SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

ENTRANCE OF OFFICIAL PARTY

RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS
Eglin AFB Honor Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

NARRATOR
Captain Cory Siedler
479th Student Squadron

OPENING REMARKS
Colonel Patrick Dierig
Commander, 479th Flying Training Group

GUEST SPEAKER
Brigadier General William Freeman
Commandant, Air War College

PRESENTATION OF
AERONAUTICAL ORDERS AND WINGS

AWARDS

AIR FORCE SONG

DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY
OFFICIAL PARTY

BRIG GEN WILLIAM C. FREEMAN
COMMANDANT
AIR WAR COLLEGE

COL PATRICK T. DIERIG
COMMANDER
479TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP
Brigadier General William Freeman

Brig. Gen. William “Clay” Freeman is the Commandant, Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. The Air War College is the Air Force’s senior professional military education institution, providing post-graduate senior leader development programs focused on joint, multinational, multi-agency warfighting and international security operations, air, space and cyberspace force strategy development and national security planning.

Brig. Gen. Freeman entered the Air Force in 1996 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He earned his navigator wings at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., and has held a variety of special operations flying and joint staff positions. He is an Air Force Intern Program graduate and has served as Deputy Director A5/8 and Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Special Operations Command. He has commanded at the squadron, group and wing levels along with leading two Joint Special Operations Air Components in European Command and Indo-Pacific Command.

The general is a Master Navigator and Electronic Warfare Officer with more than 3,200 hours, including 510 combat hours in the MC-130E.

Prior to his current assignment, Brig. Gen. Freeman served as Director of Operations at Special Operations Command-Europe (SOCEUR), Stuttgart, Germany.
Colonel Patrick T. Dierig

Colonel Patrick T. Dierig is Commander of the 479th Flying Training Group at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla. The Group includes four squadrons, 325 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, Fla area.

Prior to assuming his current position, Col. Dierig was a senior program analyst at the Office of Secretary of Defense, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE), Global Shaping Division. Col. Dierig led Department of Defense-wide program review and developed program alternatives to address Secretary of Defense priorities. Col. Dierig was a national security fellow at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

Col. Dierig commissioned through officer training school in 2001, after graduating from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree. Col. Dierig is a master navigator and electronic warfare officer with more than 2,600 flight hours in the AC-130U and MC-130H. Col. Dierig has flown combat missions in Afghanistan and Iraq; as well as led mission planning cells for joint special operations in South America and Africa.
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 Garrett Mack
Capt Darryl Kovach
Capt Aaron Hansen
Capt Cory Siedler
Capt Ken Semon
Capt Chris Maynard
Capt Nathan Hallam
Capt Kyle Buenaventura

455 FTS
Maj Corey Davis
Maj John Graves
Maj Christian Minnick
Capt Jordan Allen
Capt Christopher Ryan
Capt Mathew Cunningham

451 FTS
Maj Richard Duarte
Capt Hiep Du
Capt Thomas Zogal
Capt David Whitaker
Capt Eric Horton
Capt Joseph Scherer
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Aircraft</th>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Alexander C. Abordo</td>
<td>Huntley, IL</td>
<td>U-28, CSO</td>
<td>Hurlburt Field AFB, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Ethan C. Belew</td>
<td>Alice Springs, Australia</td>
<td>U-28, CSO</td>
<td>Hurlburt Field AFB, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Genevieve Bernard</td>
<td>Rockport, TX</td>
<td>B-1, WSO</td>
<td>Dyess AFB, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Vincent R. DiDomenica</td>
<td>Millbury, MA</td>
<td>MC-130J, CSO</td>
<td>Kirtland AFB, NM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Aaron Barnard</td>
<td>Katy, TX</td>
<td>F-15E, WSO</td>
<td>Seymour Johnson AFB, NC</td>
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<td>2d Lt Loren K. Guevara</td>
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<td>2d Lt Joseph H. Jacobs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capt Kristen T. Kummen</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Jacob C. Hall</td>
<td>West Monroe, LA</td>
<td>U-28, CSO</td>
<td>Hurlburt Field AFB, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Chrisalyn Junkert</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
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<td>Seymour Johnson AFB, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Logan Larsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj Erickson T. Lee</td>
<td>Eagle River, AK</td>
<td>HC-130J, CSO</td>
<td>JBER, AK</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Dan Michael G. Panti</td>
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<td>B-1B, WSO</td>
<td>Dyess AFB, TX</td>
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<td>2d Lt Austin Weber</td>
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<tr>
<td>2d Lt Delaney Zieverink</td>
<td>Clover, SC</td>
<td>B-52H, WSO</td>
<td>Barksdale AFB, LA</td>
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# Outstanding Instructors

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<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enroute Navigation Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Kyle Buenaventura</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self Protect Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Nathaniel Hofschneider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Navigation Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Richard Duarte</td>
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<tr>
<td>DTD Sensor Operation Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Steven Pair</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-96 Simulator Instructor (CSI)</td>
<td>Mr. Paul Panici</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-6 Simulator (CSI)</td>
<td>Mr. Gregory Butcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-1 MTR WSO Instructor</td>
<td>Lt Col Michael Rafferty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1 DT WSO Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Kyle Buenaventura</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-1 DT SO Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Nate Hallam</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-1 DT NAV Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Todd Charles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1 Fighter Employment Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Brenden Wehde</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-1 Bomber Employment Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Nathaniel Hofschneider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1 Fighter Intercept Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Daryl Kovach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1 Visual Low Level Instructor</td>
<td>Capt David Whitaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-1 Instructor Pilot</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Burt</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-6 Instrument Instructor Pilot</td>
<td>Capt Matthew Cunningham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-6 Navigation Instructor Pilot</td>
<td>Lt Col Steve Koltonski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-6 Formation Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Jordan Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Duty Academic Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Joshua Wohlford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Academic Instructor (CAI)</td>
<td>Mr. Keith Ludwig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Duty Intel Instructor</td>
<td>SSgt Alex Parkins</td>
</tr>
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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 cowlings 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, ordnance 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