SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

ENTRANCE OF OFFICIAL PARTY

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS
Eglin Air Force Base Honor Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION
Lieutenant Commander Joshua Holland
Naval Aviation Schools Command, NAS Pensacola

NARRATOR
Capt Savannah Bailey
479th Flying Training Groups

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

GUEST SPEAKER
Lt Gen Bauernfeind
Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command

PRESENTATION OF AERONAUTICAL ORDERS AND WINGS

AWARDS

AIR FORCE SONG

DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY
OFFICIAL PARTY

LT GEN TONY D. BAUERNFEIND
COMMANDER
AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

COL PATRICK T. DIERIG
COMMANDER
479TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP
Lieutenant General Tony D. Bauernfeind

Lt. Gen. Tony D. Bauernfeind is the Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, Florida. The command is the Air Force component of U.S. Special Operations Command. AFSOC provides Air Force special operations forces for worldwide deployment and assignment to unified combatant commanders. The command has approximately 20,800 active-duty, Reserve, Air National Guard and civilian professionals. Lt. Gen. Bauernfeind earned his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1991. Earning his wings in 1992, he has flown more than 3,500 hours in the MC130E, MC-130H and MQ-9 aircraft. He has commanded special operations forces at the squadron, group, wing and theater special operations command levels. Prior to his current assignment, Lt. Gen. Bauernfeind served as the Vice Commander, Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command, Washington D.C.
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
July Graduate Flight Commanders

479 STUS
Capt Brandon Yeung
Capt Ken Semon
Capt Mathew Clutts
Capt Charles Todd
Capt Steven Pair
Capt Cory Siedler
Capt Daryl Kovach
Capt Aaron Hansen
Capt Nate Hallam
Capt Matt Ryan

455 FTS
Capt Corry Davis
Capt Matt Ryan
Capt Christopher Ryan
Capt Josiah Smith
Capt Jordan Allen
Capt Garret Mack

451 FTS
Capt Joey Soto
Capt Phil Dougherty
Capt Jacob Western
Capt Scott Antoine
Capt Hiep Du
Capt Joe Scherer
Capt Thomas Zogal
Capt David Whitaker
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<td>2d Lt David Alvarez</td>
<td>East Windsor, NJ</td>
<td>F-15E, WSO</td>
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<td>2d Lt Collin Braun</td>
<td>Cypress, CA</td>
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<td>2d Lt Jordan C. Brewer</td>
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<td>Kirtland AFB, NM</td>
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<td>Charleston, SC</td>
<td>HC-130J, CSO</td>
<td>Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ</td>
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<td>MC-12, CSO</td>
<td>Will Rogers ANG, OK</td>
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<td>Louisville, KY</td>
<td>AC-130J, CSO</td>
<td>Hurlburt Field, FL</td>
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<td>RC-135, NAV</td>
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<td>Maj Katie Hunsader</td>
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<td>Advanced Navigation Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Mathew Long</td>
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<td>DTD Sensor Operation Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Lucas Bamford</td>
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<td>T-96 Simulator Instructor (CSI)</td>
<td>Mr. Michael Shaefbauer</td>
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<td>T-6 Simulator (CSI)</td>
<td>Mr. Gregory Butcher</td>
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<td>T-1 MTR WSO Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Hiep Du</td>
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<td>T-1 Fighter Employment Instructor</td>
<td>Capt Phil Dougherty</td>
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<td>T-1 Fighter Intercept Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Jonathan Muse</td>
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<td>T-1 Visual Low Level Instructor</td>
<td>Capt David Whitaker</td>
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<td>T-1 Instructor Pilot</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Rasmussen</td>
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<td>T-6 Instrument Instructor Pilot</td>
<td>Capt Jordan Allen</td>
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<td>Capt Jordan Allen</td>
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<td>Capt Jordan Allen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Duty Academic Instructor</td>
<td>Maj Erika Burkhardt</td>
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<td>Civilian Academic Instructor (CAI)</td>
<td>Mr. Mathew Schelling</td>
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<td>Active Duty Intel Instructor</td>
<td>TSgt Randy Nelson</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