

GOOD MORNING AND A CRISP AIR SUPERIORITY DAY WELCOME TO TEAM LANGLEY LEADERSHIP, OUR MANY DISTINGUISHED VISITORS, AND OUR SPECIAL GUESTS AND RETIRED AF LEADERS AND AMBASSADORS FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FIGHTER ASSOCIATION...

AND VERY IMPORTANTLY, WE'RE HONORED TO HAVE ASSOCIATION FOUNDING FATHER **PE "Mac" MacAllister** – A SUCCESS IN EVERY ASPECT OF HIS FULFILLING LIFE... NOW 97, WE CAN ALL ONLY HOPE TO ASPIRE TO LIVE AS TRUE AS THIS GREAT MAN.

A SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE EXPERTISE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MXG AND 633 ABW, SPECIFICALLY CES DIRT BOYS, WELDERS AND ELECTRICIANS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL WORK CREATING WHAT YOU SEE HERE  
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I'M EXTREMELY PROUD TO BE ABLE TO OFFER A FEW SHORT REMARKS AND HIGHLIGHT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DEDICATING THIS F-15 EAGLE, THE EXCELLENCE IT REPRESENTS, AND THE HUMBLING LEGACY IT MEMORIALIZES.

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF FUTURE 94 FS/CC, LT COL JACK BRITT IN A TF-15A IN DECEMBER '75 FOLLOWED BY 27 FS/CC, LT COL RICHARD CRAFT, IN THE FIRST OPERATIONAL, SINGLE-SEAT, F-15A ON 9 JAN 1976, FOREVER KNOWN IN HISTORY AS "EAGLE DAY", THE MEMBERS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> TACTICAL FIGHTER WING BEGAN A 34 YEAR JOURNEY OF UNMATCHED, UNDEFEATED AIR SUPERIORITY...

THE MEN AND WOMEN OF AMERICA'S FIRST TEAM PROUDLY FLEW, MAINTAINED AND SUPPORTED THE MIGHTY EAGLE HERE AT THE LANGLEY AIR PATCH FROM 1976 THROUGH 2010... THOSE YEARS WERE FILLED WITH REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, LIGHTNING RESPONSE TO AGGRESSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND MANY MILESTONES THAT REFLECT OUR GREAT AIR FORCE HERITAGE.

SOME OF OUR 1<sup>ST</sup> FIGHTER ASSOCIATION MEMBERS MAY RECALL THE 1<sup>ST</sup> TAC FIGHTER WING STARTED WITH 16 PERSONNEL MOVING FROM MACDILL TO PLANT THE FLAG HERE AT LANGLEY... EVENTUALLY REACHING A PEAK STRENGTH OF ~6200. AT ITS HIGHEST PERIOD OF ACTIVITY, THE WING HAD 94 EAGLES ON THE RAMP IN 1981.

COL (RET) RACQUET HARDENBROOK, WHO DESERVES SPECIAL MENTION AS FOCAL POINT FOR THIS PROJECT, SAW CAPT GENE COLLINS BE THE FIRST EAGLE PILOT TO REACH 1,000 HOURS WHILE HE WAS 27 FS/CC AT THE TIME

LET THE RECORD SHOW, THE WING ACHIEVED MANY FIRSTS AND MILESTONES AS ITS EAGLES SUCCESSFULLY RAGED IN 56 RED FLAGS AND SCORED THE FIRST AIM-9 DIRECT HIT IN ONE OF ITS 61 WSEPS OF COMBAT ARCHER/ECHO/HAMMER...

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WITH EAGLES IN THE SKY, THE WING EXCELLED IN 23 HHQ INSPECTIONS SINCE THE FIRST ORI IN 1977, AND BROUGHT THE AIR BATTLE MANAGER TO THE MODERN FIGHT SUPPORTING E-3 AWACS IOT&E IN 1976... THIS FOREVER ESTABLISHED THE AIR SUPERIORITY STANDARD AS KEEPER OF THE ROE AND WHAT WE KNOW TODAY AS THE HIGH BAR ...

... IN 1992 THEN CAPTAIN NUTS DESTASIO SAID, "THAT'S JUST AMAZING, THESE RUSSIAN GUYS FLYING FORMATION WITH US" AS HIS EAGLE LED TWO SU-27 FLANKERS UP INITIAL DURING THE FIRST EVER RUSSIAN FIGHTER EXCHANGE ...

LANGLEY EAGLES FLEW IN SOME 45+ OVERSEAS EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS, ALL BEGINNING WITH A CORNET CONDOR TO KADENA... TODAY NOT MUCH HAS CHANGES AS OUR AIRMEN STILL PROJECT COMBAT AIRPOWER AROUND THE WORLD TODAY...

DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM SAW A RECORD 85.2 FMC RATE FOR DEPLOYED F-15S AS LANGLEY EAGLES FLEW 6.5K+ SORTIES/ 27K+ HOURS ... THE GULF WAR WAS HIGHLIGHTED AS CAPT STEVEN TATE, 71TFS SHOT DOWN AN IRAQI F-1 MIRAGE ON 17 JAN 1991

THE SAYING ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FIGHTER ASSOCIATION EMBLEM CELEBRATES "SPADS TO RAPTORS" ... ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DILIGENTLY SUPPORTED, EXPERTLY MAINTAINED, AND STRAPPED ON AND FLOWN THE MIGHTY-MIGHTY KNOW THE EMOTIONS THIS MEMORIAL INVOKES... AND WE ARE CHARGED WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF HONORING OUR LEGACY AND HISTORIC LINEAGE.

I HAVE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO BE A PART OF THIS EAGLE HISTORY AS A YOUNG LT IN 1 FW AND NOW AS ITS COMMANDER, WITNESSING THE NEXT GENERATION OF UNMATCHED AIR DOMINANCE REIGN WITH THE F-22 RAPTOR ...TODAY'S AIRMEN EMBODY THE TRUST, TEAMWORK AND INNOVATION WE NEED TO TAKE US THROUGH THE NEXT CHAPTER AS WE REMAIN ENGAGED IN TODAY'S FIGHT...

THE 27TH FIGHTIN' EAGLES MADE HISTORY AS THE FIRST TAC UNIT TO DROP BOMBS FROM, YES, AN F-15 IN JAN 1984 AND AGAIN 30 YEARS LATER, WITH THE F-22 COMBAT DEBUT AND FIRST STRIKE ON THE ISLAMIC STATE ENEMY IN SYRIA, EMPLOYING 1K LB JDAMS LAST SEPTEMBER 2014.

AS I SPEAK, OUR 94 FS SPADS ARE ON THE NELLIS RANGE (BRAGGING), TRAINING TO NEW RAPTOR INCREMENT 3.1 ENHANCED GLOBAL STRIKE CAPABILITIES DESIGNED TO HOLD OUR ADVERSARIES TARGETS AT RISK ACROSS THE GLOBE

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AND TO COME FULL CIRCLE... FROM HOSTING THE FIRST T-38 AGGRESSORS IN APRIL 1976, THE WING IS ENGAGED TO HOPEFULLY RETURN THE 71<sup>ST</sup> IRONMEN TO THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AS OUR 71<sup>ST</sup> FIGHTER TRAINING SQUADRON TO NOW OWN THE ADVERSARY AIR MISSION...

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE AVIATION PIONEERS AND LEGENDS OF OUR PAST SERVED WITH THE 1ST PURSUIT GROUP BEGINNING IN FRANCE 1918. THEY LED BY EXAMPLE AND INCLUDED MANY OF OUR TRUE WWII HEROES, GREATEST OF THE GREAT GENERATION, LIKE MAC MACALLISTER AND RECENTLY DEPARTED DARRELL WELCH...

IN 34 YEARS OF F-15 OPERATIONS ENDING 30 SEP 2010, LANGLEY EAGLES LOGGED OVER

- 466K+ SORTIES / 694K+ HOURS
- HIGHEST ONE MONTH TOTAL WAS JUN 03 ... 8,203 SORTIES, OVER 14K HRS

WE HONOR THOSE FROM THIS F-15 ERA... AND AS WE CUT THE RIBBON TO DEDICATE THIS SITE – BALLS 55 ASSUMES ITS HISTORIC RESTING PLACE AS THE 69<sup>TH</sup> EAGLE ON STATIC DISPLAY – KEEPING WATCH AT OUR WEST GATE, REMINDING US ALL WHAT THE HIGH BAR OF AIR SUPERIORITY EXCELLENCE LOOKS LIKE...

MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA, THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FIGHTER WING, THE ASSOCIATION...

... AND THE MIGHT MIGHTY EAGLE!

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