

# Desert Lightning News

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## 926th Wing welcomes new commander

by Tech. Sgt. Lucretia Cunningham

Nellis AFB, Nev.

The 926th Wing welcomed its new commander during an assumption of command ceremony Sept. 10, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Brig. Gen. Regina Sabric, 10th Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony where Col. Jason Reiss took command over the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center-associate unit.

"As the 10th Air Force commander, I have the privilege of handing over the guidon to leaders like you and then getting out of your way and watching you lead," Sabric said addressing the new leader during the ceremony. "As I look through your career, your leadership is clearly evident. Your experiences have led you here to take command of the 926th. I have no doubt you will do well."



Air Force photographs by Tech. Sgt. Lucretia Cunningham  
Col. Jason Reiss addresses the crowd during an assumption of command ceremony Sept. 10, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Brig. Gen. Regina Sabric presided over the ceremony where Reiss assumed command of the 926th Wing.

Squadron opened their Phoenix Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

"The wing is in great shape and poised for future success," Sabric said. "Your team is ready! They're doing the mission every day and they're absolutely crushing it. Immerse yourself in the mission, immerse yourself in the airmen, and have fun."

Reiss is a 1998 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and entered the U.S. Air Force in 1998 after receiving an inter-service transfer. His previous duties include Weapons Officer at the squadron and wing levels, and Director of Operations for both reserve and active component squadrons. In his civilian capacity, Reiss is a pilot for a commercial airline.

"To the men and women of the 926th Wing, thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility," Reiss added. "Let's move forward together, crush obstacles, while taking on General Sabric's charge, and taking care of our people every step of the way!"



Brig. Gen. Regina Sabric, 10th Air Force commander, hands the guidon to Col. Jason Reiss during an assumption of command ceremony Sept. 10, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.



Col. Jason Reiss assumes command of the 926th Wing during a ceremony Sept. 10, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Reiss is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours in fighter aircraft including the T-38 Talon and F-15 Eagle. He's an F-15E evaluator, instructor pilot and comes to the 926th after serving as commander for the 414th Fighter Group, at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

"General Sabric, thanks for entrusting me to take the wing and we accept your challenge to make it better," Reiss said.

Reiss assumes command of the wing after the former commander, Col. Sean

Rassas, retired in June. Col. Michael Cabral, 926th Wing deputy commander, served in the interim. During their tenure, the wing stood up the 706th Aggressor Squadron. The wing became unit equipped for the first time since relocating from Louisiana after it recently accepted its first three F-16 Falcon aircraft to the 706th AGRS. Also, during this time, the 460th Test and Evaluation Squadron was reactivated after 41 years and the 926th Aircraft Maintenance



Honor Guard Airmen stand ready to post the colors before an assumption of command ceremony Sept. 10, 2023, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Col. Jason Reiss assumed command of the 926th Wing and Brig. Gen. Regina Sabric, 10th Air Force commander, presided over the ceremony.

# Air Force trailblazer, Maj. Gen. Leavitt, retires after 31 years of service

by Jonathan Stefanko

Scott AFB, Ill.

Sept. 23, 2023, may mark the close of Air Force Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt's distinguished career, but the legacy she's crafted and the lives she's influenced will undoubtedly resonate for generations, U.S. Transportation Command's top general said during Leavitt's retirement ceremony.

Officiating the event, USTRANSCOM Commander U.S. Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost recounted the hurdles and triumphs that defined Leavitt's storied 31-year journey. From being the Air Force's first female fighter pilot to being the first woman to command the 57th Wing at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Leavitt's tale is etched with many "firsts," yet beyond the accolades and achievements, what truly propelled her was her character, Van Ovost said.

"As her character was being shaped in those early years," Van Ovost continued. "She had every opportunity to choose an easy path. To take roads well-traveled, but that's not who she is."

From her early aspirations in aerospace engineering to confronting policies that once barred women from combat-coded fighter aircraft roles, Leavitt's resolve knew no bounds. With the unwavering support of her parents, she overcame challenges and pioneered new paths.

However, recalling the obstacles faced by women in combat roles in the early nineties, Van Ovost emphasized that policy change alone was insufficient. Acceptance and recognition were battles unto themselves, and Leavitt was at the forefront of these transformative times.

To help reshape misguided perceptions, Leavitt would venture to Hollywood, where she'd work with Disney on a movie project. This opportunity would give Leavitt a stage to tell her Air Force story and provide a better representation and window into what a lifetime of service looked like.

"[Jeannie] had to cope with a constant demand to be in the spotlight, because



Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Kevin Tanenbaum

Then Brig. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt, 57th Wing commander, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., poses for a portrait on the flightline July 15, 2016. Leavitt was responsible for 34 squadrons at 13 installations constituting the Air Force's most diverse flying wing.



Air Force photograph

LET: Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt (right), speaks with Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost, commander, U.S. Transportation Command at her retirement ceremony Sept. 23, 2023, at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

of her many firsts, something that's not really representative of who Jeannie is," Van Ovost said. "She much prefers to stand back, behind the scenes to guide and mentor. To take care of the people and the mission -- [that's] the true purpose behind her continued dedication to service."

Leavitt's aspirations were never solely for herself, but about lifting an entire community. And through her tenacity and

resilience, Leavitt laid the foundation for future generations to tread.

"On behalf of all of those who journeyed beside and behind you, thank you for having the courageous character necessary to pave new roads for others to follow," Van Ovost said.

Leavitt began her Air Force career in 1992. She is a graduate and former instructor at the U.S. Air Force Weap-

ons School, Nev., as well as serving as commander of the 57th Wing, Nellis AFB, from April 2016 to June 2018. Her operational experiences include Operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. She is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours, including 300 combat hours, and has flown the F-15E, the T-37, the T-38A and the AT-38B.



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For all submissions, a name and phone number of a person to contact must be included in the event questions arise.

All material is edited for accuracy, brevity, clarity and conformity to the AP Style Guide, to include military ranks and proper writing etiquette.

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# AMMOS rewrites curriculum to train for Indo-Pacific threat

The Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Operations School at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., rewrote six months of curriculum to train its students for an Indo-Pacific Command threat scenario.

The Combat Mission Generation Course covers the new Air Force Force Generation cycle and how it will be used for future deployments.

“As we shift to the Indo-Pacific, the threat presents challenges we haven’t seen before,” said Capt. James Oltman, AMMOS director of operations. “We



Air Force photographs by Airman 1st Class Jordan McCoy  
Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Operations School (AMMOS) students discuss group performance during a debrief at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Aug. 23, 2023. AMMOS students assess their ability to execute mission objectives and determine areas for improvement.



Chief Master Sgt. Adrienne Warren, the 99th Air Base Wing command chief, gives insights to Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Operations School (AMMOS) students at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Aug. 23, 2023. Warren discussed how leaders oversee multiple professions by piecing together the bigger picture from individual skill sets.



Master Sgt. Cody Collins, an Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Operations School (AMMOS) student assigned to the 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, discusses group performance during a debrief at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Aug. 23, 2023.

are being challenged to step into an arena that introduces tyranny of distance, a massive logistics train, denied communication, wide threat rings, and other exposures we aren’t used to facing. If we don’t prepare now, we will be ill-prepared to face a peer adversary in the near future.”

AMMOS has rewritten its training to better prepare warfighters for possible foreign conflict across the Pacific. Because Airmen no longer have the advantage of time, experience, and familiarity with the emergence of a new threat, Airmen must learn strong planning skills and understand how to communicate and execute mission objectives intelligently.

“For the last 20-30 years, we have operated out of relatively permissive environments with unchallenged logistics and air superiority,” said Master Sgt. Charles Frazier, an AMMOS student assigned to the Directorate of Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection. “That is not the new reality. The future fight requires us to begin

preparing today or risk losing tomorrow against a near-peer adversary.”

The course centers around Setting the Theater for rapid ingress, focusing heavily on coordination and efficient use of mission resources. Munitions, maintenance, civil engineering, security forces, cyber operations, and combat communications units can complement each other and assist in preparing the battlespace for potential kinetic conflict through pre-positioned supplies and host nation support. Through a combination of efforts, it’s possible to assume Air Tasking Orders as soon as a strategic position is occupied.

“Every Airman directly impacts mission success regardless of AFSC, especially in the future fight,” said Frazier. “Understanding the mission-critical requirements for sortie generation and logistics in a contested environment, effectively leading people, and utilizing resources to achieve a desired combat mission generation effect are some of our key roles as producers, mentors, and advisors.”

The CMGC teaches Airmen how to thrive as tactical producers by putting them through classes designed to test their ability to think critically, assess problems, and work together to provide tactical solutions that can lead to mission success. By tailoring the course to prioritize an Indo-Pacific threat scenario, Airmen can accurately gauge how their abilities help prepare the theater for rapid engagement in a highly contested battlespace.

“General CQ Brown said it best,” said Oltman. “Accelerate change or lose. While new technology will continue to emerge with time, we understand that people are our competitive advantage. We aim to produce leaders who can adapt and lead us through the next conflict.”



Col. Joshua DeMotts, the 99th Air Base Wing commander, discusses the importance of proper leadership with Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Operations School (AMMOS) students at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Aug. 23, 2023. DeMotts focused on well-rounded decision-making complemented by effective communication.



LEFT: Master Sgt. Joshua Pait, an Advanced Maintenance and Munitions Operations School (AMMOS) student assigned to the 57th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, discusses group performance during a debrief at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Aug. 23, 2023. While working in deployed environments, Airmen will need to be able to communicate effectively and cooperate with various career fields in a high-speed environment.

# NELLIS AFB HOSTS POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE RUN



A participant runs in a POW/MIA remembrance 5k at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 15, 2023. Runners gathered to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country.



Participants run in a POW/MIA remembrance 5k at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 15, 2023. The event honors and reminds us of those who have fallen and those still missing in action.



Volunteers monitor runners during a POW/MIA remembrance 5k at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 15, 2023. The POW/MIA Remembrance Day Run is an annual event that remembers former prisoners of war and American troops missing in action since World War II.



Participants run in a POW/MIA remembrance 5k at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 15, 2023. The run took place on the third Friday in September which is National POW/MIA Recognition Day.



A volunteer grabs a patch during a POW/MIA remembrance 5k at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 15, 2023. The event honors and reminds us of those who have fallen and those still missing in action.

Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Megan Estrada

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# Nellis hosts Suicide Prevention Awareness Month chalk walk



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Jose Miguel T. Tamondong  
Airman 1st Class Zavier Benoit, an 857th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aerospace propulsion apprentice, writes a message on the sidewalk during a Suicide Prevention Awareness Month chalk walk at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 14, 2023. September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness and focus efforts on directing treatment to those who need it most.

Airmen assigned to the 57th Wing and the 99th Air Base Wing participate in a Suicide Prevention Awareness Month chalk walk at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 14, 2023. During the event, the participants wrote positive messages to raise awareness and promote suicide prevention.

Airman 1st Class Ryan Quinlan, Airman Tyler Brown, and Airman 1st Class Phillip Gess, 99th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron mental health specialists, pose for a group photo during a Suicide Prevention Awareness Month chalk walk at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sept. 14, 2023. During the event, they worked collectively to write a positive message to promote suicide prevention.



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# USAA Salute LAS VEGAS



U.S. Air Force Airmen perform warmup exercises during the United Services Automobile Association Salute to Service Boot Camp at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 19, 2023. One hundred Airmen from Nellis and Creech Air Force Base participated in the event.



Staff Sgt. Taylor Thagard, 99th Civil Engineer Squadron fire and emergency services NCO in charge of training, throws a football during the United Services Automobile Association Salute to Service Bootcamp at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 19, 2023. Airmen were coached and evaluated for their execution of NFL combine drills that the Las Vegas Raiders utilize.



U.S. Air Force Airmen and Las Vegas Raiders players gather for a group photo during the United Services Automobile Association Salute to Service Bootcamp at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 19, 2023. Events like these boost Airmen's morale while also strengthening ties between the military and the local community.



A U.S. Air Force Airman runs a 40-yard dash during the United Services Automobile Association Salute to Service Bootcamp at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 19, 2023. During the bootcamp service members participated in a quarterback arm challenge, a three-cone shuttle run and a 40-yard dash.



Staff Sgt. Taylor Thagard, 99th Civil Engineer Squadron fire and emergency services NCO in charge of training, runs football drills during the United Services Automobile Association Salute to Service Bootcamp at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 19, 2023. Events like these boost Airmen's morale while also strengthening ties between the military and the local community.



Airmen toured Allegiant Stadium during the United Services Automobile Association Salute to Service Bootcamp at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 19, 2023. Las Vegas Raiders provided training and support for the Airmen during the event.

# e to Service: S RAIDERS



Air Force photographs by Senior Airman Megan Estrada

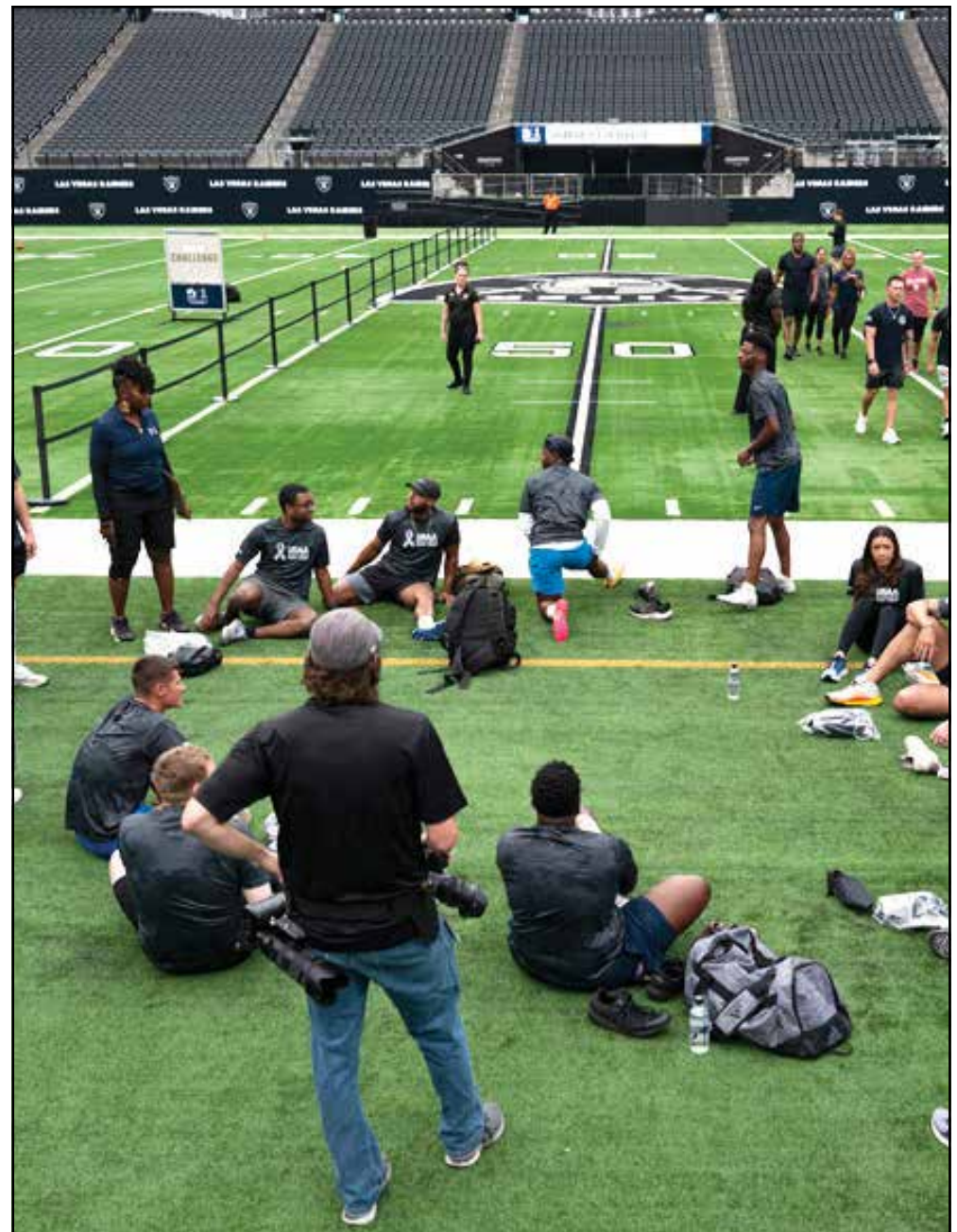
United Services Automobile Association Salute to Service Boot Camp at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 19, 2023. The Las Vegas Raiders are forging ties between the military and the local community.



The Las Vegas Raiders provided service members with a VIP tour of the stadium and an interactive training experience for the players.



A United Services Automobile Association volunteer coach hypes up Airmen running the 40-yard dash during the USAA Salute to Service Bootcamp at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 19, 2023. Airmen were coached and evaluated for their execution of NFL combine drills that the Las Vegas Raiders utilize.



U.S. Air Force Airmen warm up before performing football drills during the United Services Automobile Association Salute to Service Bootcamp at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 19, 2023. During the bootcamp service members participated in a quarterback arm challenge, a three-cone shuttle run and a 40-yard dash.

# Pharmacy "Get in Line"

by Michael J. Hasenauer  
Nellis AFB, Nev.

Patrons of the pharmacy at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., have enjoyed the text-to-activate service since 2022 and have been able to significantly reduce wait times at both the Satellite Pharmacy and the Main Pharmacy inside the Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center.

Prescriptions can be activated by texting the words "GET IN LINE" to 833-653-4575 once a healthcare provider sends an electronic prescription to the Pharmacy.

"Incorporating remote pharmacy check-in allows individuals to quickly activate prescriptions with a simple text from their mobile phones," stated Maj. Crystal Hilaire, chief of outpatient pharmacy services. "This new check-in process easily saves our patients two hours or more of waiting in the pharmacy lobby to activate and receive their medications. With the new system, patients can remotely activate their prescriptions and only wait 5-10 minutes to pick up their medication once it is filled."

This service has eliminated the need for



**Did you know?**  
You can reduce your wait at the Pharmacy by activating your new or renewal prescriptions remotely.  
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Courtesy graphic

in-person or phone-based waiting periods and facilitated same-day prescription activation and pickup.

"The Nellis AFB Pharmacy activation program represents the newest DHA pharmacy advancement designed to streamline prescription processing and to be customer-centered," said Hilaire. "We send roughly 126,000 text messages per month to our

customers and were the 8th highest utilizer of the 'text to activate' feature within the entire Department of Defense for the month of July 2023."

After sending the initial "GET IN LINE" message, the system will prompt the user for the 10-digit Department of Defense Identification Number of the patient seeking the prescription. This will prompt pharmacy

staff to begin working on the prescriptions, resolving any drug or allergy interactions, and contacting the provider, if necessary. A text message containing information will be sent if there are any problems and/or once the medication is ready for pickup. Requests submitted prior to 2 p.m. will be processed and available for pickup by 5 p.m. on the same duty day.

Patients with questions may still call the Pharmacy Call Center at 702-653-2272, option 4, option 1, then option 3.

"It's important to note that Nellis' 'text to activate' feature focuses solely on activating new prescriptions and doesn't handle prescription refills," said Hilaire. "Activation of prescriptions is restricted to duty hours, and will be processed on a first come, first serve basis."

Refill requests must be made through the automated refill line at 702-652-5359, and will typically be ready for pickup in 3 duty days at the Satellite Pharmacy.

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