



# THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Monthly Newsletter  
And Spotlight

Proudly serving the People of Misawa Air Base, Japan

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## Material Management Flight: Supplying the Mission

Misawa Air Base conducts daily mission essential air combat training and members from the 35th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS) Materiel Management Flight work behind the scenes to ensure base personnel have mission required equipment.

The 35th LRS Materiel Management Flight, also known as M-Flight, is responsible for stocking, storing, issuing, managing, inventorying, shipping, and inspecting Department of Defense supplies, equipment, munitions, and fuels.

M-Flight consists of three separate sections - maintenance support, asset management, and customer service support - allowing Misawa Air Base to stay supplied and ready to accomplish the mission.

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## A Fresh Start

### SECAF JOHN P. ROTH

John P. Roth will serve as the Acting Secretary of the Air Force as of Jan. 20, until the president nominates and the Senate confirms a permanent replacement.

Roth succeeds Barbara Barrett, who served as the 25th Secretary of the Air Force from Oct. 18, 2019, until Jan. 20.

Roth has served as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller since January 2018. From May 2019 to December 2020, he also performed the duties of Under Secretary of the Air Force, a role he held from June to October 2019.

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## Around the Wing



Portions of the Potter Fitness Center recently closed due to safety concerns. Fortunately, Misawa's CE squadron made much-needed repairs. Check out this video with CMSgt Meininger for the details!



United States Air Force Col. Jesse J. Friedel, 35th Fighter Wing commander, and JASDF Maj. Gen. Takahiro Kubota, 3rd Air Wing commander, signed the Memorandum of Understanding International 3010.



This week, Col. Jesse J. Friedel, 35th Fighter Wing commander, conducted his weekly Wild Weasel Walk-through. For this walk-through, leadership met members of the 35th LRS Fuels Management Flight.



**MORE**

Check out the Misawa Air Base Facebook for more information!

## Legal Blotter

The following personnel at Misawa AB were punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice in JANUARY 2021(UCMJ):

### Nonjudicial Punishments (Article 15):

An Airman First Class from the 35th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received an Article 15 for being derelict in the performance of his duties by failing to follow the correct Technical Order. The member received suspended reduction to Airman, suspended forfeiture of \$971.00 pay for 1 month, 14 days restriction to Misawa Air Base, and a reprimand.

The following personnel at Misawa AB were administratively separated:

### Discharges:

A Senior Airman from the 35th Logistics Readiness Squadron was involuntarily separated for Misconduct: Minor Disciplinary Infractions and received a General service characterization.

A Senior Airman from the 35th Medical Group was involuntarily separated for Misconduct: Commission of a Serious Offense and Misconduct: Pattern of Misconduct, Conduct Prejudicial to Good Order and Discipline and received a General service characterization.

## POLICY UPDATES

*DoD Announces Use of Face Masks and Other Public Health Measures*



Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III signed a memo that, effective immediately, directs all individuals on military installations and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of the Department from any location other than the individual's home, including outdoor shared spaces, to wear masks in accordance with the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

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## Replenish

Members from the maintenance support section work alongside various maintenance units across base to ensure they are properly supplied and prepared with sufficient parts.

“We primarily focus on providing maintenance shops on the flight line with immediate mission capable assets,” said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Khayruddiyn Bancroft, a 35th LRS M-Flight Decentralized Materiel Support (DMS) technician. “We ensure unserviceable assets are sent to proper back shops or depots to either get repaired or shipped for disposition, while simultaneously entering new assets into the supply chain.”

The DMS section acts as a liaison between materiel management and maintenance units on the flight line providing 24-hour support for any equipment maintainers may need on the spot.

M-Flight provides more than direct flight line support. The asset management section contains the individual protective equipment (IPE) section. They maintain and provide essential equipment to base personnel for deployments and readiness exercises, which improve and enhance the base’s defense capabilities.

The IPE section handles a wide variety of equipment ranging from the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) equipment distributed to every service member, to weapons for the 35th Security Forces Squadron.

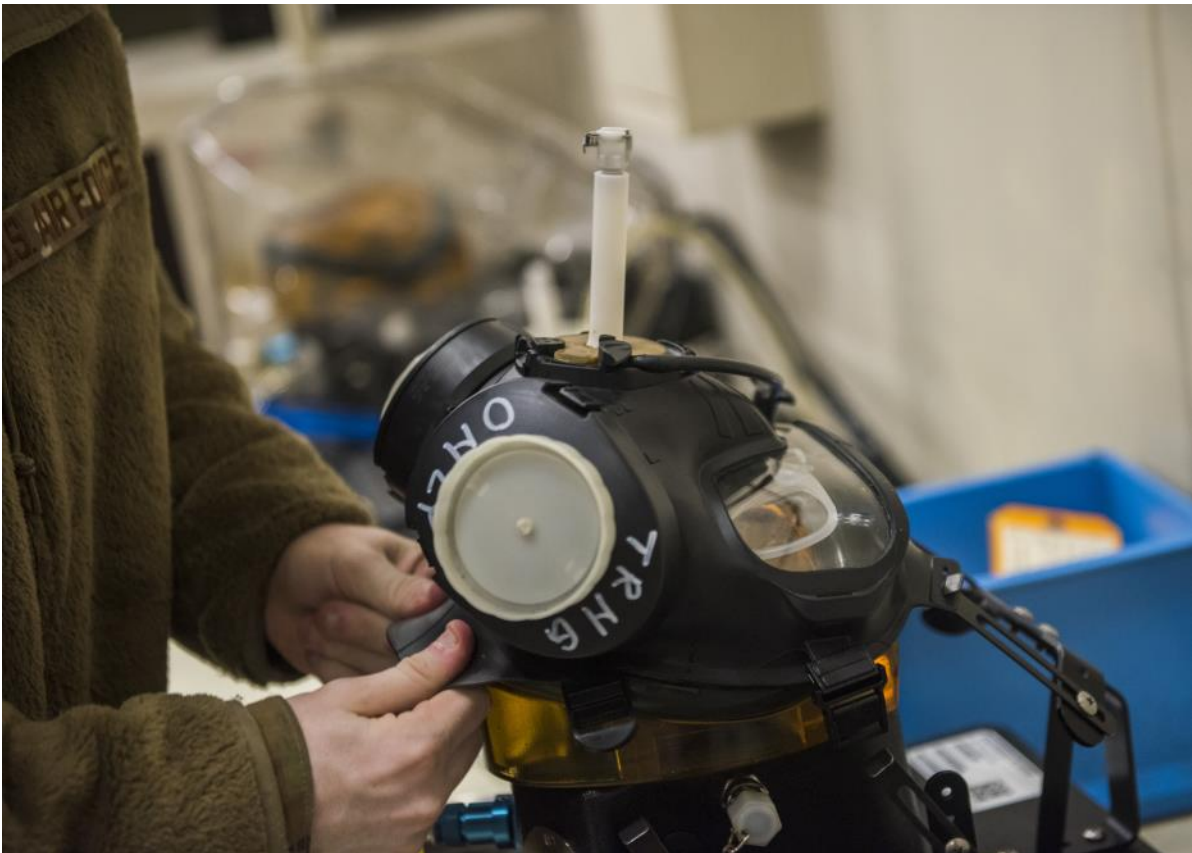
“Our job is always executing base readiness,” said U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Shamaurya Farr, a 35th LRS M-Flight IPE journeyman. “We ensure all Airmen are prepared and mission ready, whether it be for chemical warfare or deploying service members out of Misawa Air Base.”

The customer service support section is responsible for equipment accountability and respond to customer’s logistics concerns, working proactively to anticipate problems that could stand in the way of wing units fulfilling the mission.

Bancroft added most M-Flight members will switch sections throughout their career, so maintaining a sense of adaptability will help service members in the career field.

“You can go to any section at any time so you are constantly moving around,” said Bancroft. “But you’re also learning each job and how they complement each other, becoming more proficient throughout your career.”

Despite the several different sections and service members, M-Flight has one goal: maintaining and supplying multiple critical assets and equipment across base to ensure Misawa Air Base always reaches its overall mission.



## Transition

The transition team for President-elect Joe Biden asked Roth to step in as acting secretary of the Air Force. Roth accepted even though the job as acting secretary is one of the more difficult – and underappreciated – in all of government. It is a position that, by definition, is both temporary yet open-ended. It requires strong leadership but also restraint.

Even so, Roth didn’t hesitate.

“If I can help, I’m happy to serve,” Roth said during a Jan. 26 interview when asked how he responded to the Biden team’s overture. “That’s what I’ve done for 40 plus years; so a matter of perhaps a few more months, I’m all in.”

No one knows how long Roth will be serving as acting secretary. The Biden Administration must find and vet a nominee to put forward as the next secretary of the Air Force and then the Senate must consider and approve that person.

Regardless of how long it takes, Roth is clear-eyed about his approach to the job and his priorities.

When asked for his mandate in the job, the words “continuity” and “maintaining momentum” pepper Roth’s description. His job, he says, is to keep the Total Force prepared and ready and to make sure the elements that have defined the Department’s success remain in place.

“We as an enterprise need to continue our momentum,” Roth said. “I think we have a terrific leadership team, both military and civilian. When the Chief (Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.) talks about accelerating change or losing, I think that’s an important concept. And obviously we are little beyond the Space Force’s one year anniversary; we need to keep the momentum (Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. Raymond) has established to build the Space Force moving forward, as well,” he said.

“It should be transparent to Airmen and Guardians, and with any kind of luck, transparent to the nation, that we continue to do our mission,” Roth said. “We’re here to defend the country. We’re here to represent U.S. interests. We’re locked and loaded, and ready to go. Part of my job is to ensure that kind of stability and continuity.”

Roth is perhaps the ideal candidate for the job.

As assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management prior to being selected acting secretary, Roth managed the Department’s sprawling budget and complex fiscal matters. That job gave him an intimate view into almost every segment of the Department’s operations.

Moreover, during his long tenure he served temporarily twice as undersecretary of the Air Force, which carried an even broader portfolio.

“A lot of the things that go to the secretary run past the under’s inbox,” he said. “I’m a trained budgeteer, and that’s my sweet spot, but I did get involved in manpower issues and things like promotion boards, Department-wide studies, and disciplinary matters. All of that, which I personally found fascinating, exposed me to other issues across the Department.”

There’s one other trait as well that Roth carries to the role. In a city where many are constantly reaching for the next, permanent post, he has a different perspective.

“I’m not auditioning for any job; I’m not looking for any other particular thing,” he said. “I’m here to serve Airmen and Guardians. We are a mission-oriented enterprise. We owe it to the American people to be ready to go and support American interests.”

Roth uses a sport analogy borrowed from another acting official, Deputy Secretary of Defense David L. Norquist, who served briefly as defense secretary until Lloyd Austin was confirmed and installed. Norquist told Roth the job is like running a relay race and requires the ability to “hand off the baton” cleanly to whoever comes next.

“My plan, in whatever time period required, is to hand the baton off to somebody else,” Roth said. “My goal is to ensure that the enterprise is able to continue to operate in its normal, outstanding fashion and that I support the Airmen and the Guardians in terms of getting them what they need to do their jobs.”

Asked for more specifics, Roth said, “Telling the Department of the Air Force’s story and representing Air and Space Force interests as we launch into completing the (fiscal year) 2022 budget.

“My point is, the machinery needs to keep moving. We can’t afford to sit idle. We need to keep the momentum on both the air side and the space side, and make sure we continue to focus ourselves on achieving the things the National Defense Strategy requires us to do,” he said.