

June 2021



# Red Tail Review

The 477th Fighter Group Newsletter

AIR FORCE RESERVE  
477th FIGHTER GROUP

***Inside:***

- Physical Fitness Standards Change***
- Fitness Assessments Return to the 477th FG***
- CSS Focus: Master Sgt. EPRs***
- This Month in History: June***

**Mission: Provide Combat Airpower**

## 477th FG Fiscal Year 2021 Unit Training Assembly Schedule

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Aug	Sept
<b>(Primary)</b>	3-4	7-8	5-6	7-10	27-28	29-31	1-3	1-2	5-6	7-8	11-12

## 477th FG Fiscal Year 2022 Unit Training Assembly Schedule

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Feb	April	Apr - May	June	July	Aug
<b>(Primary)</b>	2-3	6-7	4-5	8-9	5-6	26-27	2-3	30-1	4-5	30-31	27-28

## Red Tail Review Newsletter

### Leadership

Col.

Jonathan Gration, Jr.  
**Group Commander**

Chief Master Sgt.  
Mary Dearman  
**Group Superintendent**



### Mission

Provide Combat Airpower

### Vision

Drive a Culture of  
True Lethality

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### Staff

Ms. Song Jordan  
2nd Lt. Kaitlyn Lawton  
Staff Sgt. Melissa Estévez

**ON THE COVER:** A model F-22 Raptor is displayed outside of the 477th Fighter Group headquarters building at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. (U.S. Air Force photo by Song Jordan)

# Announcements

## Motorcycle Safety Classes AVAILABLE

Contact Master Sgt. Travis Schalapbach to sign up.

## 477th Fighter Group Annual Awards and Family Picnic

Sunday, August 8, 2021

11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location will be shared via email.



# Air Force Releases Updated Fitness Test Score Breakdown



U.S. Air Force graphic

**By**

**Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON (AFNS) --

The Air Force will resume physical fitness testing July 1 with only three components: push-ups, sit-ups and the 1.5-mile run.

Without the waist measurement as a scored component, push-ups and sit-ups will increase from 10 to 20 points each, while the 1.5-mile run will remain at 60 points. Scoring will fall into five-year age groups, as opposed to the previous 10. Updated charts can be found here.

The waist measurement will no longer be required as part of the physical fitness test but a separate assessment of body composition, as required by DoD Instruction 1308.3, will continue starting in October. Testing for body composition may continue to use some form of waist measurement and may be administered during PT testing to reduce scheduling and administrative burdens, but body composition will not be a component of the PT test itself. Further details on the body composition program will be released at a later date.

The Air Force has also worked on alternative strength and cardiovascular testing exercise options with plans to announce them in the coming weeks. Once announced, members and fitness monitors will have approximately six months to familiarize them-

selves with use and execution of the alternative testing options prior to having them available in January 2022. Members will have a choice of which testing options they choose for their physical fitness assessment components. The six-month timeline will help ensure fitness assessment cells are prepared to train physical training leaders to administer tests using the new options.

“We are moving away from a one-size-fits-all model,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. “More testing options will put flexibility in the hands of our Airmen – where it belongs. We know not all Airmen maintain their fitness the same way and may excel in different areas. Alternate components provide choices while still providing a mechanism to determine overall fitness.”

These changes align under the Air Force’s Action Order Airmen, people-first approach.

“Physical fitness is an important part of our everyday lives, it’s more than just a test – it’s a way of life, our readiness and ultimately our future success,” said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass. “July 1st is a chance to refocus on building a lifestyle of fitness and health, and I know our Airmen will be ready.”

For additional information, Airmen can visit myPers or the Air Force’s Personnel Center’s fitness program page. □

# Fitness Assessments Return

**By**  
**477th Fighter Group Public Affairs**

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON,  
Alaska --

Fitness Assessments are returning to the 477th Fighter Group in July. Reserve Citizen Airmen in military status will be given many opportunities to test during the month.

Testers will begin assessments of traditional reservists during August's unit training assembly. They will be testing eight Airmen at a time.

The tests will take place at the Elmendorf Fitness Center.

"We will be running on the outdoor track until the weather gets bad. Then we will be using the upstairs track inside the fitness center," said Master Sgt. Bryan Nicolos, 477th FG fitness cell director.

When the COVID-19 pandemic swept throughout the world, many Airmen were not able to take the fitness assessment. The U.S. Air Force paused testing.

"The only members who are current, are those members who were at Basic Military Training, since they are still testing there. Nobody else has tested," said Nicolos. He also said there may be a backlog when testing resumes in August, but Nicolos expects the 477th FG to meeting testing requirements soon.

"We've already trained physical training leaders during the May UTA and will train more during the June UTA," said Nicolos.

If you are interested in becoming a PTL, Nicolos welcomes potential volunteers to contact him. You must have your supervisor's permission and current CPR certification. □

# Command Support Staff Focus: *Master Sgt. EPRs*

**By**  
**477th Fighter Group Public Affairs**

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON,  
Alaska --

The Command Support Staff encourages all 477th Fighter Group master sergeants to start thinking about accomplishments for their master sergeant enlisted performance reviews.

"Master sergeants should work to get their inputs to their rater in a timely manner, so their raters can draft reports and have them routed for review before the suspense," said Larry Wise, 477th Fighter Group, CSS chief.

EPRs are due back to the CSS for review by Thursday, September 24, 2021.

Wise said, the CSS staff will assign EPRs to raters through the Virtual Personnel Center system during the first week of July. He also reminds raters the EPRs cannot be signed before the SCOD. The close out date for this year's master sergeant EPRs is Thursday, September 30, 2021.

Another thing to keep in mind, Wise said, is in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-2406, only 10-percent of master sergeants with time-in-service and time-in-grade will be considered for senior rater endorsement. □



# New Recruit: Ebere Chukwuba



**Name:** Ebere “Sunny” Chukwuba

**Hometown:** Nigeria

**Current Hometown:** Fairbanks, Alaska

**Expected Future Unit:** 477th FSS

**Expected Future Duty Title:** Services Journeyman

**What do you do, when you are not serving during a UTA?** I work full-time.

**Why are you joining the Air Force Reserve?** For the pride and honor of being an Airman.

**What do you hope to accomplish while serving?** I hope to give the Air Force my best. I think it requires a high level of discipline and professionalism, which I believe is transferable to the civilian world.

**What are your hobbies?** Playing soccer, long drives, traveling.

**Do you have any family members who also served or serving in the military?** No.



# A Note from Your Chaplain: June 2021 UTA

Welcome to June's drill.

Finally, after a long winter, summer seems to have arrived.

This can be a very busy time for many families. Some have relatives coming to visit. Others have already planned fishing and camping trips. Still others will simply enjoy going for a walk or hike.

In between all the busyness, hopefully you will find some time to reflect on your life goals.

By simply writing your goals and ideas on paper you significantly increase the chances that you will achieve them.

A list of your life goals help you keep your big picture in mind. What do you want your future to look like?

- ♦ What are some things that are on-track and going well?
- ♦ What are some things that need to be adjusted?
- ♦ What are some things that need to be eliminated?

Likewise, a list of things to do for the day helps you to prioritize what you want to accomplish today.

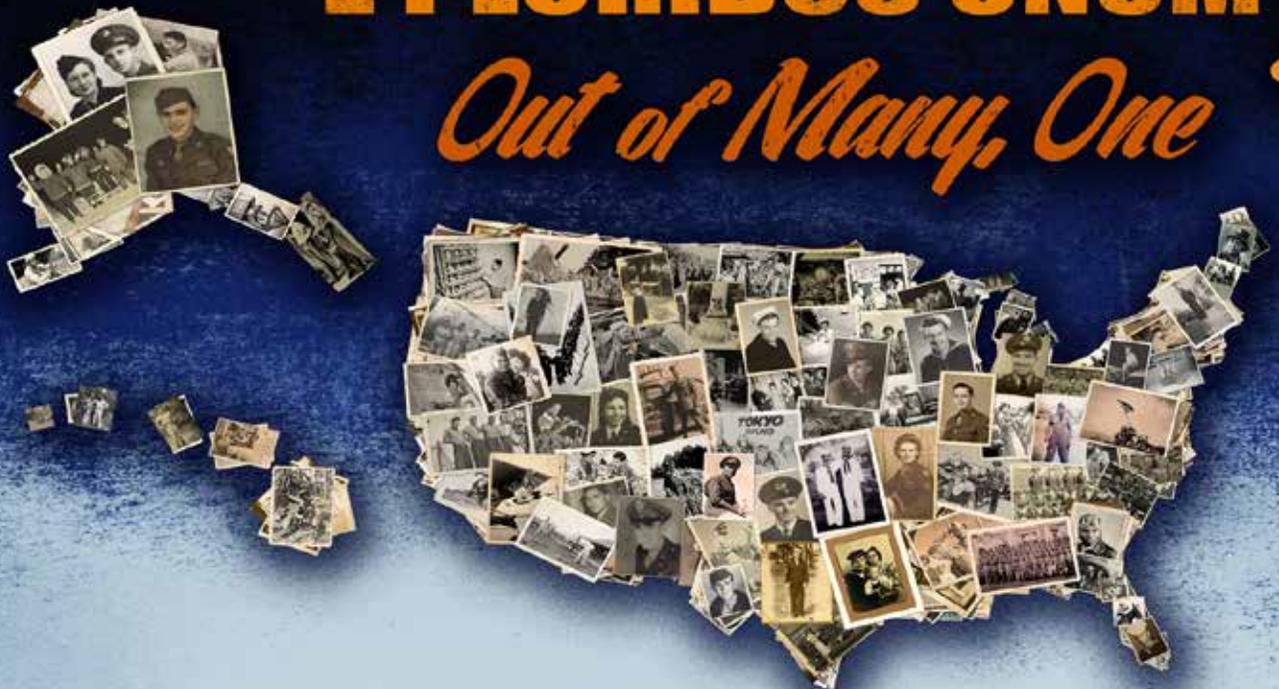
I pray that you will have a productive drill, keep the big picture in mind, and have a great summer.

477th FG Chaplain contact information [477FG.HC.chaplain@us.af.mil](mailto:477FG.HC.chaplain@us.af.mil) or 907-551-4723. □



**Chaplain Ben Butcher**

**E PLURIBUS UNUM!**  
*Out of Many, One*



# Education Opportunities

By Master Sgt. Angeline Tyree, 477th Fighter Group Education and Training Chief



AFVEC can lead you to many educational opportunities.

Do you want aid in funding your degree? USAF Tuition Assistance will fund the whole or part of an undergraduate to graduate degree program. If you are interested in learning more please visit the AFVEC page. Or contact 477th Force Support Development and Education for aid in what these programs might hold for you.



## SkillBridge

The SkillBridge program allows transitioning Airmen to participate in apprenticeships, internships, or on-the-job training. Eligible Airmen must be within 180 days of approved retirement or separation to start a program. Prior to submitting an application for SkillBridge, you must contact your education office to set up an appointment to discuss the program. After you meet with your education officer, you will be able to submit your application.



For help with Chapter 1606, 1606 AFSC Kicker, Post 9-11 GI Bill, Forever GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, please contact 477th Force Support Development and Education, 907-551-4750. You can also find more info at the VA website: [www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/](http://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/)



Associate to Baccalaureate Cooperative (AU-ABC) directs Airmen with associate in applied science degrees from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) to a collection of accredited colleges and universities to consider when completing a four-year degree. The program maximizes the application of military career education and training, and provides multiple online academic and support services for the enlisted member.

A photograph of a pet emergency supply kit. In the background, a small dog sits on a brown pet bed next to a white pet carrier. In the foreground, various supplies are laid out on a wooden floor, including a bag of Purina One and Done dog food, a box of Milk-Bone dog biscuits, a bag of Purina One and Done cat food, a container of Purina One and Done cat litter, a red plastic bucket filled with toys, a red leash, a red collar, and a blue folder with the "BE READY" logo. The text "DO YOU HAVE YOUR PET'S EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT READY?" is printed in large, bold letters on the right side of the image. The "BE READY" logo and website address "www.BeReady.af.mil" are in the bottom right corner.

**DO YOU HAVE  
YOUR PET'S  
EMERGENCY  
SUPPLY KIT  
READY?**

**BE  
READY**  
[www.BeReady.af.mil](http://www.BeReady.af.mil)

# This Month in History

## JUNE

**By Calistra Alba**  
**477th Fighter Group Historian**

**June 20, 1941** - The War Department established the Army Air Forces under General Henry “Hap” Arnold, which included resources of the Air Corps.

**June 1, 1943** - 477th Bombardment Group (Medium) is activated at MacDill Field, Florida under the Third Air Force. Units assigned to the group included the 616th, 618th and 619th Bombardment Squadrons. This Group was the only all African American Bomber group of the famed Tuskegee Airman.

**June 20-21, 1943** - Due to a race riot that broke out in Belle Isle, a suburb of Detroit, Michigan, Col. Robert Selway ordered the African American Airmen of the 332d Fighter Group to stay on base. Most of the 332d FG Airmen were stationed at Selfridge Field in Oscoda, Michigan.

**June 2, 1944** - Master Sgt. William M. Harris, 302d Fighter Squadron line chief, was killed during an air-

craft take-off. 2nd Lt. Elmer Taylor, a 302d FS pilot, was killed in a crash during a training mission.

**June 21, 1945** - Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. assumed command as the first African American commander of the 477th BG (M). He would remain in command until the group was inactivated two years later.



**June 30, 1959** Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. was promoted to major general, the first Black major general in the U.S. Air Force.

**June 15, 2015** - The 477th Security Force Squadron and 477th Civil Engineer Squadron, were inactivated. □

# Air Force Aid Society Assistance Now Available to Reservists in All Statuses

**By Bo Joyner**  
**Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command**  
**Public Affairs**

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. --

The Air Force Aid Society is now providing emergency assistance to all Airmen and Guardians, regardless of duty status.

Before the change in policy took effect on May 6, only Reservists or Guardsmen on an active-duty status were eligible for AFAS emergency assistance.

“This is great news for our Reserve Citizen Airmen,” said Mandie Holovach, Air Force Reserve Command’s Airman and Family Readiness program specialist. “AFAS provides emergency assistance when unexpected financial emergencies arise, and now their no-interest loans and grants are available to Reservists in all statuses.”

AFAS is the official charity of the Air Force. It

promotes the Air Force mission by helping to relieve the distress of Air Force members and their families and assist in financial aspects of their education.

Reserve Citizen Airmen living within 50 miles of an Air Force installation can apply at <https://my.afas.org/memberportal/Login/Login.aspx>.

Members can locate an installation by visiting <https://afas.org/contact-locations/>. If not within 50 miles of an Air Force installation, but within 50 miles of another branch of service’s installation, members can apply through Navy Marine Corp Relief, Army Emergency Relief or Coast Guard Mutual assistance. If there is not a military installation within 50 miles, members can contact the American Red Cross at 1-877-272-7337 for assistance.

For more information, contact your local A&FR office or center or visit <https://afas.org/>. □



# Information is Available Know Where to Find It



477TH FIGHTER GROUP

[www.477fg.afrc.af.mil](http://www.477fg.afrc.af.mil)



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