

# RED TAIL REVIEW

Vol. 7 No. 5 May 2014  
477th Fighter Group



# Commanders Comments



Welcome to the May UTA. Summer is upon us, and the weather this weekend is forecast to be glorious. With summer's arrival, the call of the wild begins and we Alaskans begin to venture out into the wild to enjoy all that this great state has to offer. It is worth the time for us to ensure that we are taking stock of our activities and ensuring that we have a good plan, all the equipment we need, and have a plan to handle the various things that can go wrong. We practice strong operational risk management here at work. Remember to do the same in your off duty activities as well. In order to be successful, we need our entire team here, healthy and ready to go. There are many distractions these days with budget challenges, unit changes, day to day mission challenges, and weather that may move our focus toward other thoughts. Please ensure that you remain focused on your duties this weekend so we will continue to remain safe here in the unit.

Our first major inspection under the new Air Force Inspection System will begin during our next UTA. This is a new kind of inspection.

Many of you will be interviewed by the Inspector General's team. I ask you to honest and frank in those interviews. This new system is designed to help us find areas in which we are not compliant with guidance. The interviews are a method to do that. That said, if there is an area of non-compliance in your sphere of influence, point it out to leadership. We cannot fix things of which we are unaware.

As always, I thank you for your continued service and all that you do. I continue to be amazed by what you do while underfunded, under resourced, and understaffed. Keep up the great work; you are making a difference. Have a great weekend.

Thanks again for your service. Be safe and have a great UTA weekend.

Respectfully Col Otten



**Red Tail Review  
Editorial Staff**

**Commander  
Col. Tyler Otten  
Public Affairs**

**Capt. Ashley Conner  
Tech. Sgt. Dana Rosso**



# Air Force secretary reports on total force balance

WASHINGTON -- Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James outlined April 30 the service's progress in leveraging the talent and capabilities of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve within the total force concept.

James, along with Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, testified at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

A tiger team of three generals from each reserve component conducted a comprehensive review of mission requirements, recommended ideas for improving collaboration and sought avenues to balance total force capabilities, James told the senators.

"We laid in force structure changes to take advantage of the Guard and Reserve's strength," James said. "For example, in the area of (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance), we've increased reserve components' presence in the MQ-1 (Predator) and (MQ-9 Reaper) fleets of remotely piloted aircraft, so we're going from 17 percent to 24 percent representation in that arena."

In the cyber arena, James said, three new Air Force Reserve units will reflect an increase in that capability in fiscal year 2016.

Meanwhile, James said the Air Force will decrease its active component end-strength by 17 percent while decreasing the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard end-strength by 3 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively, by fiscal 2015.

"In the future, we hope to garner enough savings by moving capability and capacity to the reserve component so that future end-strength cuts may not be necessary," she said.

The secretary also reported better projection and budgeting of Guard and Reserve man-day use, with a 70-percent increase in planned man-years over the next two years.

James told the senators that Air Force leaders agree with 86 percent of the suggestions put forth by the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force, established by Congress as part of the fiscal 2013 defense spending bill. However, she added, they differ with the commission's recommendation that Air Force Reserve Command be disestablished.

"We're all for integration, and of course, that is the basis of that recommendation," James said. "But we feel ... in fiscal year 2015, we don't have a good alternative way to manage

and provide for ... 70,000 members of the Air Force Reserve, so we would disagree with that proposition, at least for (fiscal 2015)."

James reported that the Total Force Continuum, another group of generals, will lead the charge for myriad initiatives, one being facilitating an Airman's ability to serve in the active force, the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve in the course of a career.

To facilitate a new total force personnel and pay system in support of the continuum of service, the secretary said, the Air Force has integrated force support squadrons at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; March Air Reserve Base, Calif.; and Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H.

"One unit is essentially serving all of the three different components in the geographic area with respect to personnel systems," she explained.

James noted an uptick in shared active and reserve-component squadrons, or Air Force associations, from 102 to 124, a 22 percent increase in recent years.

"It's a form of integration, and we're kicking it up a notch and doing more of these in the future," she said.

To retain talent across the total force, the secretary said, the Air Force has reduced the active-duty service commitment payback in the Palace Chase Service Commitment Waiver Program from three reserve years for every year of active commitment down to one.

Palace Chase is the name of the Air Force program in which an active-duty Airman transfers to the reserve component. The program also expanded to include rated officers, James said.

"Bottom line there is we're making it easier and more attractive to people to enter the Guard and Reserve," she added.

James also reported seeking authority from the Defense Department to implement aviator retention pay to traditional reservists.

"As an aviator leaves active duty (for) the Guard and Reserve, I want to be able to (offer) that incentive pay," she said.



# Fighter Group Highlights

## Newcomers

Welcome the following Airmen to the 477 FG Family

Senior Airman Kellee Strong	477th AMDF
Senior Airman Lucas Swihart	477th MXS
Staff Sgt. Tony Gross	477th SFS
Staff Sgt. Kevin Dona	477th MXS
Tech. Sgt. John McCall	477th CES
Tech. Sgt. Travis Marshall	477th SFS
Senior Master Sgt. Jason Urquhart	477th MXS

## Promotions

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

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Howe	477th CES
Tech. Sgt. Ernest Scarbrough	477th CES
Tech. Sgt. Robert Kim	477th CES
Tech. Sgt. Jamie Poston	477th CES
Master Sgt. Jessica Mattice	477th FSS

## ABOVE 90

### PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST SCORES

Maj. Heather Deloney	477th AMDF
Senior Airman Joshua Baker	477th AMXS
Staff Sgt. Brandon Vice	477th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Neil Blakeslee	477th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Robert Breher	477th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Mark Ling	477th AMXS
Master Sgt. Joseph Ruiz	477th AMXS
Staff Sgt. Robert Bloom	477th CES
Tech. Sgt. Robrick Miranda	477th CES
Master Sgt. Rebecca Coulombe	477th CES
Staff Sgt. Robert Collier	477th FSS
Senior Airman Roman Gimeno	477th MXS
Staff Sgt. Aaron Henle	477th MXS

**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**

## Opportunity's to get involved

### Fisher House

-Need more units to take a month to sponsor to cook/serve dinner. Contact Ms. Pat Lizama, 551-4711

### Classes

- Military Professional Writing-20 May 14 (filled); 13 Jun 14 (Register now, classes fill up fast)  
- MarriageCare On-Demand slots still available for 9 May 14

### Other opportunities

- 8th Annual Combat Fishing in Seward (22 May 14) Registration opened 16 Apr  
-- Eligibility (E1-5, never participated in one, valid AK fishing license, recently deployed or within 6 months of deploying)  
- PACAF putting together team for AF Marathon (20 Sep 14) Suspense is 15 May  
- Heartlink Event (New/seasoned spouse orientation) 15 May 14  
- 45th Walk & Roll for Hope (3 May 14)

**For more info check emails or contact your First Sgts.**

## Fis\$cal Fitness\$

**TRAVEL DAYS ON ORDERS:** When you perform active duty that involves TDY travel your order, AF Form 938, must reflect the correct number of travel days in block 11. If the order shows more or less days than you actually used during the TDY, the order must be amended before the final tour certification and travel voucher are done. Orders must include all amendments when submitted for military pay and travel pay. You will receive pay and allowances for the duty days and travel days.

**RESERVISTS MARRIED TO OTHER MILITARY MEMBERS:** The pay rates for Basic Allowance for Housing and Cost of Living Allowance are determined by grade and with or without dependents. If you are married to another military member, only one of you can claim your

shared dependents at a time. For each duty day you claim a dependent for allowance purposes, your military spouse cannot claim that same dependent, and vice versa. And if your spouse claims you as their dependent when you are not performing duty, when you do perform duty your spouse must report the dependent change to decrease his/her allowances.

**NO PER DIEM FOR TDY TO ANNUAL TRAINING:** Normally you receive per diem when you go TDY. However, when you perform AT and government quarters and government mess are available at the TDY location, you will not receive the meals and incidental expense portion of per diem during the AT days. You will be reimbursed for the lodging expense.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## 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.

## 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

Education & Training will hold a Q&A Session in the classroom in building 9443 at 1300 on Sunday. Please send an email to joseph.mcqueen.3@us.af.mil to RSVP and let him know what question you might have or what aspect of the Education benefits that you are interested in learning more about.

Contact Joe @ 551-4752

## FOOD DRIVE

The 477th Force Support Squadron is holding a Food Drive from March 1- May 5, to benefit the Alaska Food Bank.

Items needed include but are not limited to:  
Canned fruit, vegetables and soup; Pasta;  
Rice; Oatmeal; and Dried Beans.

All questions and donations shall be directed to Senior Airman Amechia Ferguson located in the Communications Flight. Please don't forget that every food donation helps in the fight against hunger – no matter how small or large!

## JBER National Prayer Luncheon

Ch, Maj Gen Cecil Richardson (Ret)

13 May, 1100-1230

James G. Lee Reserve Center

Cost of Admission: \$5.00

(Catered by JALAPENOS)

For Tickets: Please call 552-JROC (5762)  
or ask your unit Chaplain

Sponsored By The JBER Chapel Community

*"United we Kneel"*

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