVEL PAY SPLIT DISBURSEMENT:** Government travel card cardholders are required to submit travel vouchers within 5 business days of completion of travel, use split disbursement to pay the outstanding balance, and are responsible for payment in full of all undisputed amounts. Supervisors and commanders are

**Top 3/Rising 6-looking for energized/sharp individuals (first Rising 6 meeting will be in July) Contact Senior Master Sgt. John McClain, Arctic Reserve Top 3 President, 552-8161**

### A Few Words from the Recruiter

Welcome to the 477th Fighter Group Trainee Marielle Morante, SSgt Jenise Perry, Trainee Zachary Phillips, Trainee Andrea Jaque Baez, and Trainee Valentina Botero Mendieta. Please extend them a warm welcome from the most awesome fighter group out there.

Please continue to refer amazing people our way through the Get1Now program. The program has been revamped and Reservists have already began to take advantage of the prizes available.

Remember that you know the kind of people that make our Group awesome. Please refer friends and family to your local recruiters. MSgt Michelle Shutler (907) 333-8723 and MSgt Venable (907) 552-3595

responsible for ensuring government travel card charges are split disbursed on travel vouchers.

**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.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## PT TESTING

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

## 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

## 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



Please congratulate Senior Airman Karl Coulombe, 477th MXS; he was a recent recipient of the highest award during ALS, The John L. Levitow Award

## A few Words from the Shirts

- MXS Supported the Fisher House on 7 May, they provided meals for about 10 families. Please ask your Shirt for info as to how you can step up and help out next!

Also here are just a few things coming up that you could get involved in.

Arctic Warrior Olympics-27 June  
Volunteers needed for Slam'n Salm'n Derby-13-22

Jun Instructional Programs:  
ATV Adventure-8 Jun  
Rafting-19 Jun  
Kasilof-13-15 Jun

See your Shirts for more info

