SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

ENTRANCE OF OFFICIAL PARTY

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS
   Eglin AFB Honor Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION
   Lieutenant Commander Jason Dillon
   Naval Aviation Schools Command, NAS Pensacola

NARRATOR
   Captain Kayla Hamilton
   479th Student Squadron

OPENING REMARKS
   Colonel Shane Muscato
   Commander, 479th Flying Training Group

GUEST SPEAKER
   Colonel John Christianson
   Deputy Commander, 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing

PRESENTATION OF
AERONAUTICAL ORDERS AND WINGS

AWARDS

AIR FORCE SONG

DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY
OFFICIAL PARTY

COL SHANE P. MUSCATO
COMMANDER
479TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP

COLONEL JOHN A. CHRISTIANSON
DEPUTY COMMANDER
350TH SPECTRUM WARFARE WING
Colonel Shane P. Muscato

Colonel Shane P. Muscato is the Commander of the 479th Flying Training Group at Pensacola Naval Air Station, FL. The Group includes four squadrons, 500 personnel and 45 T-6 Texan II and T-1A Jayhawk aircraft and trains over 300 Combat Systems Officers each year for the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard. Additionally, the Group supports over 1,500 Air Force personnel in the Pensacola, FL area.

Prior to joining the 479 FTG, Colonel Muscato was the Division Chief for the Special Operations Forces and Personnel Recovery Capability Development Team as a member of Air Force Futures, Headquarters United States Air Force at the Pentagon, Arlington, VA. As the leader of this team, he directed the establishment of requirements for the special operations and personnel recovery formations of the Air Force to meet future operational needs. Furthermore, his team conducted wargaming and analysis of these future capabilities and provided updates to the Air Force’s future force design to enable affordable, timely, and accurate effects in future conflicts.

Colonel Muscato was commissioned via the United States Air Force Officer Training School, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL. He is a master navigator with over 3,100 hours. He has deployed in support of numerous operations including ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, FREEDOM’S SENTINEL and INHERENT RESOLVE. Colonel Muscato has commanded at the squadron level, expeditionary squadron level, and as the Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component-Afghanistan Deputy Commander.
Colonel John A. Christianson

Col John Christianson is the Deputy Commander, 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing, Eglin AFB, FL. The 350 SWW’s primary mission is to provide rapid electronic combat power to Commanders during peacetime, through crisis and in war. The Wing is responsible for delivering electromagnetic spectrum capabilities to 70 United States and Foreign Partner electromagnetic warfare systems. Additionally, the wing is responsible for electromagnetic warfare reprogramming, modeling and simulation, and assessments. As the Air Force’s newest Wing, the 350 SWW will grow to support 2300 military and civilian personnel across ten units at three locations throughout the United States.

Col Christianson received his commission in 2001 through ROTC at the University of Virginia and received his wings from Joint Undergraduate Navigator Training in Pensacola, Florida, graduating as a distinguished graduate in October 2002. Col Christianson has served as an F-15E Mission Commander and Instructor Weapons System Officer. He also graduated from the US Navy’s Electronic Attack Weapons School and served as an EA-6B Instructor, Evaluator, and Weapons Officer, ultimately instructing at the USAF Weapons School. Prior to his current duties, he served as a National Defense Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC.

Col Christianson is a master navigator with over 2,100 flying hours in the F-15E, EA-18G, EA-6B, and B-1B, including over 1000 combat hours. He has deployed in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, ODYSSEY DAWN, UNIFIED PROTECTOR, and to support operations in USSOUTHCOM.
Squadron Commanders

479 STUS
Lt Col Humberto Centeno

479 OSS
Lt Col Todd Saksa

455 FTS
Lt Col Ryan Simpson

451 FTS
Lt Col Timothy Groff
Graduate Flight Commanders

479 STUS
Capt Darryl Kovach
Capt John Cyhaniuk
Capt Cory Siedler
Capt Kyle Buenaventura
Capt Garret Mack
Capt Christopher Maynard

455 FTS
Maj John Graves
Capt Mathew Cunningham
Capt Evan Pohler

451 FTS
Capt Jose Soto
Capt Jacob Western
Capt David Whitaker
Capt Joseph Scherer
Capt Nathan Braun
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<tr>
<td>2nd Lt Andrew Brookhart</td>
<td>York, PA</td>
<td>MC-130J, CSO</td>
<td>Harrisburg ANG Base, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Hailie Burton</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>U-28, SO</td>
<td>Hurlburt Field, FL</td>
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<td>2d Lt Alexander Ferenczhalmy</td>
<td>Alamogordo, NM</td>
<td>F-15E, WSO</td>
<td>Seymour Johnson AFB, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Colton Fletcher</td>
<td>Spokane, WA</td>
<td>RC-135, EWO</td>
<td>Offutt AFB, NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Katelyn Floyd</td>
<td>Pahrump, NV</td>
<td>C-130, NAV</td>
<td>Reno ANG Base, NV</td>
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Capt Matthew J. Fuster
Hometown  Darnestown, MD
Aircraft   F-15E, WSO
Assignment  Seymour Johnson AFB, NC

2d Lt Eric Futrell
Hometown  Choctaw, OK
Aircraft   MC-12W, CSO
Assignment  Will Rogers ANG Base, OK

2d Lt Ethan Haley
Hometown  Memphis, TN
Aircraft   U-28, SO
Assignment  Hurlburt Field, FL

2d Lt Mary Kemp
Hometown  Crossville, TN
Aircraft   B-1B, WSO
Assignment  Dyess AFB, TX

2d Lt Isaiah Kessler
Hometown  Camino, CA
Aircraft   B-1B, WSO
Assignment  Dyess AFB, TX
2d Lt Samantha Klipsch
Hometown: Daphne, AL  
Aircraft: MPRIS, EWO  
Assignment: Beale AFB, CA

2d Lt Crispen Morgenthaler
Hometown: Sanger, CA  
Aircraft: U-28, SO  
Assignment: Hurlburt Field, FL

2d Lt Phillip Pasley
Hometown: Avery, TX  
Aircraft: EA-18, WSO  
Assignment: NAS Whidbey Island, WA

2d Lt David Masangcay
Hometown: Manteca, CA  
Aircraft: RQ-170, EWO  
Assignment: Creech AFB, NV

2d Lt Richard Pardey
Hometown: Santa Marta, Colombia  
Aircraft: RC-135, EWO  
Assignment: Offutt AFB, NE
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Ernest Perreira IV</td>
<td>Mililani, HI</td>
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<td>2d Lt Zachary Phillips</td>
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<td>2d Lt Delaney Roddy</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
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<td>2d Lt Alyssa Rote</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Lily Walsh</td>
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## Outstanding Instructors

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<tr>
<th>Instructor Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enroute Navigation Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Joseph Scherer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self Protect Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Eric Horton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Attack Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Maia Hasling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Navigation Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Richard Duarte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Warfare Support Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Alexander Teeny</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suppression of Enemy Air Defense Instructor</td>
<td>Lt Col Andrew Haney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTD Sensor Operation Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Lucas Bamford</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-96 Simulator Instructor (CSI)</td>
<td>Mr. David Jackey</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-6 Simulator (CSI)</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Yager</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-1 MTR WSO Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Hiep Du</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1 MTR EWO Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Jose Soto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1 DT WSO Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Luis Bonilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1 DT SO Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Lucas Bamford</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-1 DT NAV Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Richard Duarte</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-1 Bomber Employment Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Steven Pair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1 Fighter Intercept Instructor</td>
<td>Maj. Jonathan Muse</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-1 Visual Low Level Instructor</td>
<td>Capt David Whitaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-1 Instructor Pilot</td>
<td>Mr. David Atzhorn</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-6 Instrument Instructor Pilot</td>
<td>Capt Matthew Cunningham</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-6 Navigation Instructor Pilot</td>
<td>1st Lt Hannah Michitsch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Duty Academic Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Lucas Bamford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Academic Instructor (CAI)</td>
<td>Mr. Matthew Schelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Duty Intel Instructor</td>
<td>SSgt Hannah Wingett</td>
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History of the 479th Flying Training Group

The 479th Flying Training Group (FTG) traces in lineage to World War II. In September 1943, Lt Col Leo Dusard was tasked with standing up a new fighter group. He began by selecting key personnel from the 329th Fighter Group (FG), and on October 15th the 479 FG was activated at Grand Central Air Terminal in California.

Following the reassignment of Lt Col Dusard, Lt Col Kyle Riddle took the reins of the 479 FG and quickly deployed the group to Europe. On April 16th 1944, 145 officers and 910 enlisted members deployed to Wattisham Royal Air Station near the village of Ipswich, England.

Only 11 days after arriving in Wattisham, the 479 FG participated in its first combat mission. Maj John H. Lowell led 34 P-38F Lightnings on a sweep over Holland and Belgium. On May 31st 1944, Capt Frank Keller of the 435th Fighter Squadron (FS) recorded the group’s first kill by destroying a Junkers Ju-88 Zerstorer on the ground near Humfeld, France. Then, on July 29th, Capt Arthur Jeffrey made history as the first pilot to shoot down a rocket-propelled aircraft, a Messerschmitt Me-163 Komet, over Germany. On Thanksgiving Day 1945, the 479 FG boarded the USS Enterprise to return home to the United States. Upon return, the 479 FG was deactivated on December 1st 1945 at Camp Kilmer.

After World War II, the 479 FG was activated and deactivated several times:
- December 1952, 479th Fighter-Bomber Group, George AFB, California, North American P-51 Mustang.
- June 1953, 479th Fighter-Bomber Group, North American F-86F Sabre
- June 1954, 479th Fighter-Bomber Group, F-100A Super Sabre
- October 1957, group deactivated
- 26 July 1991, 479th Fighter Group, Holloman AFB, New Mexico, AT-38 Talon
- November 1991, group deactivated
- November 1998, 479th Flying Training Group, Moody AFB, Georgia, AT-38C & T-6A Texan II
- 21 June 2007, group deactivated

Finally, on October 2nd, 2009, the 479 FTG was activated at NAS Pensacola, Florida, under the Command of Col Travis A. Willis. The unit’s mission is to train the Air Force’s next generation aviator, the Combat Systems Officer (CSO). The 479th uses the T-6A Texan II and the T-1A Jayhawk to this end.

* The group’s three fighter squadrons (434th, 435th, and 436th) aircraft didn’t have cowling colored markings like other Eight Air Force fighter groups. Rather, the 479th Lightnings were distinguished only by their colored tail rudders.
The Evolution of the Combat Systems Officer

Combat Systems Officers (CSO) can follow their roots back to the advent of multi-crew bi-planes in WWI. During this time, CSOs fulfilled multiple roles to include navigators, observers, ordinance delivery, and intelligence gatherers on enemy positions across Europe. For many years, their duties on aircraft were not well defined. It wasn’t until the historic “Southern Cross” flight across the Pacific Ocean in May of 1928 that the navigator’s mission really began to take form.

Fourteen years after the historic “Southern Cross” flight, the United States entered World War II. In many World War II aircraft, to include the mighty B-26 flown by our 451st Bomber Squadron (BS) and 455th BS, the cockpit was designed for two crew members. As was typical with these aircraft, one seat was assigned to the navigator. In addition to navigation duties, the navigator also had bombardier responsibilities. This led to the affectionate term “bombigator”, referring to this multi-purpose crew position.

After WWII, CSO aircrew duties were expanded to maximize U.S. Air Force aircraft combat capabilities. Vietnam-era aircraft and tactics paved the way for the three distinct aircrew roles CSOs perform today. These specialties include Weapon Systems Officer (specializing in weapons employment), Electronic Warfare Officer (expert in electromagnetic spectrum exploitation), and Panel Navigator (expert in aircraft positioning, time control, and orchestrating airdrop). Since their inception, these three separate aircrew specialties have sustained the U.S. Air Force’s air superiority around the world. From OPERATION DESERT STORM, to OPERATION ALLIED FORCE, to OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, to OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, CSOs have been the backbone of the US Military’s operational successes.

Today, the Combat Systems Officer title designates an aviator that is trained to perform duties either as an Electronic Warfare Officer, Weapon Systems Officer, or a Panel Navigator. And while the crew position’s duties and name may have transformed over the years, its fundamental role to the lasting success of the United States Air Force has not. The demand for CSOs will only continue to grow in the 21st century as our nation upholds its global commitments and remains postured to defend our interests around the world.

The Air Force Song
by Robert Crawford

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun! (Give 'em the gun!)
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

For photos of today’s events... Find us on Facebook!
http://www.facebook.com/479FTG