

November 2021



# Red Tail Review

The 477th Fighter Group Newsletter

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- This Month in History: November***

**Vision: To Be the World's Premier Air Power Provider**

# Announcements

**4th Quarter Awards Submissions  
DUE**

Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021

**Annual Awards Submissions  
DUE**

Saturday, Jan.8, 2021

**Anchorage Chamber of Commerce  
Annual Bowl-a-thon**

Saturday, Feb.5, 2021 3-6 p.m.

## ***SAVE THE DATES***

**Annual Awards Banquet**

Saturday, March 26, 2022

**Family Day**

Saturday, June 4, 2022



# 477th FG Fiscal Year 2022 Unit Training Assembly Schedule

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Feb	April	Apr - May	June	Aug
<i>(Primary)</i>	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

Colonel

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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477th Fighter Group  
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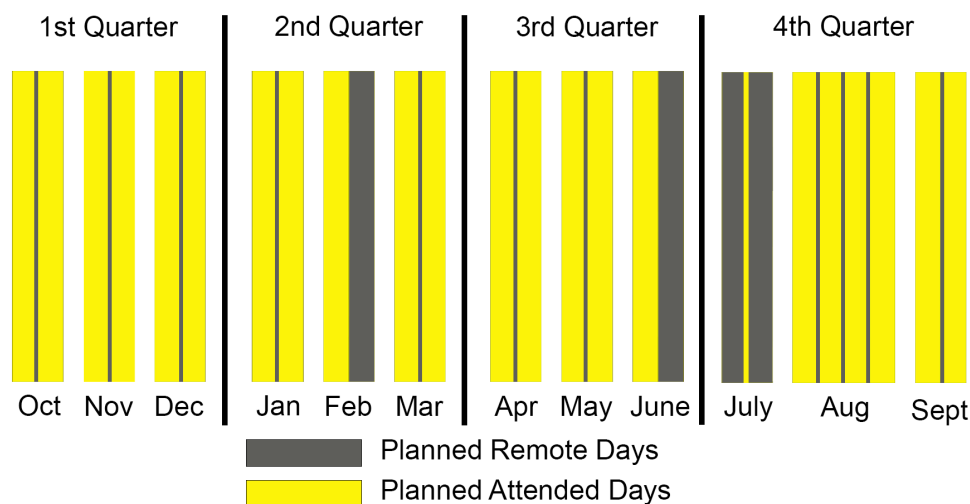
### Staff

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

**ON THE COVER:** A moose calf and cow lay on snow underneath a tree near the 477th Fighter Group headquarters building in the spring of 2021. (U.S. Air Force photo by Song Jordan)

# 477th FG Implements Alternate UTA Schedule

## 477th Fighter Group Sustainable Training Plan FY 2022



Visual depiction of a new remote training plan for the 477th Fighter Group at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson during the 2022 fiscal year. The pilot program will be incorporated as much as possible, but may not always be available to every Airman. (U.S. Air Force graphic)

**Staff Sgt. Melissa Estévez**  
477th Fighter Group Public Affairs

### JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska —

The 477th Fighter Group will be one of a few units that will be testing alternate unit training assembly schedules, instead of the one weekend a month and two weeks a year. The plan is to forecast and plan UTAs for: sustainability, predictability, and effectiveness.

For fiscal year 2022 there will be one virtual day per quarter, on the Sunday of UTA, to fit within the sustainable training plan. There will not be a set July UTA, it will be a liberal virtual reschedule with squadron commander's approval.

"Our sustainable training plan provided our unit a predictable forecast of when our members would be trained in a quarterly/systematic plan to avoid our entire unit coming overdue at the same time," said Col. Jonathan Gration, 477th Fighter Group commander.

The emergence of COVID-19 gave the 477th FG the opportunity to telework and apply different methods of working.

Across the 477th FG there are 42 Air Force Specialty Codes or career fields. There are areas where virtual AFSC training is possible. Currently virtual training modules are in the works. This will include e-learning that is centered on AFSCs individual Career Field Education and Training Plan.

Requirements must be forecasted and planned using DD Form 2946 Department of Defense Telework

Agreement. CFETP/AFSC specific training must be highlighted for remote work.

To be successful, clear expectations must be set so Airmen are aware of what is expected from them. Everyone should be open to new communication methods and take this opportunity to foster a teamwork environment. Airmen must reflect, adjust and be flexible.

"The core piece of this is being mindful of the Airmen, being able to give them time back at some point, someday, and also building in a little bit of flexibility to their life set," said Maj. Brett Bakner, 477th Fighter Group process manager and 477th Force Support Squadron commander. □

### Virtual training that can be completed during virtual UTAs:

- Award packages / Decorations
- Meetings / Conferences
- Online education
- Evaluations (EPR / OPR)
- Professional development
- Computer Based Training / Annual requirements / Total Force Awareness Training
- Data processing tasks
- Reading reports, Air Force Instructions, Technical Orders
- Preparing memos and reports
- Fiscal Year UTA planning
- Strategic alignment
- AFSC identified tasks

# A Note from Your Chaplain: November 2021 UTA

Welcome to the November UTA.

For many, this is a month to think about the things we are thankful for.

Choosing to be thankful focuses our thoughts on the good things in our lives, instead of taking things for granted or being negative.

Researchers found that those who intentionally practiced gratitude had more optimism, improved relationships, and greater levels of goal attainment.

As we intentionally choose to be thankful, we recognize the value of the people, opportunities, and blessings in our lives.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve with you in the 477th Fighter Group.

My prayer for you is that you find time to reflect on your life with gratitude.

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**



**Grounded in Tradition  
Resilient in Spirit**

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH  
NOVEMBER

November is National American Indian Heritage Month. It is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of American Indians and Alaskan Natives, the first people of the United States. Cherokee Indian and NASA physicist, J. C. Elliott-High Eagle, authored the legislation for American Indian Awareness Week. It was signed in 1976, making October 10-16 the first official week of national recognition for the American Indian since the founding of the Nation.

This set a precedent which was later followed by public laws that expanded the observance to what we now know as National American Indian Heritage Month.

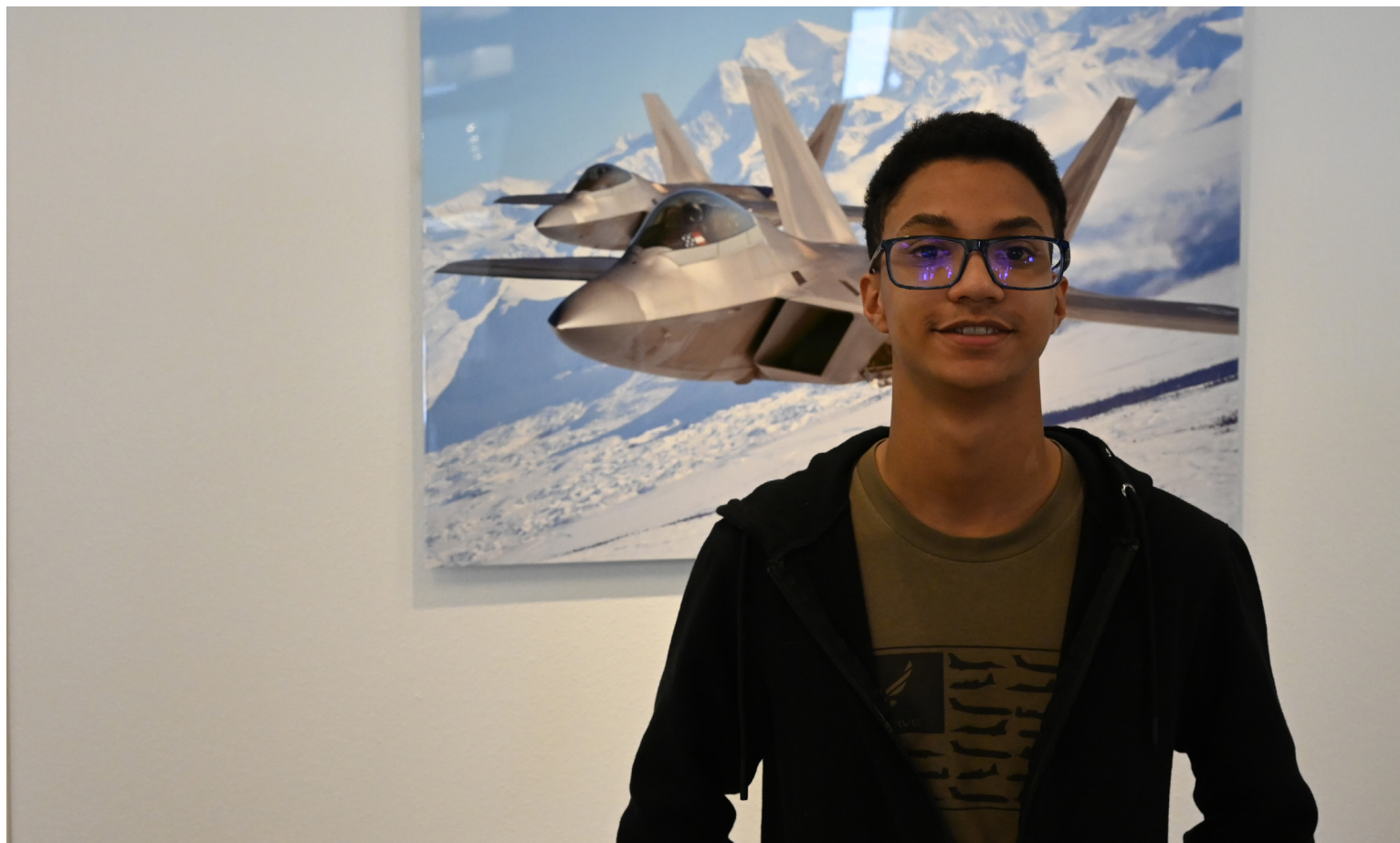
Winter Weather Is On It's Way



For information on winter road conditions go to [511.alaska.gov](http://511.alaska.gov)



# New Recruit: Sebastian Metzger-Jacobs



**Name:** Sebastian Metzger-Jacobs

**Hometown:** Anchorage, Alaska

**Expected Future Unit:** 477th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

**Expected Future Duty Title:** Aircraft munitions technician

**What do you do, when you are not serving during a UTA?** Help with bus and other transportation.

**Why are you joining the Air Force Reserve?** To serve my country and protect the Constitution.

**What do you hope to accomplish while serving?** I would like to go on a 90-day deployment during my military career.

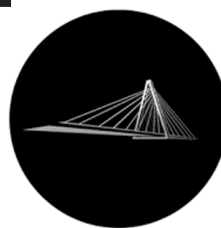
**What are your hobbies?** Flying model airplanes.

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



# Education Opportunities

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



## SkillBridge



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.



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.

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 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?category-id=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.



## 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/)

# This Month in History

## NOVEMBER

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

**Nov. 3, 1943** Twenty-nine pilots graduated from advanced pilot training at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Alabama. There were 20 single engine pilot graduates and nine were twin-engine pilots. The twin-engine aircraft pilots were the first class to graduate from advanced flight training at Tuskegee. The pilots were eventually assigned to fly medium B-25 Mitchell bombers with the 477th Bombardment Group.

**Nov. 19, 1943** 2nd Lt. Leon Purchase of the 302d Fighter Squadron, 332d Fighter Group died in an airplane crash eight miles northeast of Selfridge Field, Michigan.

**Nov. 29, 1943** 2nd Lt. William Edward Hill from the 302d FS of the 332d FG drowned in Lake Huron after parachuting from his Bell P-39 Airacobra, which had caught fire.



**Nov. 2, 1944** The 302d FS emblem was approved. On a disk, it depicted a winged running red devil with a machine gun, over a cloud.

**Nov. 16, 1944** 332d FG pilots escorted 304th Bombardment Wing B-24 Liberator bombers to and from Munich West marshalling yards. During the mission, the group encountered several German Messerschmitt Me-109 enemy fighters that attempted to shoot down the bombers. Capt. Luke J. Weathers, a 302d Fighter Squadron pilot, shot down two enemy fighters. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on this day.

**Nov. 21, 1980** While participating in a Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada members of the 302d Special Operations Squadron



**A painting depicting the rescue efforts that occurred on Nov. 21, 1980. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Master Sgt. Darby Perrin)**

took part in rescue operations after a fire located in the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The unit received credit for saving 17 people during the course of their operations at the hotel.

**Nov. 4, 2011** Lt. Col. David Piffarerio, 302d Fighter Squadron commander, became the first F-22 Raptor pilot in the world to achieve 1,000 flying hours in the aircraft. □



# 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.ioss.gov](http://www.ioss.gov)





# JBER RESPIRATORY CLINIC COVID-19 TESTING UPDATES

**EFFECTIVE 15 NOV 21, THE JBER RESPIRATORY CLINIC WILL NO LONGER CONTACT PATIENTS WITH NEGATIVE COVID-19 RESULTS**

## **You can get your COVID-19 results online with the MHS GENESIS Patient Portal!**

### **Access MHS GENESIS Patient Portal**



<https://patientportal.mhsgenesis.health.mil>

The MHS GENESIS Patient Portal is a secure website for 24/7 access to your health information, including managing appointments and exchanging messages with your care team.

All JBER Beneficiaries have access through a Premium Access (Level 2) DS Logon or CAC.

For questions regarding the DS Logon, visit [www.dmdc.osd.mil/lconnect](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/lconnect) or contact the Defense Manpower Data Center at (800) 538-9552.

## **JBER RESPIRATORY CLINIC INFORMATION:**

### **JBER Respiratory Clinic OFFERS COVID-19 testing for the following:**

- Symptomatic testing
- Contact/exposure testing (*must be first coordinated through JBER Public Health (907) 580-4014*)
- Official travel pre-test requirements (*PCS/ETS/TDY*)
  - Official orders that state a test is needed **OR** international travel (*including members driving through Canada*)
  - Tests that must be accomplished within 72 hours of **departure/arrival** depending on location
  - Results can be picked up **24 hours** after test

### **JBER Respiratory Clinic DOES NOT OFFER COVID-19 testing for the following:**

- Personal travel testing (pre or post)
  - For all non-official/personal travel testing needs, please plan on testing at the airport or visit the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services website for community travel test availability <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/Id/Pages/COVID-19/testing.aspx>
  - Post-travel tests to curtail ROM for official travel\*

\*Unit Commanders, O-4 or higher, can coordinate directly with Public Health (907) 580-4014

**LOCATION:**  
5955 Zeamer Ave  
JBER, AK 99506  
(located next to the ER)

**PHONE:**  
(907) 580-2622

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
Mon-Fri: 0800-1500  
Sat-Sun: 0800-1200  
PACAF Family Days & Holidays:  
0800-1200

**(CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING  
AND CHRISTMAS)**

Find an off-base  
COVID-19 testing  
site by visiting  
the Alaska Public  
Health Website:



For up-to-date information, please go to the 673d Medical Group's Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/673MDG>

# 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)