



1st Fighter Association Quarterly Update

4th Qtr 2020

Fellow Association members,

I finally have some worthwhile news to share regarding ongoing operations and transformation of the 1st Fighter Wing. Mr. Josh Lashley, 1FW Historian forwarded me the information and asked that we keep it within the Association until public announcements occur in the near future. There are also a couple of other requests below for your perusal and action, if desired.

1FW COVID-19 Ops

The 1FW never ceased flying operations since the beginning of the pandemic. In fact, the 1FW set the example for how to maximize flying given the health considerations. Through various shift schedules and sanitization procedures, we never dropped below 70% of our FHP contract. We are now back to full capacity and flying normal ops. Though the rest of the units on base are being much more conservative, the 1FW has fought back to normalization and has remained overall healthy at the same time. Our focus is how to maintain the health of our Airmen and their families, how to learn to live with COVID restrictions, and how to maintain readiness.

Wing Reorganization

As part of a large initiative driven by General Holmes, the 1FW implemented a reorganization that focused increasing sortie production and combat capability. The centerpiece of the reorg was moving flightline maintenance back into the Fighter Squadrons. The AF has operated this time on multiple occasions, most recently from October 1991 to July 2002.

Overnight the 27FS and 94FS went from a 40-person squadron to over 300. Other maintenance functions also moved inside the Wing, such as the Maintenance Ops Center (MOC), scheduling, and some of the AFE Airmen moving into the 1OSS and the Fighter Squadrons.

The 1AMXS/CC became the Deputy OG for MX. Though the positions have moved out of the 1AMXS, we only informally inactivated the squadron. It is still technically active, just an empty squadron. This is because the reorg is part of a larger test that encompasses several bases trying out different structures. We should know in the next year which one will be selected and then either our moves will be final or we will have to change again.

1st Munitions Squadron

Though not technically part of the Wing Reorg initiative, we received approval to standup a dedicated Munitions Squadron at the same time. The AMMO troops were previously a flight in the 1MXS. We redesignated the 1st Muniton Maintenance Squadron (1MMS) to the 1st Munitions Squadron (1MUNS) and reactivated it on 31 July 2020. This squadron was last active in the 1TFW before it was inactivated back in June 1977. The unit has a great history and the AMMO troops are louder than ever now with their own unit ...if that is even possible.

F-22 FTU

This is still a **sensitive subject** due to SECAF-level decisions and Congressional notifications, but everything is still on track. We have now stood up a Program Integration Office (PIO) to help with this large movement that will add an additional 30 x F-22s, 16 x T-38s, and over 700 Airmen to the 1FW team.

We have submitted the paperwork to make some unit swaps as part of the move. When the F-22 FTU jets arrive, they will be assigned to the 71st (which is being redesignated from the 71FTS back to 71FS). The 71FS will take over the FTU mission, returning the Ironmen to a grey combat jet on par with the Eagles and SPADs. The T-38 mission will move into our new ADAIR squadron, the 7FTS. The 7th was most recently at Holloman flying F-22s and T-38s. They have a very robust heritage including being one of the F-117 squadrons. These moves can be a little confusing so let me know if I can explain better.

Changes in Leadership

- 1FW/CV: Col Steven "Munch" Fino retired on 29 May. Col Richard "Dino" Foster assumed the Vice Commander position on 7 July 2020. Col Foster was previously in the Wing as an F-22 pilot (though he is now flying T-38s) in the 94FS and most recently in 2015 as Chief of Safety.

- 27 FS/CC: Lt Col David “Drift” Delmage assumed command of the 27FS on 19 June 2020. He was previously the 94FS/DO.
- 1OSS/CC: Lt Col Nicholas “Conan” Sigler assumed command of the 1OSS on 27 March 2020. He was previously the 27FS/DO.
- 1MXS/CC: Maj Joel M. Murphy, Jr. assumed command of the 1 MXS on 22 May. He came to the 1FW from the ACC Staff
- 1MUNS/CC: Maj Michael J. Lundy assumed command of the reactivated 1MUNS on 31 July 2020. He was previous the Mx Ops Officer in the 1AMXS.

F-15 Eagle Magazine Request

Mark Ayton is a longtime aviation author and magazine editor from England. He is planning a 100-page magazine dedicated to the McDonnell F-15 Eagle. This will be published soon by Key Publishing in the UK; it should be available in the United States.

He’s asking if our association would be able to help him connect with some former pilots, commanders and maintainers? He’d like to interview some folks as the basis for a section on the Fighting First; his objective is to include the 1st FW alongside current Air Force operators of the F-15.

One important point regarding the write-ups, he’s happy to submit them to the interviewees for proofreading prior to publication. So if you’re interested, please contact him soonest. Here is Mark’s contact information: m100ayton@gmail.com +44 7767 703555.

Reminder: 1st Fighter Association’s Personal Customized SwissPL Watch Opportunity

Please take a few minutes and check out our Association exclusive web page containing detailed watch and ordering information with example designs: <https://swisspl.com/customization/usaf-1st-fighter-wing/>. The teaser video is excellent and 36 different watch face options have been added. Of course, there are any number of individual options depending on your desired choices. It’s a great watch and the company voluntarily donates 25% of the final sales price back to the Association—so a real “win-win” situation for us all.

Squadron Canvas Posters

Randy “Mopar” Dodge forwarded the link and proposal below is to a website that produces canvas-wrapped Squadron posters. This link will take you to the 27th poster. There is also a 94th poster if you do a search on the website. I couldn't find one for the 71st. The prices range from \$29.99-\$199.99 depending on the size and framing options we were to choose. A 16x20 canvas wrap (as shown in the link) is \$89.99. I think it would be nice, as a gift from the Association, to have a 27th and 94th poster in each of the Squadron Heritage Rooms, and Bars (4 posters total). Do you think it’s possible to get approval from the board, if necessary, and spend what would likely amount to approximately \$400 (with shipping since we are a tax free organization) to provide these posters for the 2 Squadrons for which they are available. My thinking is, since it has been difficult to arrange visits to the base and ceremonies have been limited to virtual attendance, that this would at least keep us in contact as an organization with the Squadrons and let them know we are still here.

<https://www.squadronposters.com/product/langley-afb-27th-fs-2/?fbclid=IwAR2-gGjSF2eO7WxtQYqHWQK5TP4l6DHPbqdfPqnBNddLx-Ft0PBXswVfQ00>

2021 1st Fighter Association Reunion

We’re about a year away from our next bi-annual reunion. I plan to convene a planning committee in early January to discuss possible locations and dates. More to follow.

Stay well and be safe,
Rich “Moto” Shook
757-344-7775