



176th Wing • Alaska Air National Guard
eGuardian October 31, 2024

November 2024 Quarterly Drill

WING ALL CALL *Nov 3*

Col. Joshua Armstrong, 176th Wing commander, will host a wing all call Sunday, Nov. 4 at 2:30 p.m. at the Talkeetna Theater, 7126 Fighter Drive, to speak about his vision for the wing. Doors open at 2 p.m. Please be seated by 2:20 p.m.

NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION *Nov 2*

The 176th Wing Military and Family Readiness Program will host the Newcomers Orientation Saturday, Nov. 2 8-11 a.m. at the Elmendorf Education Center, 4109 Bullard Ave).

176TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON CHANGE OF COMMAND *Nov 3*

Maj. Gavin Gardner will assume command of the 176th Maintenance Squadron Sunday, Nov. 3 at 10 a.m. in the Triple Nickel Theater (Hangar 21, 2nd Floor), 17508 Airlifter Dr.

MILLER PROMOTES TO CHIEF *Nov 3*

Senior Master Sgt. Woods Miller, 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron senior enlisted leader, will promote to chief master sergeant during a Sunday, Nov. 3 ceremony 12:30 p.m. in the 176th LRS second floor classroom, Building 8515.

10 STEPS TO A FEDERAL JOB *Nov 3*

The 176th Wing Military and Family Readiness will offer a 10 Steps to a Federal Job class Sunday, Nov. 3 in the Elmendorf Education Center (4109 Bullard Ave) starting at 8 a.m.. This class is normally about two to three hours.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TRAINING *Nov. 3*

Training: EO training will take place at 10 a.m. Nov. 3 in the Wellness Center—10480 Sijan Ave Rm 113. POC for registration in ARCNet is your unit training manager.

Career opportunity: 176th Wing/EO has a DSG E-7 position vacancy. If you are interested in a challenging and meaningful position that works to eliminate barriers to the mission, support equity, and equip the wing with resources to prevent and remedy conflict, this may be the right cross-training opportunity for you. Strong administrative, communication, facilitation and public speaking skills required. Preference given for social science or human relations background. Reach out to Maj. Kimberly Westfall for application and screening requirements if you think EO is for you at kimberly.c.westfall.mil@army.mil

Hails and Farewells: Congratulations to DEOMI grad and new 176th Wing/EO practitioner, Master Sgt. Eddie Perez. Farewell to Master Sgt. Elijah Gutierrez who has been selected for the HRA position.

Climate Surveys: It is Defense Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS) time. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your input helps your unit commander improve the climate in your unit. Check your inbox for more information or access your unit's DEOCS here: <https://www.surveysdrc.com/DEOCS>.

Commanders: Please continue to notify 176th Wing/EO whenever you encounter an incident or issue that could be EO-related (purview: race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual harassment.) IAW DAFI 36-2710, EO is required to assist in documentation and provide consultation for commander-worked issues within EO purview. Contact Maj. Kimberly Westfall at 907-854-1030 or kimberly.c.westfall.mil@army.mil (she has document templates too).

Please reach out with questions, concerns, and good ideas: kimberly.c.westfall.mil@army.mil or call 907-854-1030

FLU SHOTS *Numerous times*

Green up your immunizations and get a flu shot with opportunities at numerous locations at numerous times listed below:

Location	Date	Time
673 MDG	Weekdays	0730-1600-appt/walk in
176 MDG	Wednesdays	0830-1500-walk in
176 MDG	Saturday of Drill	0830-1500-walk in
ADS	3 Nov 24	0500-0800-walk in
MXG Conf Room	3 Nov 24	0900-1000-walk in
WG All Call	3 Nov 24	1400-TBD-walk in
SFS (8515 Saville)	7 Nov 24	1300-1400-walk in

EVENTS / OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE AWARDS

Recognize the amazing employer that you work for outside of the National Guard.

Patriot Award

Service members serving part time in the National Guard may nominate individual supervisors/managers for support provided directly to them. The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors. It is a simple online submission, and the certificate comes to the Alaska ESGR office. ESGR will contact you and present the award with you to your supervisor at your civilian business.

Online at <https://esgr.mil/Employer-Awards/Patriot-Award/Form>.

Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

Nomination for this prestigious award runs from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 each year. This award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of employees serving in the Guard and Reserve (only 15 given out annually). The ESGR State Committee reviews nominations and submits three to compete at the national level. If you are interested in submitting your company for the Freedom Award, reach out to the Alaska ESGR Committee staff member Amy Arsenault, amy.m.arsenault.ctr@army.mil, 907-428-6576. The nomination is an online nomination but it is very detailed. ESGR can give you some tips for submission. <https://www.freedomaward.mil/>

ONGOING FREE COUNSELING SERVICES

Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC) provide short term non-medical solution-focused counseling to support military families with the challenges of deployments, reintegration, parenting, relationship issues, conflict resolution, anger management and other life issues. They provide free, confidential services on and off military installations, flexible service delivery in non-traditional settings and times. With the exception of child abuse, domestic violence, mandatory reporting, and duty to warn situations, services are confidential.

In response to COVID-19, MFLCs are providing services via secure, encrypted video teleconference.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Husch Hathorne-Cantil at 907-382-1407. Appointments are available within 24-48 hours.

WING NEWS

A FLIGHT OF PASSAGE: FORMER COMMANDER OF THE 176TH WING TAKES TO THE SKIES ONE LAST TIME

By Carly Schreck | KTUU

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Brig. Gen. Tony Stratton waits patiently inside a briefing room at the C-17 Operations and Maintenance building on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER).

Like so many times before, he's waiting for word on his flight line.

Lt. Col. Brian Marasco pops his head in briefly to tell him he thinks he figured out a good window, but it will be later than originally planned. More pilots need to fly than there are aircraft available on this day.

Stratton doesn't seem phased.

During his nearly 37-year career in the Alaska Air National Guard (AKANG), over 34 have been spent in mobility aircraft. He's accrued thousands of flight hours between the C-17 and C-130 — and he even has various hours spread between T-37s, T-38s, H-60 Black Hawks, and HC 130s.

He knows flexibility is a given when it comes to flying in the Air Force.

But of all those hours in all those aircraft, the flight he's about to captain in a C-17 Globemaster III marks the end of his military career.

Stratton is retiring, and what comes with that is a tradition that dates back to World War II: a "fini-flight."

"It's an abbreviation of finished," Stratton said.

Stratton has worked his way up through the ranks over the decades he's spent with the AKANG, most recently serving as the 176th Wing Commander since 2019. In late September, a change-of-command ceremony transferred that authority to Col. Joshua Armstrong.

Over the last four years, he said he's been working on transitioning to life outside the gates of Alaska's largest installation. The fini-flight is one of the last items on his checklist before he boards a one-way flight to Florida to meet up with family.

"It's bittersweet," Stratton said. "But it's a cool thing. I mean, there's nothing like flying military airplanes."

After a quick briefing, Stratton and Marasco walk down the halls to head toward the tarmac. Marasco makes a quick stop in a lounge room to fill a water gun, handing it over to a crew chief who will be on the flight with them.

"In case he tries to get away," Marasco jokes to the airman.

The three then proceed to walk across the tarmac and board one of the few cargo jets available. It takes nearly an hour, between pre-checks and refueling, before the plane is wheels up.

Stratton and Marasco don't stray far from JBER, landing briefly at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport for a celebratory water cannon before lifting back up.

As the pair of pilots perform patterns in the air near the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Stratton's colleagues begin to gather on the ground. It's this part of the tradition they don't dare miss, armed with canisters and bottles of champagne, waiting patiently for Stratton to land.

Stratton maneuvers the C-17 to conduct a low pass over the airstrip, circling back around to perform a touch-and-go, where a pilot lands a plane and immediately takes off again.

"I knew he was going to do that," someone says in the crowd.

As Stratton circles back a final time, he taxis back to the same parking spot he took off from an hour ago. After parking the plane, the crowd eagerly walks toward the stairs leading up to the flight deck.

Holding a bottle of champagne that would soon be sprayed at the general is Col. Matthew Kirby.

"I've never splashed water on Gen. Stratton before, and nor will I ever again," Kirby said. "I've given him a high-five, that's about it. That was as bold as I got."

Stratton barely makes it down the stairs before four airmen circle him, each spraying him down with various liquids while cheering. On the flight deck, the crew chief on board gets him from behind with a super soaker water gun — the one Marasco was not subtle about filling before the flight.

Stratton didn't fight the bombardment, nor did he try to get away. Standing proudly with his arms out and his head down to avoid the liquids from getting into his eyes.

As the champagne runs out, Stratton gives a thumbs up to the crowd and wipes his face before immediately proceeding to shake the hand of everyone in attendance.

While he's making the rounds thanking all his colleagues, the crew chief that formally had the super soaker unsuspectingly comes up behind Stratton, dumping an Igloo cooler full of water over the top of the already-soaked general.

The formalities pause only briefly before the next colleague goes in to shake Stratton's hand. He pulls Stratton in to give him a pat on the back as water wicks off his flight suit.

It's clear the 176th Wing is going to miss his leadership.

"He hired half of us, I think at this point, in the Air National Guard — he hired me once," Kirby said. "He truly is like a coach that is leaving his legacy and his staff that's still around."

Stratton admits he's going to miss them too.

"The organization, the Alaska Air National Guard, the 176th Wing of the Arctic Guardians have been phenomenal," Stratton said. "I just thank you for 36 years of a great career, and great fellowship, and getting the mission done."

NORAD DETECTS, TRACKS AND INTERCEPTS RUSSIAN AND PRC AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN THE ALASKA ADIZ

NORAD news release

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado — NORAD detected, tracked, and intercepted two Russian TU-95 and two PRC H-6 military aircraft operating in the Alaska Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) on July 24, 2024. NORAD fighter jets from the United States and Canada conducted the intercept.

The Russian and PRC aircraft remained in international airspace and did not enter American or Canadian sovereign airspace. This Russian and PRC activity in the Alaska ADIZ is not seen as a threat, and NORAD will continue to monitor competitor activity near North America and meet presence with presence.

An ADIZ begins where sovereign airspace ends and is a defined stretch of international airspace that requires the ready identification of all aircraft in the interest of national security.

NORAD is a unique bi-national command between the United States and Canada. NORAD employs a layered defense network of satellites, ground-based and airborne radars and fighter aircraft in seamless interoperability to detect and track aircraft and inform appropriate actions. NORAD remains ready to employ a number of response options in defense of North America.

ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO RESCUE PLANE ACCIDENT VICTIMS AT DENALI

By David Bedard | 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Alaska Air National Guard members of 176th Wing, in conjunction with the National Park Service and

Talkeetna Air Taxi rescued nine plane crash victims July 12, 2024, at the Tokositna Glacier in Denali National Park and Preserve.

According to an NPS news release, K2 Aviation reported to NPS Rangers that one of their DHC-2T Turbo Beavers had lost power while transporting a flightseeing tour and made a forced landing adjacent to the Tokositna Glacier which sits about 36 miles northwest of Talkeetna, K2 reported no injuries.

The Beaver's pilot made an emergency landing in an area of thick alder bush, and an NPS

A-Star helicopter landed nearby to shuttle the occupants to a flat gravel bar at the base of the glacier.

NPS requested assistance from the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center, who then requested support from the 176th Wing. The wing search and rescue duty officer launched a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter with 212th Rescue Squadron pararescuemen onboard.

The Pave Hawk went to the site of the accident and picked up five people, a Talkeetna Air Taxi R44 picked up three occupants, and the NPS A-Star transported the last individual. Emergency medical officials met the helicopters in Talkeetna, and they all declined medical treatment.

NPS officials are currently working with an investigator from the National Transportation Safety Board to remove the airplane from the site.

Brooke Merrell, superintendent of Denali National Park and Preserve praised all agencies involved in the rescue.

"We are grateful for the swift response and coordination among our rangers, the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center, and Talkeetna Air Taxi," Merrell said. "The safety of our visitors is our top priority, and we are relieved that everyone involved is safe."

ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD RESCUES 3 HUNTERS DURING 2 MISSIONS ON THE KENAI PENINSULA

By David Bedard | 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Alaska Air National Guard members of 176th Wing rescued three distressed hunters Aug. 11 on the Kenai Peninsula during two sequential missions.

The first mission opened in response to a request for assistance from the Alaska State Troopers to search for two distressed sheep hunters near Benjamin Creek about 40 miles southeast of Kenai.

The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center at JBER took the request and passed it to the 176th Wing search and rescue duty officer, Alaska Air National Guard Lt. Col. Brock Roden. The AKRCC was also tracking another rescue request for a distressed goat hunter at Bradley Lake about 25 miles northeast of Homer.

Roden dispatched a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60G Pave Hawk and a 211th Rescue Squadron HC-130J Combat King II, both with 212th Rescue Squadron Pararescuemen (PJs) on board.

Alaska Air National Guard Capt. Erin Phillips, 210th RQS HH-60 pilot, said effective mission planning was key to efficiently rescuing both parties.

"We knew we had two sequential missions, and we knew that weather was going to be a potential factor," Phillips said. "So, we started with the higher-priority patients, which were the two sheep hunters due to the fact they had no shelter, and they were at a higher altitude where they were more exposed to the wind, the rain, and the elements."

Though the sheep hunters were prepared for the weather, their tent was destroyed, and they began to struggle with the conditions at around 4,500 feet above sea level. Phillips' Pave Hawk vectored in on their location using coordinates provided by AKRCC controllers.

"Any time we have good GPS coordinates – and by good, I'm talking about a good 3D fix, which is typically a 30-meter resolution or less – we know we can fly to those coordinates, look around, and we're going to find them," Phillips said. "We worked up a ridgeline flying to their coordinates, and when we got to within about 100 meters of them. They were signaling us with what was left of their tent, which was a small, bright orange piece of fabric. They were really easy to see skylighted on the ridgeline."

Phillips landed the helicopter and disembarked the PJs, highly trained rescue personnel with a high degree of medical training, to make contact with the two hunters.

"The PJs were able to grab them with their gear and get them on board," Phillips said. "From time on scene to having a visual of the survivors to wheels up with both of them on board was less than five minutes," Phillips said. "We were pretty efficient on that one."

Phillips dropped the sheep hunters off in Kenai where they were released to Troopers.

Phillips said he handrailed the coastline to avoid obstacles between Kenai and Homer.

"Once we got to Homer, the weather opened up significantly with unrestricted visibility, and cloud layers were up about 6,000 feet," Phillips said. "The second rescue was only at about 1,200 feet elevation, so we were able to fly right to him."

Phillips' crew spotted the lone goat hunter wearing a yellow jacket and orange hat before landing 100 meters away on a small Byers Lake sandbar. Phillips credited the HH-60's skis, specially designed for Alaska service, for preventing the helicopter from sinking into the soft sandbar.

The second extraction also took about five minutes, and the Pave Hawk crew flew the hunter to Homer where he was released to Troopers.

Phillips flew the Pave Hawk above the weather and air-to-air refueled with the HC-130 to give the helicopter the range to return to JBER.

Alaska Air National Guard Master Sgt. Jacob Inman, AKRCC senior controller, emphasized the importance of being prepared for harsh Alaska conditions.

"Don't let the fact that it's still technically summer in Alaska fool you," Inman said. "It can get wet and cold in a hurry, especially in the deep Alaska wilderness. Tell a loved one where you are going and when you are returning. Carry a two-way satellite communication device. Pack clothes to stay dry and warm, and bring a sturdy shelter."

ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD RESCUES 2 PLANE CRASH VICTIMS IN 1 SORTIE

By David Bedard | 176th Wing Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Alaska Air National Guard members of 176th Wing conducted two missions in one helicopter sortie Sept. 15, rescuing two general aviation pilots at two crash sites in Southcentral Alaska.

The missions started when the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center received notice that a civilian helicopter pilot had witnessed a PA-18 plane crash on Little Mount Susitna about 40 miles northwest of Anchorage.

The AKRCC requested assistance from the 176th Wing, and the 176th Operations Group search and rescue duty officer, Alaska Air National Guard Lt. Col. Greg Ulrich, promptly dispatched a 210th Rescue Squadron HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter with 212th pararescuemen (PJs) on board.

The HH-60 crew located the crash site, landed, and the PJs made contact with the pilot before loading him onto the helicopter. Though the pilot was uninjured, he was unprepared to stay the night at the crash site.

"It was a fairly easy mission; the weather was good," Ulrich said. "We didn't know if it was going to be a hoist or an airland. They were able to airland not too far from the patient just downhill a way, the Guardian Angels were able to walk up to the patient, and he was able to walk down to the helicopter."

While still working the first mission, Ulrich detailed the team with another mission to rescue the victim of another PA-18 crash near the Knik Glacier about 50 miles northeast of Anchorage. The impact of the crash activated the plane's 406-megahertz emergency locator transmitter.

The crash was close enough for the rescue team to transition from one mission to the next.

"Because the first patient was uninjured, the PJs determined it was not time-critical to get him to a hospital, and the helicopter crew decided to pick up the second patient before they dropped him off at the hospital, so they went out to Knik to pick up the second patient," Ulrich said.

In a near repeat of the first mission, the HH-60 crew located the second crash site and offloaded the Guardian Angels to make contact with the uninjured pilot. In addition to the 406 ELT transmission, the second pilot

spoke to the AKRCC with a satellite-phone and provided rescuers with exact coordinates.

“Up here in Alaska, there are lots of places that don’t have cell coverage,” Ulrich said. “Even if you’re flying, and you have coverage line-of-site to a tower, once you get on the ground there’s a good chance you will lose coverage.”

AKRCC officials stressed how aircraft having 406 ELTs quickly expedites AKRCC notification. Having an up-to-date registration will help rescue officials get in contact with pilots quickly to confirm if rescue resources are needed or if the activation was accidental or non-distress.

Out of an abundance of caution, both pilots were taken to Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage and released to medical officials.

SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

MILITARY ONESOURCE RESOURCES

Did you know that Military OneSource is bigger than a 24/7/365 toll free number? The program offers more than just free non-medical counseling. It also provides assistance for the deployment readiness cycle. Military OneSource is a Department of Defense funded program that aids eligible service and family members with building resiliency; both within the military culture and on the homefront. To help strengthen one’s resiliency skillset, Military OneSource offers many activities that you and your family members can partake in. For example:

MWR Digital Library:

- Ancestry.com Library Edition - unlock the story of your family using more than 8,000 resources.
- Consumer Reports – are you looking to make a purchase? Use this online library to access 1,000+ ratings, reviews, expert buying advice, product comparisons, consumer user reviews and product video clips.
- EBSCO Audiobooks - more than 2,000 audiobooks in different subjects and categories available for free download.

- Mango Languages - check out this digital language learning program for learners of all levels, with courses in more than 70 different foreign languages, 21 English language courses, and 44 specialty courses.
- Morningstar Investment Research Center - find information and advice on mutual funds, stocks, exchange-traded funds and market returns. Track investments, access daily market news and commentary, view snapshots on investments and interact on the research center forums.
- PressReader Digital Newspapers - unlimited digital access to more than 7,000 newspapers from 120 countries in more than 60 different languages. These newspapers are provided in full-color, full-page format, and appear on your screen exactly as they appear on the news stand, many providing instant translation and audio.
- Stingray Qello Concerts - enjoy more than 1700 live moments in music history with the world's largest collection of full-length concerts and music documentaries streamed on-demand to just about any digital device. From the 1920s to today's hottest artists, Qello Concerts spans more than 30 genres, from classical to rock, reggae to country.
- Small Business Builder - helps patrons interested in planning and optimizing their businesses or nonprofits. Built for aspiring entrepreneurs and those with existing small businesses, providing a step-by-step process supported by a variety of recognized tools that enable users to produce complete business plans and other documents essential for gaining access to capital and growing their enterprise.
- Universal Class - over 500 online courses to aid with personal and professional interests: including FREE CEUs, plus online books, movies and music for all ages. Over 40 different references to use.
- Weiss Financial Ratings - Enjoy access to financial literacy tools on retirement planning, home and mortgage, insurance strategies, and saving for your child's education.
- Chill Drills: An overview of four simple drills to help reverse the symptoms of stress. These drills can help slow your heart rate, lower your blood pressure and reduce the level of stress hormones in your body. By doing these drills regularly, you can lower your baseline stress level and be better prepared to deal with stress in the future. Order yours online (free shipping) or download to your smartphone.

- MilTax - free tax services, which provides easy-to-use software that is designed specifically for the military community and is available mid-January through mid-October. MilTax also offers free consultations with experts trained to help military members and their families take command of their taxes.

Many other resources are located online with just a click of the mouse or online chat with a trained consultant to provide more guidance with your ideal topic. See: www.militaryonesource.mil.

AIRMAN SAFETY APP

If there was a way to anonymously and quickly make safety reports on your phone, would you use it? There's an app for that. The Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP) a voluntary, identity-protected means of reporting safety issues that increase the risk to Aviation, Occupational, or Weapons Safety. The goal of the program is to prevent future mishaps and strengthen a culture of safe, effective mission accomplishment. The two ways to submit an ASAP report are on the website (<https://asap.safety.af.mil>) or the smartphone app "Airmen Safety App." Contact: your friendly safety office (551-7604, 176wg.se.176wg@us.af.mil)

UPCOMING AWS DAYS

The 176th Wing is essentially shut down for business on the upcoming Alternate Work Schedule days. RDs (rescheduled drills) and AT days should not be scheduled for these times. The full AWS calendar can be found on the new Wing SharePoint in the Resource Library.

November: 8, 29 (11: Veterans Day holiday; 28: Thanksgiving holiday)

December: 13, 27 (25: Christmas Holiday)

January: (1: New Years Holiday) 3, 17, 31

RSD SCHEDULE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED DRILL WEEKENDS

December: 7, 8

January: 25, 26
February: 22-27 (22 and 23 core drill dates)

WEEKEND DINING FACILITY HOURS

Normal Hours:

BREAKFAST: 0630-0830L
GRAB-N-GO: 0900-1030L
LUNCH: 1030-1330L
GRAB-N-GO: 1330-1630L
DINNER: 1630-1830L
MIDNIGHT: 2300-0100L

GATE HOURS

For latest gate hours, visit <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Units/673abw/673SFS/>

POINTS OF INTEREST

176th Wing

Website: <http://www.176wg.ang.af.mil/>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/176thWing>
Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/176thwing>
Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/176wg/>
DVIDs: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/176WPA>
SharePoint (requires CAC):
<https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/12468/Pages/176%20Wing.aspx>

Alaska National Guard

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Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AKNationalGuard>

JBER

Website: <http://www.jber.jb.mil/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JBERAK>

Newspaper: <http://www.dvidshub.net/publication/397/arctic-warrior>

Fulltime Job Opportunities:

<http://dmva.alaska.gov/employment.htm>

HRO – Alaska National Guard:

<http://dmva.alaska.gov/HRO>

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