

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!

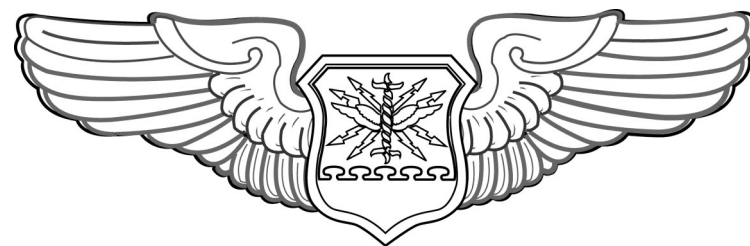
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!

Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!



For photos of today's events... Find us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/479FTG>



COMBAT SYSTEMS OFFICER TRAINING GRADUATION CEREMONY



Friday, August 21st, 2026
National Naval Aviation Museum
Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

ENTRANCE OF OFFICIAL PARTY

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

NATIONAL ANTHEM
AIC Aja Copeland
451st Flying Training Squadron

INVOCATION
Chaplain LT Kevin Todd, USN

NARRATOR
1st Lt Rohan Fisher
455th Flying Training Squadron

OPENING REMARKS
Lieutenant Colonel Roy M. Calilung
Deputy Commander, 479th Flying Training Group

GUEST SPEAKER
Colonel Ted Lowry
United States Air Force, Retired

PRESENTATION OF
AERONAUTICAL ORDERS AND WINGS

AWARDS

AIR FORCE SONG

DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY

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.

As trained experts, Combat Systems Officers graduates project airpower in the interests of the United States in the following aircraft: AC-130J, B-1B, B-52, C-130H, EA-18G, EC-130, F-15E, HC-130J, MC-130J, RC-135, RQ-170, and U-28 aircraft.

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 multiple aircrew training devices 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.

OFFICIAL PARTY

LT COL ROY M. CALILUNG

DEPUTY COMMANDER,

479TH FLYING TRAINING GROUP

COL TED LOWRY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, RETIRED



Lieutenant Colonel Roy M. Calilung

Lt Col Roy M. Calilung is the Deputy Commander of the 479th Flying Training Group, 12th Flying Training Wing, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. He advises the Group Commander to oversee 6 squadrons, over 1,000 permanent personnel and 24 T-6A Texan II's to train over 300 Combat Systems Officers, Air Battle Managers, Weapons Directors and Mission Systems Operators each year for the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard. Additionally, the group supports more than 1,500 Air Force members in the Pensacola area.



Prior to this assignment, Lt Col Calilung was the Assistant Director of Operations, 1st Special Operations Air Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Florida. During this time, he directed 83 Airmen to lead the 1st Special Operations Wing's contingency response, command & control, exercise planning, range scheduling and flying hour program.

Since commissioning from Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps in 2009, he has served at the tactical and operational levels in Air Force Special Operations Command. He deployed to fly missions in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, INHERENT RESOLVE, RESOLUTE SUPPORT and FREEDOM SETINEL as both a U-28A Pilot and U-28A Combat Systems Officer, amounting to over 2,200 combat hours. Lt Col Calilung has also served as a deployed mission commander of an expeditionary U-28A flying squadron.

Outstanding Instructors

CSO Fundamentals Simulator Instructor	Maj Samuel Morehead
Electronic Warfare Simulator Instructor	Maj Jonathan Mims
Tactical Fundamentals Simulator Instructor	Capt Tony Dagostino
Radar Scope Interpretation Simulator Instructor	Maj Clinton Brandt
T-6 Simulator Instructor Pilot (CSI)	Mr. Daniel Higgins
T-96 Simulator Instructor Pilot (CSI)	Mr. Mark Messerly
T-96 Transition Instructor	Capt John Burns
T-96 Military Training Routes Instructor	Maj Joshua Irvin
Multi-Crew Synthetic Training System Instructor	Capt Justin Houk
T-6 Instrument Instructor Pilot	Maj Kirk Burns
T-6 Navigation Instructor Pilot	Maj Jeffery Guanch
Active Duty Academic Instructor	Capt John Gluzek
Civilian Academic Instructor (CAI)	Ms. Cynthia Curry
Active Duty Intel Instructor	TSgt George Hayden
Integration Instructor	Maj James Harris

Squadron Commanders

479 STUS

Lt Col Austin Lohman

479 OSS

Lt Col Michael Matchett

455 FTS

Lt Col Ryan Whitehead

451 FTS

Lt Col Jonathan Hamilton

Graduate

Flight Commanders

Capt Joshua Plummer

Capt Hannah Michitsch

Capt Mihai Vlad



Colonel (Ret) Ted Lowry

Colonel (Ret) Ted Lowry was born two months after the end of World War II. The son of a sharecropper, Colonel Lowry overcame numerous obstacles to success earning two college degrees and enjoyed a highly successful career as an Air Force Officer. He grew up in Columbus, Mississippi where he attended S.D. Lee High School. He graduated from Clarendon High School in Clarendon, Arkansas in 1963. He attended Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee, graduating in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in biology and earning his master's degree in management through Troy State University in 1979.



Prior to his retirement, Colonel Lowry was commander of the Air Force Logistics Management Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base Gunter Annex, Alabama. As an operational commander he led two separate organizations to recognition as one of the top three aircraft maintenance organizations in the United States Air Force. He was privileged to command five different logistics organizations over the course of his career.

During the Vietnam War, he flew the F-105F Wild Weasel aircraft as an Air Defense suppression role, engaging North Vietnamese Surface to Air Missile sites to protect other American aircraft. He completed 114 combat missions primarily over North Vietnam. He participated in the Son Tay Prison Camp Raid, a mission whose purpose was to rescue American Prisoners of War in November 1970. During that mission his aircraft was hit by Surface to Air Missile fire and he was forced to eject over hostile territory while enroute back to an American air base. He and his pilot were rescued the following morning by the helicopter element from the Raid, Apples 4 and 5.

After the end of his flying career, Colonel Lowry became an aircraft maintenance officer and remained in the fighter community, taking care of F-4E, F-16, and F-15. As commander of the 18th Logistics Group at Kadena AB, Japan, Colonel Lowry was also responsible for the largest logistics organization in the operational Air Force.

During an eventful career Colonel Lowry had the unique opportunity to lead the team that developed Integrated Combat Turnaround procedures for three different fighter types during the Cold War. At the Air Staff Colonel Lowry led the program to develop the Air Force's standard aircraft maintenance information system, achieving the very unusual on time, on cost, and meeting performance objectives. This system and its follow-on, modernized systems remain the Air Force's primary operational maintenance information system.

He retired from the United States Air Force in 1997. Following his retirement in 1997, Colonel Lowry entered private industry and enjoyed a successful second career while continuing to serve in the defense support industry. He is now fully retired but maintains a very active schedule.

Colonel Lowry's military decorations include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, and Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters.



1st Lt Sadie J. Buckalew

Hometown	Newnan, GA
Aircraft	B-1B, WSO
Assignment	Dyess AFB, TX



1st Lt Samantha Burris

Hometown	Clover, SC
Aircraft	EA-37B, EWO
Assignment	Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ



2d Lt Andrew M. Caswell

Hometown	Aurora, CO
Aircraft	C-130H, NAV
Assignment	Peterson SFB, CO



1st Lt John W. Fox

Hometown	Lubbock, TX
Aircraft	MC-130J, CSO
Assignment	Kirtland AFB, NM



1st Lt Oliver Gonzalez

Hometown	Las Vegas, NV
Aircraft	F-15E, WSO
Assignment	Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC



1st Lt Rory M. White

Hometown	Gallatin, TN
Aircraft	MPRIS
Assignment	Beale AFB, CA



1st Lt Daniel Proudman

Hometown	Hopkinton, MA
Aircraft	F-15E, WSO
Assignment	Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC



1st Lt James D. Rinehimer

Hometown	Marietta, GA
Aircraft	F-15E, WSO
Assignment	Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC



1st Lt Jullian D. Rodriguez

Hometown	Atwater, CA
Aircraft	RQ-170, EWO
Assignment	Creech AFB, NV



1st Lt Jicky Varughese

Hometown	Houston, TX
Aircraft	MPRIS
Assignment	Beale AFB, CA



1st Lt Jack A. Walker

Hometown	Hudson, FL
Aircraft	RC-135, NAV
Assignment	Offutt AFB, NE



1st Lt Anna J. Hagen

Hometown	Brown County, IN
Aircraft	MC-130J, CSO
Assignment	Kirtland AFB, NM



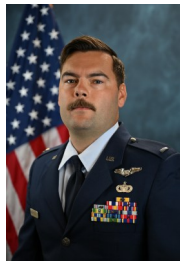
1st Lt Cole A. Harter

Hometown	Cincinnati, OH
Aircraft	RC-135, EWO
Assignment	Offutt AFB, NE



1st Lt Tristan D. Lewis

Hometown	Tucson, AZ
Aircraft	RQ-170, EWO
Assignment	Creech AFB, NV



1st Lt Joseph T. Morrisette Jr.

Hometown	Syracuse, NY
Aircraft	RC-135, NAV
Assignment	Offutt AFB, NE



1st Lt Logan D. Prather

Hometown	Albuquerque, NM
Aircraft	MC-130J, CSO
Assignment	Kirtland AFB, NM