



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Country Thunder star flies with the 162nd Fighter Wing

Country Thunder U.S.A. performing artist Joe Nichols gets ready to board an F-16D on the flightline here, April 17. The orientation flight was organized in support of the Arizona National Guard's partnership with the Country Thunder concert series that made a stop in Florence, Ariz., April 17-20. The concert, and celebrity orientation flight, drew national attention to the Arizona National Guard, increasing awareness while enhancing recruiting efforts.

See story on Page 7

<p>It's here! 162FW.ANG.AF.MIL</p>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">4</p>	<p>Festival Fun!</p>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">8</p>	<p>Partnership for Peace</p>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">11</p>
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Family Readiness lightens the deployment load

by Brig. Gen. Rick Moisio
Commander

Just a few weeks ago and for the third time this year, a story about the 162nd Fighter Wing appeared on the front page of our local newspaper.

Before telling you about this great story, I want to first thank Capt. Gabe Johnson for the incredible work he's been doing as our Public Affairs officer. In his relatively brief time in our unit, Gabe has established tremendous relationships with both the Tucson print media and the television stations helping to bring about the continuous favorable exposure of our wing to the public. Captain Johnson is one of the superstars of the 162nd.

The story from the front page of the April 18 *Tucson Citizen* focuses on the Yebra family. Staff Sgt. Juan Yebra is one of the 19 members of our Security Forces Squadron currently deployed to Baghdad. This is really a great story and if you didn't see it in the paper just stop by Public Affairs and you can look at a copy.

Besides telling a really nice family story, the article also touches on the efforts of our Family Readiness volunteers. The volunteers consist of unit members, retirees and spouses; and these folks are performing a wonderful service for our deployed friends and their families.

Family Readiness preparation for



General Moisio

this deployment was more robust, more aggressive, and will ultimately prove to have been much more effective than past efforts. We've learned from experience and have hopefully set up a program which will make both the deployed member and his or her family feel as comfortable as possible in the very difficult situation before them.

Among the many services available, the families were offered a dedicated volunteer to make periodic contact and help get them any assistance that they might need. Nearly all the families accepted the invitation and we are progressing nicely.

The vast majority of our deploy-

ments involve only a few members deployed for varying amounts of time in various locations. We've missed some opportunities to help people in the past but I believe we're really on a great track now. This is the largest and longest deployment we've experienced in the 162nd and it's off to a strong start. But before our Security Forces return, we have several more members deploying into harm's way and Family Readiness will redouble their efforts to assist every single family.

One example of a service provided for our families is in mailing packages to the theatre. All the family needs to do is bring in the goods that they wish to send over and Family Readiness is taking care of the rest including the shipping cost. We've already sent more than 90 packages to our Security Forces men and women. Obviously the program is extremely successful given this level of participation by the families of our warfighters.

We also have a new Family Readiness coordinator for the wing. Mrs. Barb Gavre, a recent retiree, has accepted the position and she has come on board at our busiest time ever. She has her hands full keeping track of our deployed members and the volunteers, all the while getting her arms around her responsibilities here at the wing. If you are interested in helping our deployed members as a Family Readiness volunteer, please contact Barb at (520) 295-6566.

EL TIGRE NEWS

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May is Asian, Pacific American Heritage Month

by **Capt. Celeste Snyder**
Equal Opportunity

During the month of May, the 162nd Fighter Wing celebrates Asian, Pacific American Heritage Month and the 30th anniversary since its establishment as a federal special observance. This program gives federal organizations the opportunity to commemorate the culture and contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders to our Nation.

Asian, Pacific Americans encompass many different ethnicities. They include cultures from the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia.

The recognition of Asian and Pacific heritage was established by President Jimmy Carter in October

of 1978 by a Joint Resolution. The annual event initially occurred during the first ten days of May. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush expanded it to the entire month.

The month of May was selected because of two significant events in United States history. The arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States began during May of 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad in May of 1869, which was built primarily by

Chinese immigrants.

This May, the Equal Opportunity Office is teaming up with various community organizations to offer two opportunities for wing members to enjoy APA Heritage Month during the May Unit Training Assembly.

On May 3, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., the University of Arizona Vietnamese Students Association will offer a fashion show of various Vietnamese costumes in the dining facility.

On May 4, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., the Na Wahine I Ka Nani O Tucson Polynesian Dance Group and the Davis-Monthan Philippines Dancers will perform traditional dances in the dining facility.

For additional information regarding these events contact the Equal Opportunity Office at 295-6265.



Deployed vice commander visits en route to AOR

With a smile on his face, Col. Jose Salinas, the 162nd Fighter Wing vice commander, paid a short visit to the Tucson guard base during the April unit training assembly to take a recurrency flight before his forward deployment as the U. S. Central Command Chief of Operations.

Prior to flying, Colonel Salinas (right) received refresher aircraft egress training from Senior Master Sgt. Hal Chandler.

Colonel Salinas deployed in January to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., on a voluntary six-month tour with CENTCOM. "I'm getting out of it everything I thought I would," he said of his experience thus far. He is set to deploy to Afghanistan in May for a 45-day tour, then hopes to meet up in Baghdad with local Security Forces Guardsmen who deployed in February.



Photo by 1st Lt. Dan Dodson



Wing launches new public Web site

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

There's a new tool at the fingertips of wing members, retirees, families, Tucson community members, and anyone in the world with a computer and an internet connection; the 162nd Fighter Wing public Web site.

In the information age, it's vital for Air National Guard units to remain at the forefront of communication with its audiences. Wing operations tempo, news media and practical communications with members and the public demand the timely release and distribution of news and information.

For this reason, the 162nd Fighter Wing ramped up a site available to all audiences at 162fw.ang.af.mil; and users will not need an access card, an account or even a military computer to access the site.

The site will contain everything found in the base newspaper *El Tigre News*, and more. In addition to news and feature articles, users can find fact sheets, biographies, photos, graphics, scholarship information, events and links to other helpful resources.



The public Web site is maintained by the 162nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs office, and will be updated several times per week as news and information become available. Once an item is posted to the site, it's live within 15 minutes meaning new information is available to wing members on a weekly or daily basis, instead of monthly via the newspaper.

At first glance, users will recognize the site format as similar to af.mil, the Air Force's public site. The format is currently in use by more than 210 units and bases around the world. The benefit is that Air Force sites become easily

recognizable by the general public.

Also, the system allows for sharing of content among the Air Force as a whole; decreased infrastructure, manpower and operating costs; it saves the Air Force more than \$30 million per year; and it streamlines content flow from the base to the National Guard Bureau.

All are encouraged to get acquainted with the new site. As done in the past with *El Tigre*, members and units are asked to submit ideas and content for the site to the public affairs office at 162fw.pa@aztucs.

162nd members make buddies into wingmen

by Senior Airman Jordan Jones
Public Affairs

Friends and family of 162nd Fighter Wing members received an unprecedented opportunity April 5 to participate in the first *Bring a Buddy to Drill* day here.

The event was focused on attracting non-prior military recruits in an effort to meet recruitment standards and to also "grow our own," said Master Sgt. Teresa Denogean, recruiting office supervisor.

More than twenty "buddies" participated in the event, along with student flight members. Airman 1st Class John Greer, an avionics technician, brought three of his buddies.

"We knew the people coming would be focused leads – more than just a little curious and wanting to find out how to proceed," said Master Sgt. Brian Jones, recruiter.

During the event, the participants were given in-depth military benefit briefings, toured the Hush House and felt the awesome power of an F-16 during an engine test, and then enjoyed lunch at the award-winning Desert Rose Dining Facility.

The day continued with a trip through Hanger 12, aerospace ground equipment and engine shops, and a final stop at the Operations Group.

At Ops, Senior Master Sgt. David Crocker, command post superintendent, described how smart camera tracking technology is capable of

recognizing a particular event, such as a person dropping a package, and then following that person for up to a mile away.

Some visitors had no intent on enlisting, but the exposure to the unit changed a few people's minds. According to recruiters, the best way to expose people to the mission is to invite them out to let them see for themselves.

"Some of the visitors had seconds and even thirds in the dining facility," said Master Sgt. Johnny Martinez, recruiter. "'We never knew the food was this good,' was a comment I received. That was just one example of how we changed perceptions in the minds of these non-prior service leads."



Guard rehearses response to airliner crash

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

Air Guardsmen here honed their skills during a major accident response exercise here, March 26. The scenario called for base first responders to react to a simulated 737 airliner crash at Tucson International Airport.

The 162nd Fighter Wing, which resides on 92 acres on the northwest side of the airport, shares security and fire control duties with the Tucson Airport Authority (TAA).

“From a training perspective, this validated TAA and the 162nd’s ability to handle a mass casualty incident,” said Lt. Col. Byran Edmonds, exercise evaluation chief.

“Our firefighters did a good job integrating with Tucson Fire Department, TAA Fire Department, Rural Metro Fire Department and Raytheon firefighters to handle more than 100 casualties,” he said.

According to Senior Airman Michael Beller, 162nd firefighter, the exercise afforded valuable experience in the field.

“It was as close to real as you could get,” he said. “The actors we had out there knew exactly how to simulate their injuries because they were all emergency medical technician students from Pima Community College.”

The exercise also tested the wing’s implementation and operation of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), the new federal government construct for agencies to execute command and control of emergency response.

The EOC was formed under the Air Force Incident Management System (AFIMS), which was imple-



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

After a simulated plane crash, Senior Airmen Bruce Noble (left) and Michael Beller, firefighters assigned to the 162nd Fighter Wing, work together to evacuate a casualty during a major accident response exercise at Tucson International Airport.

mented Air Force-wide in December 2007.

AFIMS, which was introduced by Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne in 2006, brings Air Force operations in line with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, which calls for the establishment of a single, comprehensive national system for managing domestic incidents.

“We met all of our goals for this application of the EOC,” said EOC Director Lt. Col. Karen Bence. “We had a timely notification and arrival of all of our EOC components, and

all the participants were able to exercise their roles and responsibilities for this incident.”

Colonel Bence, who serves as the 162nd Mission Support Group commander, said the wing will continue practicing its emergency response through AFIMS and will expand its use of the system’s new communications lines.

“We could tell that this system will help all responding civilian and military agencies relay information using a standardized communication system and terminology,” she said.



Tucson students learn about Holocaust

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

The 162nd Fighter Wing here helped a new generation of Americans learn what happens when people stay silent in the face of genocide.

The Arizona National Guard base at Tucson International Airport hosted more than 300 local high school students during a program to remember the victims of the Holocaust, March 27.

Master Sgt. (ret.) Mark Levine, event organizer, welcomed seven Holocaust Survivors to the base. Then the students divided into groups to listen to their first-hand accounts.

In one small group seminar, Irving Senor, a Holocaust survivor from Salonika, Greece, gave an attentive audience his life story.

"In 1942 when I was 16 years old, Nazis banished my family to a ghetto area where thousands of Jews were forced to live," said Senor. "Houses that were built for four or five people were holding 20 to 25."

They were not allowed to leave their assigned ghetto without permission and were forced to wear the Star of David as a symbol of their status to Nazi invaders. There they waited for their systematic relocation to camps throughout German-occupied Europe.

Senor was soon sent to a forced labor camp in Greece. "They took 700 of us to build a railroad through Greece so that German logistics could send supplies to the war front in Libya. We did that for seven months."

He remembered how his fellow prisoners were dying of typhus fever and starvation. "They would feed us a piece of bread and a bowl of cabbage soup and work us 10-hour days at hard labor."

Those who were weakened by their treatment were sent to gas chambers for execution. Prisoners were lined up and arbitrarily selected for two separate groups; the first would return to work and the second group would be murdered by their captors.

"Twice I was selected for the gas chamber because I was too skinny," said Senor, "but I was later told to return to the working group so I was spared."

Through the remainder of the war, Senor was moved from Greece, to the Auschwitz concentration camp in Germany, and later to a camp in Wausau, Poland, where he was finally liberated by American Soldiers in 1945.

In 1949, he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, and found a job making 65 cents per hour making leather attaché cases. He remained there for 40 years where he married and raised three daughters.

In 1991 he moved to Tucson, and by the age of 71 he became Pima Community College's oldest graduate earning a bachelor's degree in general studies.

"You are never too old to learn something," he said to his teenage audience.

In concluding his presentation, Senor said, "I don't hate anyone... that makes your heart bitter. Always remember there is hope no matter what you're going through."

At the program's end, the students and Guard members gathered for a candle lighting ceremony to remember those affected by the Holocaust.

"This is a worthwhile project," said Levine. "Not only do the Guardsmen need to learn about the Holocaust and genocide but the local students need to hear the message too. It teaches them a valuable lesson in diversity."

"And... as military members, this



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Holocaust survivor Irving Senor shows Tucson-area high school students the concentration camp number etched into his arm 64 years ago at Auschwitz during World War II.

is why we fight ... so this doesn't happen again," he said.

Dr. Gail Wallen, teacher, historian and clinically certified hospice chaplain, spoke to the students about the social climate in Europe that led to the Holocaust during World War II.

According to Dr. Wallen, the survivors represent a universal tragedy and serve as witnesses to what happens when the abnormalities of a culture are allowed to run unchecked.

"I think today was wonderful," said Dr. Wallen. "We've been doing this event here [at the 162nd Fighter Wing] for six years and we are very appreciative to the Guard for supporting these events."



Country music star flies with Arizona Guard



Capt. Jason Lewis (right) checks on Joe Nichols prior to his F-16 orientation flight.

a warning that I was going to say stupid and corny things like 'awesome' and 'cool' during the flight."

"Then taking off was like 'welcome to the air...' get ready," he said. "Once we were up there, I pulled nine G's. Wow!"

Captain Lewis, noted after the flight that Nichols was "a natural."

"People use the term 'sea legs' for those who are comfortable on a boat. You could say in Joe's case, he's got 'air legs.' He did great," said Lewis.

"We had a great time. It was a pleasure showing him what we do for a day."

"It was an amazing ride, and Rico is an amazing pilot," said Joe who witnessed up close an aerial refueling with a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 161st Aerial Refueling Wing.

"My job is easy compared to this. I felt like a peon up there. These guys are so precise. It is amazing."

Nichols completed his ride in just over an hour and was escorted to the base auditorium where he accepted a framed certificate from Lewis to commemorate the experience before a crowd of Guardsmen.

"It was an honor to fly with the Guard," he said. "Thank you for the opportunity, and more importantly, thank you for defending our country."

"My set tonight in Country Thunder is an hour and half," said Nichols who was due in Florence the same evening to kick off the event. "I might have to take a nap on the way up there."

Editors Note: CMT, the country music cable network, followed Joe Nichols and the 162nd Fighter Wing members who assisted him during his visit for broadcast on the national network. The coverage will air in a future edition of CMT Insider, the weekend country music magazine show. Check your local listings for upcoming episodes.

by **Capt. Gabe Johnson**
Public Affairs

The 162nd Fighter Wing flew country music recording artist Joe Nichols in an F-16 Fighting Falcon from Tucson International Airport Thursday, April 17.

The orientation flight highlighted the Arizona National Guard's partnership with Country Thunder U.S.A., the country music festival held in Florence, Ariz., April 17-20. Joe Nichols, a concert series headliner, suited up for a ride in a high performance fighter jet to raise awareness and recruitment for the Arizona National Guard and its missions.

Nichols began his fighter pilot experience early in the morning with a flight physical and equipment fitting. After receiving his issued flight gear, he reported for egress training to learn safety procedures for his back-seat ride. After a brief F-16 simulator ride and a mission briefing with his pilot, Capt. Jason "Rico" Lewis, the two 'stepped' to the aircraft.

"I was so excited I should have skipped to the plane instead of walking," said Nichols. "I gave Rico





2008 Wing Festival: families and

Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Neve



Senior Master Sgt. Brian Karas sits down at the soft ball field to enjoy his lunch.

More than 1,700 wing and family Festival.

In perfect Tucson spring weather in the jumping castles and enjoyed home run derby was successful in r team. Winners were Senior Airman Groves. Others enjoyed the horse tion from the numerous booths, e socializing with family and friends

"Thanks to all the volunteers for n event," said Senior Master Sgt. Re "We look forward to seeing all of and thanks to all for an outstanding



Senior Airman Jason Adams belts one out of the park during the Home Run Derby competition. The event raised \$295 for the wing volleyball team.

Chief Ma visits with



friends enjoy a day at the park

members attended the 2008 Wing

er children had a great afternoon
l snow cones and cotton candy. The
aising \$295 for the co-ed Softball
an Andy Gutierrez, and Ms. Kelly
e shoe tourney, gathering informa-
njoying a meal, refreshments, and

making this another successful wing
becca Devine, festival coordinator.
you back at Udall Park next year,
ng turnout."



Senior Master Sgt. Doug Stidvent keeps an eye on his grandson, Trennan Henriquez.



Master Sgt. Nikki Uremovich
h friends and co-workers.



The line for hot dogs and hamburgers gets longer mid-day at Udall Park.



JEC: developing leaders, making a difference

by Staff Sgt. Dana Watson
JEC President

Junior Enlisted Council mission:
“Giving voice to the junior enlisted ranks, while playing an integral part in leadership development.”

Getting involved
The 162nd Fighter Wing Junior Enlisted Council (JEC) is the wing’s leading organization for the development of its junior members and serves as a powerful volunteer force for base and community relations initiatives.

Once a month, JEC holds a meeting for all junior enlisted members. They are opportunities to discuss concerns and present new ideas for the JEC. The council makes it a point to support projects that positively impact the unit and the Tucson community. It also identifies any internal concerns and discusses possible solutions.

The JEC serves as the junior enlisted voice to the wing commander and staff. JEC membership, ranging in rank from airman basic to technical sergeant, consists of full-time members as well as Drill Status Guardsmen. All participation is completely voluntary.

Council heritage

In September of 1994, Col. Richard Rose, former Maintenance Group commander, requested a junior enlisted organization for the base. The Logistics Junior Enlisted Council was established as a result. Soon after, the council extended to the entire wing evolving into what is now the 162nd Fighter Wing Junior Enlisted Council (JEC). Colonel

Rose saw there was a need for enlisted members to have an avenue for problem solving.

How do I become a member of the JEC?

To become a member, simply attend the JEC meetings and get involved in council activities. There are always opportunities for people to volunteer for different events, on and off base.

Council members are valuable volunteer resources for the Haunted Hangar cake walk; Airman Against Drunk Driving (AADD); the JEC Morale Softball Tournament; Adopt Valencia; the Volleyball Tournament; Wing Festival; and the Wing Dining In. These events are only some of the opportunities available.

As active members of the JEC, Guardsmen can make a large impact outside the gates. Through community service projects the council’s efforts pay tremendous dividends in community relations for the wing, base, Air National Guard and military as a whole. With much-needed support from the Tucson community, the wing is able to continue its state and federal missions.

JEC adapting to the mission

With the start of 2008, the JEC adopted new members, new officers and a new mission focus. One goal is to increase morale among the junior enlisted on base. Due to recent turbulence caused by manpower issues, resets and high operations tempo, the JEC will focus on keeping up morale to meet new challenges.

In a Guardsman’s line of work, attention to detail and attitude go hand in hand ensuring mission accomplishment and safety. Every



Photo by Capt. Gabe Johnson

Staff Sgt. David Nichols, aircraft maintainer and Junior Enlisted Council member, helps pick up trash in front of the base as part of the council’s ‘Adopt Valencia’ monthly cleanup effort. The JEC takes on several projects each year to improve the base and the local community.

junior enlisted member is encouraged to attend JEC meetings to contribute valuable input and ideas on how to meet our goal of raising morale.

The next JEC meeting will be held in the base auditorium Sunday, May 4, at 1 p.m.



Wing strengthens U.S. partnership with Central Asia

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

The 162nd Fighter Wing hosted delegates from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for an aviation logistics information exchange, April 8 and 9.

Approximately 30 logistics officers and staff from the three Central Asian air forces visited the 162nd Logistics Readiness Squadron and 162nd Maintenance Group to learn how they accomplish the logistics mission for the 162nd Fighter Wing.

Arizona's association with Kazakhstan via the National Guard Bureau's state partnership program made the 162nd a logical choice to host this Partnership for Peace exchange.

Partnership for Peace began as a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) project aimed at creating trust between NATO and other states in Europe and the former Soviet Union. Since 1994, Arizona has partnered with Kazakhstan to exchange information and personnel for the purpose of raising standards to meet NATO membership requirements.

"Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are working to modernize their air defenses, and this visit presented our wing the opportunity to help them do that," said Lt. Col.

Greg Bliss, LRS commander. "By taking a close look at the way we manage materials, vehicles, fuels and maintenance, they're getting good ideas for practices they can implement at home."

Col. Marat Yeshimbetov, chief of Kazakhstan's air defense logistics, said the visit was excellent and the tour was very informative.

"We were impressed by the high level of professionalism from the people here and grateful to the commanders for showing us everything we saw," he said. "I've been in aviation for 24 years and I would never have any worries about flying my aircraft if it were maintained here on your base."

In addition to the LRS, visitors saw a Hush House engine test facility, avionics, weapons, phase maintenance, aerospace ground equipment and the maintenance operations center.

"They really liked the tour," said Capt. Randy Allen, the group's escort from Air Forces Central. "I could tell by the number of questions and the kind of questions they were asking."

"This is one of the best tours we've done," said the captain who escorts several partnership tours per year. "It was well-tailored to the audience, and the base went to great lengths to add some extra stops at the fire house, services, and life support office."



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

With help from interpreters, logistics staff from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan learn how the 162nd Fighter Wing manages materiel in the base warehouse.

Maintenance officer takes on embassy tour



The emerging nation of Kazakhstan will soon rely on a 162nd Fighter Wing maintenance officer to coordinate its State Partnership activities.

Capt. Andrew Chilcoat will serve as the Arizona National Guard's representative to the Central Asian government during a one-year overseas tour. He'll work at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan's capitol city, as a bilateral affairs officer.

Chilcoat's duties will be to support the State Partnership program planning process to help Kazakhstan develop goals for what they would like to accomplish through the NGB program. Working with his host country, Central Command, the State Department and the Arizona National Guard, the captain will organize information and personnel exchanges in the areas of logistics, security, country drug and vehicle maintenance to name a few.

"The strength of the state partnership program is that state National Guards can provide their partner country with a consistency of personnel to support their partnership programs for years," said Captain Chilcoat. "Those countries will be able to reach back here to us for years to come, and the same Guardsmen will be here to help and foster the international relationship."



Tig Bits

Blood Drive Success

April's blood drive produced 32 registered donors, four first-time donors and 29 productive units - that's up to 87 lives saved. The next blood drive will be held, Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at building 15 (TAGRA).

Job Opportunities

The wing is currently seeking applicants for three job openings on base. Applicants must be enlisted members of the 162nd Fighter Wing, Arizona Air National Guard.

Maintenance Officer Drill Status Guardsman: completed application packages must be submitted no later than May 9 to the Mission Support Flight.

Personnel Officer Drill Status Guardsman: completed application packages must be submitted no later than June 2008 to the Mission Support Flight.

If you have any questions, contact Master Sgt. Clint Awana at 295-6462, DSN 844-6462 or e-mail clinton.awana@aztucs.ang.af.mil.

162nd Medical Group First Sergeant: Applicants must be current members, Drill Status Guardsman or Air Technician, of the 162nd Fighter Wing in the grade of master sergeant. Technical sergeants may be selected if they are immediately eligible for promotion. Apply no later than May 16 to the 162nd Medical Group commander.

If you have any questions, contact Maj. Christine Rhodes at 295-6771, or e-mail christine.rhodes@aztucs.ang.af.mil.

Finance office reorganizes

With the recent re-set and other in-house moves, the finance office wants to share with customers the new office divisions with the latest phone numbers.

Entitlements Section- Finance has merged the Military Pay and Civilian Pay sections and is now called the Entitlements Section. The Entitlements Section supervisor is Tech. Sgt. Tammy Antunez, with Senior Airman Ruben Carranza, Staff Sgt. Kerri Watson, and recently gained Staff Sgt. Ana Bojorquez working along side her. Any member of the Entitlements Section should be able to assist the customer with civilian or military pay questions.

Travel Section- The Travel Pay section has an entirely new staff. Tech. Sgt. Rose Robles is the Travel Pay Section supervisor and other members of the team include Senior Airman Andrea Jaramillo and Tech. Sgt. Leora Awana. Master Sgt. Liz Koller has transferred to the Accounting section.

Customer Service Support- Finance will now have one person

dedicated to customer service. Staff Sgt. Lori Presnar will be working as the Customer Service Support representative full time. She will be able to assist the members with any travel or entitlement questions. In Sergeant Presnar's absence, Master Sgt. Diana Aragon will also be available to assist customers. Finance has eliminated the phone tree, so please call the Customer Service Line at 295-6882 or the section directly if you have any questions.

Travel Section

Tech. Sgt. Rose Robles ext. 6885
Tech. Sgt. Leora Awana ext. 6176
Senior Airman Andrea Jaramillo ext. 6177

Entitlement Section

Tech. Sgt. Tammy Antunez ext. 6862
Staff Sgt. Ana Bojorquez ext. 6180
Senior Airman Ruben Carranza ext. 6081

Customer Support

Staff Sgt. Lori Presnar ext. 6882

New retention office manager

The 162nd Fighter Wing and 214th Reconnaissance Group have a new retention office manager. Master Sgt. Patricia Switzer's office is located in the 162nd Headquarters Building (building 1), Room 169.

Sergeant Switzer can assist unit members with the Montgomery GI Bill, cash incentives, the student loan repayment program, state education reimbursement, career change information and any individual career goals to ensure the wing retains a quality force.

Contact Sergeant Switzer at 295-6191 for retention assistance.



Master Sgt. Patricia Switzer



152nd Fighter Squadron



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

The 152nd Fighter Squadron flies the Block 42 to train pilots. Pictured here on the flightline an F-16D is prepped for a sortie.

by 1st Lt. Dan Dodson
Public Affairs

The 152nd Fighter Squadron is one of four flying squadrons within the 162nd Fighter Wing. The other flying squadrons include the 148th Fighter Squadron, 195th Fighter Squadron and the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard Test Center.

The 152nd is the oldest flying squadron on base. The squadron, as well as the 162nd Fighter Wing, was first known as the 152nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron. The date was May 18th, 1956. Flying began with the F-86, with the mission of defending the southwestern United States. This mission was accomplished out of one building.

"The history of this squadron is amazing," said Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Will "Hojo" Johnson.

The squadron currently flies the F-16 block 42's. For perspective, these planes are more than twenty years old. There are more than

twenty of these planes assigned to the squadron.

The squadron currently has 29 full-time pilots, three Drill Status Guardsmen pilots and three enlisted support personnel. Their mission is to train pilots to fly the F-16.

Their current mission has historical significance because they are training pilots from Poland, a former communist country. This is the first time in history that pilots from an Eastern Block Country are flying an F-16.

"There are many challenges we have training these pilots, but ten years from now we are going to look back and see what a difference we are making," said Lt. Col. Johnson.

The unit currently has members in Poland helping pilot training programs as well as the delivery of F-16's to the country. "We are committed to Poland, they are a great ally," he said.

Just a few years ago the 152nd was recognized by AETC as the Squadron of the year.

Tigre of the Month



Photo by 1st Lt. Dan Dodson

Maj. Erik "Bam Bam" Rydberg, 152nd Squadron Weapons Officer is the Tigre of the month.

Along with flying air defense missions over Southern Arizona, 152nd Squadron Weapons Officer Maj. Erik "Bam Bam" Rydberg also enjoys playing his guitar.

It's possible that if you were to visit the 162nd Fighter Wing's Alert Detachment you would hear Major Rydberg playing guitar. This Tigre of the month used to perform locally in Tucson as a classical guitarist and recorded a CD in 2001.

While "Bam Bam" is not playing his guitar, he enjoys spending time with his wife Jackie and his two kids, Jake and Camille.

Major Rydberg's boss, Lt. Col. Will "Hojo" Johnson said that "Major Rydberg is one of the smartest persons I have ever met." Prior to arriving at the wing, he was a test pilot at AATC.

The El Tigre Spotlight focuses on units that call the Tucson Air National Guard Base home. Each unit will be covered on a rotating schedule. In addition, the page highlights an outstanding member of the unit whose contributions ensure mission success. For more information on the Spotlight page contact the public affairs office or your unit's public affairs representative (UPAR).



Retirees to hold fourth annual White Mountain Picnic

by Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Barry Soulvie
Retirees Office

For the past three years, coincidental with the first day of summer, when residents of Arizona's valley cities are sweltering in 100-degree temperatures, there is a gathering of Air National Guard (ANG) retirees in the cool pines of the White Mountains in east central Arizona.

Now an annual event, this picnic has been a huge success from the very first year. It brings together retired Arizona ANG members which includes former 162nd members and friends from the Phoenix units as well.

This year, the picnic is scheduled for Thursday, June 19. It will be held in a shaded ramada at Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area just west of Show Low, Ariz. Start time is 3 p.m. Included in the day's events are live entertainment, a catered meal, door prizes and a pleasant afternoon visiting with old friends and coworkers.

All retirees who would like to attend this picnic are encouraged to put this date on their calendars. Of course, family members are also invited. Details on the picnic

have been sent out in our spring newsletter to all retirees. If you missed it, or want more information, contact the Retirees Office.

Unfortunately, another of our long-time Guard friends has left us. Jim Barr, one of the original members of the 152nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron recently passed away. Our sincere condolences go out to Jim's family and friends.

Do you have a computer but are not receiving e-mail information from the 162nd retirees? You can get on our e-mail list simply by notifying our office by phone at (520) 295-6663 or e-mail at 162.retirees@aztucs.af.mil. Also, if you are already on our list, but changed your e-mail address, let us know so we can update our list.

Don't forget, in the summertime the Retirees Monthly Breakfast is held in two locations. In Tucson it's at the Hometown Buffet on Wilmot Road, the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. If you are in the White Mountains, the Retirees Monthly Breakfast is held May through September at the Hon-Dah Casino, on highway 260 south of Pinetop-Lakeside, Ariz., also on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m..

All in the EL TIGRE Family

Military Promotions:

To Chief Master Sergeant
Rene Lopez

To Senior Master Sergeant
Patrick Keller, Logistics Readiness Squadron
Rafael Vingochea, Communications Flight

To Master Sergeant
Liz Caro-Scarfo, Communications Flight

To Technical Sergeant
Jose Salas
David Crawford

To Staff Sergeant
Monica Aragon
Kristopher Roberts, Electro/Environmental

To Senior Airman
Megan Kirkland
Bernadette Manee
Ruben Carranza

To Airman First Class
Travis Wilson

New Members:

Airman First Class Brian Vorel, AGE
Airman First Class Victor Hickson, AGE
Staff Sgt. Jaime Gonzalez, Fuel System Repair Shop
Senior Airman Jeremy Buss, Electro/Environmental
Airman First Class Mary Connell, Electro/Environmental

New Hires:

Staff Sgt. Guillermo Villegas from the Fuel Shop was hired into the Electric Shop
Staff Sgt. Dustin Adai was hired as a Technician into the Egress Shop
Staff Sgt. Christopher Kasper was hired as a Technician into the Egress Shop

Retirees:

Master Sgt. Scott "Chin" Williams retired Apr. 4 from the Egress shop with more than 25 years of service



DATE: 1 May 2008

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY - DIAL 911

The following schedule of events is the:

MAY 2008 UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

All members of the 162nd Fighter Wing and attached units are ordered to attend.

NEXT UTA - 7 & 8 June 2008

SATURDAY ~ 3 MAY 08

ACTIVITIES, LOCATIONS AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

START	END	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	POC
0600	1430	MOBILITY EXERCISE	BLDG 6	LGRRP/6114
0600	1230	MSF CLOSED FOR MOBILITY EXERCISE	MSF	DPMA/6466
0630	1400	COMBAT ARMS TRAINING	BLDG 5,	SF/6530
0630	0730	PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST(RUNNERS/STEEPERS)	BLDG 3 UPSTAIRS	SVF/6121
0630	1130	IMMUNIZATIONS	MEDICAL GROUP	MDG/6172
0630	1130	PREVENTIVE HEALTH ASSESMENT (BY APT)	MEDICAL GROUP	MDG/6172
0700	1000	CDC TESTING	MSF CLSRM	MSF/6793
0700	1100	GAS MASK FIT TESTING (BY APPT)	MEDICAL GROUP	BEE/6110
0800	1000	SELF-AID BUDDY CARE INSTRUCTOR REFRESHR	OPS CLSRM F	MDG/6172
0800	1100	INTRO PROGRAM NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION	MSG CONF ROOM	MSF/6191
0800	1500	FLYING	OPS	OSS/6377
0830	1330	DRUG TESTING	TAGRA UPPER LEVEL	MEC/6920
0900	0930	UTA PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING	CC CONF RM	CV/6106
0900	0930	SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS TRAINING	AUDITORIUM	SARC/6102
0930	1015	JEWISH AWARENESS GROUP	CHAPLAIN	HC/6217
0945	1215	LUNCH	DINING FACILITY	SVF/6317
1100	1400	CDC TESTING	MSF CLSRM	MSF/6793
1200	1245	CHAPEL - PROTESTANT SERVICE	OPS CLSRM F	HC/6217
1400	1430	RETIREMENT CEREMONY (LT COL RYAN)	AUDITORIUM	CCM/6641
1400	1430	RETIREMENT CEREMONY (LT COL OPDYKE)	AUDITORIUM	CCM/6641

SUNDAY ~ 4 MAY 08

ACTIVITIES, LOCATIONS AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

START	END	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	POC
0600	1430	ATSO TRAINING	AREA 28	CEX/6268
0600	0800	MSF CLOSED FOR IN-HOUSE/CSS TRAINING	MSF	DPMA/6466
0630	1400	COMBAT ARMS TRAINING	BLDG 5	SF/6530
0630	0730	PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST (RUNNERS/STEEPERS)	BLDG 3 UPSTAIRS	SVF/6121
0700	0900	BLOCK TRAINING	AUDITORIUM	MSG/6404
0800	0900	CHAPEL-CATHOLIC MASS	OPS CLSRM E	HC/6217
0800	1200	FLYING	OPS	OSS/6377
0945	1215	LUNCH	DINING FACILITY	SVF/6317
1200	1300	CHAPEL-LDS SERVICES	OPS CLSRM F	HC/6217

UTA HIGHLIGHTS

- THERE WILL BE A MOBILITY EXERCISE WITH ACCOMPANYING TRAINING ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY. EL TIGRE WAY WILL BE CLOSED FROM AIR GUARD WAY TO PERIMETER RD ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE BASE.
- MPF WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY FROM 0600 - 1230 DUE TO THE MOBILITY EXERCISE
- THE COMMANDER'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD MONDAY, 5 MAY 2008 @ CANOA RANCH GOLF CLUB. SHOWTIME: 0700; 1ST TEE TIME 0800.
- PRIMARY UTA PAYS MAY 08.

Bring your CAC card to lunch



The Desert Rose Dining Facility will upgrade the way it tracks the number of guests it serves on drill weekends. Starting with the May unit training assembly (UTA), members will present their Common Access Card (CAC) to a new CAC card reader at the facility entrance before picking up their lunch. The new tracking system will undergo a test phase. At first, Guardsmen will have to use their CAC as well as the sign in roster. In future UTAs the roster will be dropped and the lunch line will move faster.

DESERT ROSE DINING FACILITY MENU

SATURDAY

- Chicken Fajitas
- Shredded Beef
- Mexican Rice
- Pinto Beans
- Mexi-Corn
- Peas w/ Mushrooms
- Simmered Squash
- Flour Tortilla
- Carrot Cake w/ Cream Cheese Frosting
- Sugar Cookies

SUNDAY

- Meatloaf
- Herb Baked Chicken
- Mashed Potatoes
- Rice Pilaf
- Brown Gravy
- Mixed Vegetables
- Fried Cabbage
- Steamed Carrots
- Coconut Cream Pie
- Chocolate Chip Oatmeal cookies

SHORT ORDER & STANDARD ITEMS

- Grilled Hamburgers
- Cheeseburgers
- Special Item TBD
- Chicken Strips
- Tuna Sandwich
- Pizza
- Baked Beans
- French Fries
- Onion Rings
- Baked Potato Bar
- Assorted Breads
- Assorted Desserts
- Frozen Yogurt
- Jell-o
- Salad Bar w/Condiments
- Fresh Fruit
- Soda, Milk, Coffee, Tea, & Juice

*Dining Hall Hours
9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.*

The menu is based on availability and is subject to change without notice.



162nd takes the field at Opening Day



The Tucson Sidewinders' 2008 season opener, April 3, featured the 162nd Fighter Wing in more ways than one. (Above) Lt. Col. Wally "Chaos" Bleyl, Capt. Patrick "Mongolito" McClelland, Lt. Col. Moon Milham and Lt. Col. Scott "Skinny" Thompson take the field after the fourth inning before a cheering crowd in recognition of performing an F-16 flyover during opening ceremonies. (Right) Col. Greg "the real Mongo" Stroud, acting vice wing commander, throws out the first pitch. (Bottom) Lieutenant Colonels Milham and Thompson are showered with appreciation as they exit the field.

Photos by Capt. Gabe Johnson

162 FIGHTER WING
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