

October 2021



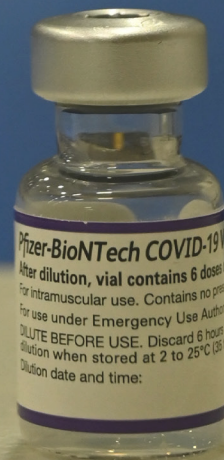
# Red Tail Review

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The 477th Fighter Group Newsletter

## ***Inside:***

- 477th FG prepares for COVID-19 vaccinations***
- Leadership Commentary: Diversity and Inclusion***
- Third Quarter Award Winners***
- This Month in History: September and October***



**Mission: We Provide Combat Air Power**

# Announcements

## 4th Quarter Awards Submissions DUE

Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021

## Annual Awards Submissions DUE

Saturday, Jan.8, 2021

## ***SAVE THE DATES***

**Annual Awards Banquet**

Saturday, March 26, 2022

**Family Day**

Saturday, June 4, 2022

**See the signs, avoid the hazards.**  
OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH





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

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Feb	April	Apr - May	June	Aug
(Primary)	2-3	6-7	4-5	8-9	5-6	26-27	2-3	30-1	4-5	25-28

# Red Tail Review Newsletter

## Leadership

Col.

Jonathan Gration, Jr.  
**Group Commander**

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



## Mission

We Provide Combat  
Air Power

## Vision

To Be the World's Premier  
Air Power Provider

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## Staff

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

**ON THE COVER:** An empty vial of a Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. (U.S. Air Force photo by Song Jordan)



# Leadership Commentary: Diversity and Inclusion

By Col. Brian Budde  
477th Fighter Group Deputy Commander

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska --

As the designated Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager for the 477th Fighter Group, it is my commitment to cultivate an environment in which each of our Airmen are able to maximize their potential. Trust, between ourselves as Airmen, and in our institution, hinges on our ability to learn and grow. Leaders at all levels must have the emotional intelligence to have tough conversations and learn about the individual experiences of the people they serve alongside. To that end, expect to see continuing messages about Diversity and Inclusion opportunities in this publication, as well as other mediums used by 477th Public Affairs.

The Department of Defense recognizes Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, 2021 as National Hispanic Heritage Month. During this month, DoD reflects on the Hispanic service members, from past to present, who have protected our nation and helped to create a better future for all Americans. Americans with ancestors from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America have distinguished themselves by serving with patriotism, fortitude, and courage in every U.S. conflict and in every Military Service. October is also designated as Filipino, German, Italian, and Polish American Heritage Month. If you come from one of these backgrounds, and you would like to share your story, please contact Ms. Song Jordan, 477th Public Affairs chief, to share it!

I am proud of the people that comprise this group. Thank you for helping me foster a culture of diversity and inclusion that enables us to be lethal in our pursuit - To Be the World's Premier Air Power Provider. I firmly believe that we are the best at what we're tasked to do, and I value the contribution of every member in achieving that end. Please direct any questions or feedback to me! ☐





# 477th Fighter Group

## Physical Fitness Assessment Fact Sheet



### About Physical Fitness Assessments

Physical Fitness Assessments for the 477th Fighter Group is scheduled to resume during the January unit training assembly, Jan. 8 and 9, 2022. Testing was initially delayed during the COVID-19 pandemic. When assessments resume, scores will be calculated on the new three-component scoring table: 1.5-mile run, 1 minute of push-ups, and 1 minute of sit-ups. Waist measurements will no longer be administered during fitness assessments. In addition, the new scoring charts separate scoring into five-year age groups: ≤24, 25-29 years old, 30-34 years old, etc.

### Physical Fitness Assessment Information

- PFAs will start in the yoga room, labeled Group Exercise 3, at the Elmendorf Fitness Center.
- Eight members will be able to test at a single time.
- Testing will occur on Saturday and Sunday of the UTA with three available testing times per day: 8:00 a.m., 8:45 a.m., and a TBD afternoon time (times are subject to change).
- All testers will wear masks while moving from exercise to exercise and during the height and weight measurements. Testers may remove masks while exercises are performed.
- Others will not be allowed to brace or hold each other's feet due to COVID-19 precautions; toe bars may be utilized instead.
- Testing personnel, UFPMs, and PTLs are allowed in the testing area. No additional personnel will be authorized.
- New interchangeable exercises are being tested through the Air Force at various bases. These alternate exercises will be released in early 2022 with further guidance.



### POC Contact Information

Master Sgt. Bryan Nicolos, 907-552-5934

**477th Fighter Group / Public Affairs**  
<https://www.477fg.afrc.af.mil/>





# A Note from Your Chaplain: October 2021 UTA

Welcome to October drill.

In trying to accomplish great things, we sometimes fail.

President Theodore Roosevelt said, "The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything."

Thomas Edison once stated, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." He viewed failure as a useful encounter on the way to success.

How do you view failure? I can tell you that, for me, it has been a bitter pill to swallow. But looking back, I realize that I learned more and became stronger through those difficult times.

John Maxwell, a well-known leadership expert concluded:

When it comes right down to it, I know of only one factor that separates those who consistently shine from those who don't: The difference between average people and achieving people is their perception of and response to failure. Nothing else has the same kind of impact on people's ability to achieve and to accomplish whatever their minds and hearts desire.

The essence of resiliency is to be able to bounce back from adversity. It's not how many times you fall, but how many times you get back up (Proverbs 24:16).

Are you willing to redefine failure in your life as an important part of your learning and growth?

My prayer for you is that you are able to view challenges and setbacks as a valuable part of your journey.

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



Chaplain Ben Butcher

## SHARE THE RECIPE FOR GREAT OPSEC.

ANALYZE THE THREAT  
IDENTIFY CRITICAL INFORMATION  
ANALYZE VULNERABILITIES  
ASSESS THE RISK  
APPLY COUNTERMEASURES

Fold ingredients one at a time into a sauce pan,  
stirring constantly as mixture cooks.

Cook to create a thick sauce.  
Remember all five steps must be included in the recipe.

Pour mixture into dutch oven and bake at 350° for a lifetime.



Think. Protect. OPSEC. | [www.iooss.gov](http://www.iooss.gov)





# New Recruit: Andrea To'omalatai



**Name:** Andrea To'omalatai

**Hometown:** Anchorage, Alaska

**Expected Future Unit:** 477th Force Support Squadron

**Expected Future Duty Title:** Service journeyman



**What do you do, when you are not serving during a UTA?** I watch my younger siblings. I'm also preparing to attend college.

**Why are you joining the Air Force Reserve?** To be a part of something bigger than myself. To further my education. I want to make my parents proud.

**What do you hope to accomplish while serving?** I want to change myself, not just physically, but mentally too. I want to change my lifestyle in a positive way.

**What are your hobbies?** Spending time with my family, watching movies, sight-seeing, and eating.

**Do you have any family members who also served or serving in the military?** I have a brother-in-law and cousin in the U.S. Army.



# Education Opportunities

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



477 Fighter Group members in all units, if you are enrolled in CDCs there is a new learning platform that is replacing ADLS. The new platform migration is to MyLearning <https://lms-jets.cce.af.mil/moodle/course/index.php?categoryid=11>

The Unit Training Manager for the member will enroll them into the proper Career Development Course (CDC). Once an Airman is enrolled they will be able to access their CDC IAW CDC program that was briefed to them by their Unit Training Manager.



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.



**VA**

U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

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/)



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.

# 477th Fighter Group prepares for COVID-19 vaccinations

## 477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska --

Several hours on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021, have been reserved to administer the COVID-19 vaccines to 477th Fighter Group Reserve Citizen Airmen. They will be administered inside the Elmendorf Fitness Center Gym, building 9510. The vaccination site entrance is on the side of the building, near the Arctic Oasis parking lot.

“Each member will be notified through their chain of command about their vaccine appointment,” said Master Sgt. Paul Koepp, 477th AMDF NCO in charge of physical exams and force health management.

On Sept. 3, 2021, the Department of Air Force published a memorandum establishing a goal to vaccinate service members. Active-duty members have until Nov. 2 to meet requirements. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members are required to be fully vaccinated by Dec. 2 of this year.

Mandating vaccines in the military is not new and is in the best interest of the force. Since the first days of basic training and throughout our service, Airmen have received multiple vaccines. There are proven processes in place with trusted and skilled medical professionals to ensure service members are healthy.

The shift of COVID-19 vaccinations from being optional to a requirement for service members appears to have prompted many 477th reservists to finally get vaccinated.

“Last UTA there were more than 130 that needed to start the vaccination process,” said Capt. Jeff Johnson, 477th AMDF senior administrator. “It’s changing every day. We get vaccination records from our folks who are getting their shots now.”

As of Thursday, Sept. 30, less than 50 Airmen are scheduled to start the COVID-19 vaccination process, during the October UTA.

477th FG leadership are aware that there are Airmen who may still have questions about the vaccine efficacy and possible side effects. 477th AMDF doctors are planning to be available to answer questions about COVID-19 vaccines during the UTA.

If a reservist declines to accept the COVID-19 vaccine, without a valid medical, religious, or administrative exemption, their chain of command will provide a full range

of resources which may include: individual counseling and professional medical advice to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine. Depending on status, commanders may have a full range of administration actions to ensure unit readiness requirements are met.

All available vaccinations are counted, as long as members complete the vaccination series. Even though the FDA fully approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, reservists are not restricted to only getting that series of vaccinations. The Moderna series, and single-shot Janssen vaccines are being offered throughout Alaska.

Members are advised to get their vaccinations by the same manufacturer. For example, if an Airman starts with the Moderna series, their second dosage should also be a Moderna shot. Vaccine recipients receive a Centers for Disease and Control Prevention vaccination card when they obtain their initial shot. The card can help a person keep track of the type of vaccine they receive.

There are more than 30 days between the October and November UTAs. If members want to get their second vaccination dose before the November UTA it is allowed. Reservists must provide to provide proof of the second shot to the 477th AMDF.

Koepp said, “You can either submit a copy of your proof of vaccination from the pharmacy that your received it at or the CDC vaccination card to your

477th AMDF is not required to track the vaccination status of civilians.

The current COVID vaccine mandate does not apply to federal civil service employees at this time. Federal civil service employee requirements will be addressed at a later date, in a separate communication. However, Air Force officials highly encourage everyone to get vaccinated. The vaccine will help defend against virus variants and mitigate the effects of an infection.

If a 477th reservist, civilian staff, or their family members wants to find a COVID-19 vaccine on their own, the state of Alaska has many opportunities to obtain vaccines. Information about how to find a vaccination location, can be found on their website: <https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/VaccineAppointments.aspx#appointments>. □

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# This Month in History

## SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER



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

*Note from the editor: September and October are featured because a unit newsletter was not published in September.*

## SEPTEMBER

### September 1943

The War Department announced that the training of African American as Bomber pilots would begin at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Ala. within 30 days.

The 332d Fighter Group, which had been flying the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk aircraft, began flying Bell P-39 Airacobra aircraft.

Twin-engine pilot training began at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Ala., using Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft. When they graduated, the pilots began transition flying in B-25

Mitchell bombers, first at Mather Field, Calif., and later with the 477th Bombardment Group.

### Sept. 26, 1947

Secretary of Defense James W. Forrestal ordered air personnel, bases, and materiel transferred from the Army to the new Department of the Air Force. All African American personnel in the air units of the United States Army transferred to the United States Air Force at the same time, but they were still in segregated organizations such as the 332d Fighter Wing and 332d Fighter Group and its squadrons at Lockbourne Army Air Base, Ohio which became Lockbourne Air Force Base.

## OCTOBER

### Oct. 13, 1942

332d Fighter Group and 302d Fighter Squadron were activated for the first time at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama. The 302d FS was assigned to

the 332d FG.

### **Oct. 8, 1943**

Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. became the first Black commander of the 332d FG, replacing Col. Robert R. Selway, Jr. Before commanding the 332d FG, Davis served as commander of the 99th Fighter Squadron in northern Africa and Italy.

### **Oct. 6, 1944**

In preparation for the allied invasion of Greece, members of the 302d FS took part in a mission in which 332d FG fighters strafed enemy airdromes in Tatoi, Kalamaki, Eleusis, and Megara Airdromes in Greece. During this mission, 1st Lt. Freddie E. Hutchins of the squadron was reported missing after his aircraft crashed.

### **Oct. 7, 1944**

Members of the 302d FS took part in an escort mission protecting B-17s of the 5th Bombardment Wing during a raid against the Lobau oil refineries at Vienna, Austria. During the mission two squadron members were lost, Lieutenant Robert Wiggins and 2d Lt. Roosevelt Stiger.

### **Oct. 11, 1944**

Members of the 302d FS took part in a mission in which fighters from the 332d FG strafed railroad and river traffic along the Danube river from Budapest to Bratislava and reported destroying 17 enemy airplanes on the ground.

### **Oct. 12, 1944**

302d FS members took part in a mission for the second consecutive day, which 332d FG fighters strafed railroad and river traffic along the Danube river from Budapest to Bratislava. During the mission six members of 302d FS shot down a total of nine enemy airplanes.

### **Oct. 13, 1944**

The 332d FG resumed bomber escort duty, protecting B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from Blechhammer's south oil refinery. Group members reported that they destroyed seven enemy airplanes on the ground during the mission. Enemy antiaircraft artillery shot down three 302d FS pilots, they were 1st Lieutenants Walter D. Westmoreland, William W. Green, Jr., and Luther A. Smith, Jr. Westmoreland was seen crashing

in Hungary. Green disappeared over Yugoslavia. Smith was seen parachuting over Yugoslavia and was injured while trying to abandon his burning P-51. Smith was captured.

### **Oct. 21, 1944**

The 332d FG flew its 100th mission for the Fifteenth Air Force. It escorted B-24s of the 304th Bombardment Wing to, over, and from Gyor, Hungary. On the same day, the 332d FG flew its 101st mission, this one a search of the Venezia area. Capt. Vernon V. Haywood of the 302d FS later earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on this day.

### **Oct. 25, 1944**

Hutchins, who went Missing in Action earlier in October 1944, returned after evading enemy forces in Greece for 19 days.

### **Oct. 8, 1956**

Officials activated the 302d FS in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

### **Oct. 21-26, 1996**

The 302d FS while a part of the 944 Fighter Wing, participated in "William Tell", the U.S. Air Force's premier air-to-air weapons competition held bi-annually at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

### **Oct. 1, 2007**

The 477 Fighter Group was activated at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Upon activation, Col. Eric S. Overturf assumed command of the group. □



**If you're ready for a zombie  
apocalypse, then you're ready  
for any emergency**

 **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
477th FIGHTER GROUP  
Bldg. 9443 (907)551-5477  
477FG.EM.EmergencyMgmt@us.af.mil

 **emergency.cdc.gov**



# CONGRATULATIONS

## 477TH FIGHTER GROUP

### 3RD QUARTER WINNERS, 2021

**Airman**  
**Airman First Class Izy Viloría**  
477th Aerospace Medicine Flight

**Non-commissioned Officer**  
**Staff Sgt. Dana Gorski**  
477th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

**Senior Non-commissioned Officer**  
**Master Sgt. Brandon Bolen**  
477th Aerospace Medicine Flight

**Company Grade Officer**  
**Capt. Elle Darcy**  
477th Fighter Group Staff

**Field Grade Officer**  
**Maj. Morgan Wallace**  
477th Aerospace Medicine Flight

**Civilian, Category I**  
**Jenna Flores**  
477th Fighter Group Staff

**Civilian, Category II**  
**Nick Barnes**  
477th Fighter Group Staff



# **Information is Available Know Where to Find It**



477TH FIGHTER GROUP

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



[facebook.com/477FG](https://facebook.com/477FG)