

Citizen Air Commandos,

For the past 12 months, countless hours have been spent planning events for the 50th Anniversary of the 919th Special Operations Wing all intended to celebrate its golden legacy of achievement. The pandemic brought with it a number of challenges which have made our objective of paying tribute to the last 50 years of selfless service by Airmen at Duke Field difficult to say the least. In keeping with the legacy of those who have come before us, our intent was always to “find a way or make one.”

However, there is still enough uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 vaccination levels, community transmission, and potential mission impact that I am unwilling to risk anyone’s health and wellness, especially that of our most vulnerable populations who may wish to attend.

As a result, it is with an abundance of caution that I have decided to postpone 919th Special Operations Wing 50th Anniversary celebration scheduled for August 2021.

The 50th Anniversary Committee has done an outstanding job planning for this momentous event. They will continue their hard work with a goal of hosting events 3-5 December 2021. Thank you for your understanding and your continued support.

**KEVIN J. MERRILL, Colonel, USAF**  
Commander, 919th Special Operations Wing