



EL TIGRE NEWS

SERVING THE 162ND FIGHTER WING AND TUCSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY SINCE 1959



Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Citizen Airmen gather for WEPTAC

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – Lt. Gen. David Deptula, the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, addresses a standing-room-only crowd in the base theater here to kick off the 2008 Weapons and Tactics Conference (WEPTAC). The general set the tone for approximately 1,600 registered conference attendees. This year's theme, "Proven Capabilities--Emerging Missions," highlighted the Air Reserve Component's look to the future force structure and new mission areas. The Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Test Center and 162nd Fighter Wing hosted this annual event Oct. 20 through 24 from D-M and Tucson International Airport.

See story at 162fw.ang.af.mil

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Meet tomorrow's challenges with our guiding principles in mind

by Brig. Gen. Rick Moisio
Commander

The process that begins with the annual Air Reserve Component (ARC) Weapons and Tactics conference (WEPTAC) is underway. The end result of the process is cost effective improvements in combat capability for ARC systems as prioritized by the expert operators.

The Guard has always needed a mechanism to improve our systems at the lowest possible cost since we are not budgeted for modernization. But given the looming fiscal constraints on all branches of the service, the WEPTAC model should be the benchmark for improvements in combat capability across the defense establishment.

The global financial situation will likely make the coming year more difficult than we have planned for. Though the defense budget has been signed by the President, a new administration and a new Congress may change it or we may have more difficulty getting the supplemental funding that has been so important for the last few years. We've been planning for lean times in FY10 and beyond but the global situation may accelerate the issue, which is why the ANG Strategic Plan must be in place soon.

Last month I addressed the basics of the plan with its emphasis on what we do so well in the Guard.



General Moisio

Just how far this plan can go in precise definition of unit missions remains to be seen, but a thoughtful analysis of our strengths and weaknesses is critical. It will make us audible ready, well prepared and eloquent in voicing our needs and our capabilities to the Air Force and to the Congress. When that portion of the ANG Strategic Plan is finalized it will be time to align our wing plan with these concepts.

Back in 2000, we wrote down the wing's four guiding principles which I believe in still today. These may not need changing as we study the Guard plan though they may be tweaked or expanded to more clearly address our strengths. Three of these principles are very impor-

tant in today's environment and of course, treating one another with *dignity and respect* is universal and timeless.

I believe in *leadership at every level*; encouraging empowerment, accountability, openness, and innovation to allow every member to contribute to our success. The first principle of WEPTAC is that the operators know what's most important for the future of a weapon system. Similarly, anyone in this wing may have a brilliant idea to improve how their section does its job. Leaders, listen to your people.

The 162nd has always demonstrated *internal excellence*; outstanding performance every day in our mission is what makes people worldwide see that we are the best at what we do.

External engagement will perhaps become even more important in lean times than it has been in the past. We must be involved at the local, state and particularly the national level to determine our destiny. I encourage all of you to participate in national level councils or take a short tour at the Guard Bureau in an area that interests you. The more we know and the more people that know us, the better for our future missions.

Our guiding principles have withstood the test of time and will carry us forward as we plan for the future; a future that keeps the 162nd at the leading edge of the ANG.

EL TIGRE NEWS

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Arizona National Guard Commander set to retire

Major General Rataczak steps aside after 43 years

by Maj. Paul Aguirre
Arizona National Guard
Public Affairs

PHOENIX – After 43 years of distinguished service, The Adjutant General of the Arizona National Guard, Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak, is retiring. He was originally appointed to the post on April 7, 1999 by then Governor Jane Dee Hull.

His long and distinguished service includes:

- More than nine years as The Adjutant General of the Arizona National Guard and Director of the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs; a state department with over 8,000 military and emergency management professionals.

- Combat service in Vietnam in 1966 where he flew more than 900 combat hours in attack helicopters.

17,000 Soldiers and Airmen from 52 states and territories deployed to Arizona to support the United States Border Patrol.

-President of The Adjutant General's Association, 2002-2004.

"General Rataczak has served our nation and the Arizona National Guard with tremendous distinction, and I am sad to see him go," said Governor Janet Napolitano. "He commanded our National Guard during a time of growth and extreme challenge, and he has always performed very admirably. We could not have asked for a better adjutant general."

The Arizona National Guard experienced tremendous growth and prosperity under General Rataczak's leadership, at a time when most organizations were experiencing down-sizing. The Arizona Army



Maj. Gen. Rataczak

During the signature event of this generation on Sept. 11, 2001, General Rataczak was in the Pentagon when it was attacked. Fortunately, he was uninjured however, the events of that day would be at the center of the rest of his military career and would shape the future of the Arizona National Guard.

His major awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Air Medal (with 37 Oak Leaf Clusters), Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Master Army Aviator Badge, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation and Arizona Medal of Valor.

General Rataczak's retirement is effective Dec. 16.

He commanded our National Guard during a time of growth and extreme challenge, and he has always performed very admirably.

-Governor Janet Napolitano

- The deployment of more than 5,000 Soldiers and Airmen from the Arizona National Guard for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

- Commander during the largest military operation conducted in Arizona, Operation Jump Start (the border mission) where more than

National Guard grew more than 60 percent in size during his tenure, while the Arizona Air National Guard was awarded the coveted Predator and Space Missions. Both organizations have secured missions and infrastructure that will ensure the viability of the AZ National Guard for generations to come.



Snowbird offers desert training for allies heading to Iraq

Story and photo
by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIRFORCE BASE, Ariz. – Before leaving the wet grasslands of Northern Ireland for the arid deserts of Iraq, the Royal Air Force's 230 Tiger Squadron will train here as part of Operation Snowbird from Oct. 3 through Oct. 17.

The squadron's 60 Airmen brought with them two RAF Puma helicopters from Belfast International Airport for essential training in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Baghdad International Airport. The unit will soon depart for a two-month rotation, a normal tour length for RAF squadrons.

Operation Snowbird, an Arizona Air National Guard detachment at D-M, hosts a diverse array of aircraft visiting Southern Arizona; their last stop before deployment.

"Here we have perfect conditions," said RAF Squadron Leader Simon Eelsey, a Puma pilot. "We need high temperatures and soft sand which is what we get here."

Their primary objective is to practice landings in the desert sand to gain confidence during brownouts, a situation unique to helicopters when dust overtakes the aircraft from behind reducing visibility. Pilots have compared landing during brownouts to parallel parking an automobile with eyes closed.

"Each pilot in the squadron will practice about 30 to 40 landings while we're here and that experience will be invaluable to us in Iraq," said Eelsey.

The RAF visits Snowbird roughly



Squadron Leader Simon Eelsey inspects his RAF Puma helicopter on the Snowbird ramp at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Oct. 1. Two Pumas were delivered to D-M from the United Kingdom via C-17. The Puma is a medium-lift support helicopter used to transport between 12 and 16 fully equipped troops.

six times per year. This visit is Eelsey's second, and his brother, a Tornado navigator, has visited several times as well. Like all Snowbird visitors, they share the wealth of good weather and vast training ranges with D-M's resident A-10s.

"I first came to Snowbird in August for training and I really like Tucson," he said. "My brother told me how great it was to fly here. It's not just for the weather and airspace, it's also the people.

"It is astounding! In the nine years I've been in the Air Force, and in all the detachments I've been to, I've never see any support like this. Day or night, no matter what the problem, we know help is just a phone call away."

As hosts, Guard and active duty Airmen coordinate airspace, airfield logistics, billeting, communications, weapons and maintenance issues.

"Since 9/11, Snowbird and Davis-Monthan have worked together to provide realistic pre-deployment training to Air National Guard, active duty and international flying units," said Lt. Col. Jeff Butler, Operation Snowbird commander.

"We also make sure they understand the base's traffic patterns and noise abatement procedures," said Colonel Butler. "All of our allies, especially the U.K., fly and fight right along side us in the War on Terror. They're good partners and friends so we take excellent care of them when they're here."

According to Eelsey, Puma aircrews that were here with him in August are now in Iraq. "It's through the support and the assistance of D-M, and Snowbird in particular, that it's possible for us to prepare for deployment so quickly."



Latino Caucus, JFHQ recognize 162nd Member

by Staff Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Public Affairs

PHOENIX – The Arizona Latino Legislative Caucus and Joint Force Headquarters recognized a 162nd Fighter Wing maintenance technician for outstanding volunteerism during a ceremony here, Oct. 1.

State Sen. Richard Miranda, D-Phoenix, presented Tech. Sgt. Michael Brizuela a Latino Caucus Award at Arizona National Guard Headquarters in observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Annually, the caucus recognizes members of the Hispanic community with awards and scholarships for individual achievement.

Sergeant Brizuela, an F-16 crew chief at Tucson International Airport, is an 18-year member of the Arizona Air National Guard. He consistently seizes every opportunity to volunteer in the community.

“This was a big surprise for me and I didn’t expect it. I felt like I was only doing what I was suppose to do... and that is contributing a small part to a greater cause,” said Sergeant Brizuela.

Recently, he volunteered to be a legal mediator for the Arizona State Attorney General’s Office, Civil Rights Division. Sergeant Brizuela has begun training and will work as a legal mediator where he will use his language skills to help Spanish speaking persons in legal mediation proceedings.

In his own neighborhood, he volunteers to work with at-risk youth through a community program that provides role models and mentoring for less privileged middle school students; positively affecting children’s lives.

He is a regular Red Cross volun-

teer and has donated more than 32 gallons of blood over the past 16 years.

“What struck me about him was that volunteering seems to be second nature for him,” said Maj. Sandy Wilson, 162nd Fighter Wing Equal Opportunity director. “He is somebody who gives back. It’s part of who he is. What’s so admirable about him is that he was surprised and didn’t expect it. It says a lot about him.”

In true form, the sergeant credits others for the ability to serve and for the recognition he received.

“I definitely could not have been able to volunteer without the support of my family and coworkers. It’s important that they get recognized as well. They have made it possible for me to help the community and represent the unit. It’s not about me, it’s about *we* and I humbly accepted the award on their behalf,” said Sergeant Brizuela.

His list of occupational achievements also grows with each additional or special duty.

During his tenure with the 162nd, he’s served as a 17-year member of the wing’s Honor Guard and performs at award ceremonies, funerals, retirements and community events.

He deployed to Colombia to work as a ground interpreter, and flew as mission crew on U.S. Air Force AWACS and Customs Service P-3 Air Expeditionary Wing aircraft where he worked surveillance and interdiction for aerial drug smuggling. He also performed escort duties for Colombian air traffic controllers.

In 2007, he volunteered to deploy



Photo by Master Sgt. Charles Wade

Arizona Sen. Richard Miranda presents a Latino Caucus Award to Tech. Sgt. Michael Brizuela at a ceremony in Phoenix, Oct. 1. Sergeant Brizuela was recognized for his community involvement and leadership. He is an F-16 crew chief at the 195th Fighter Squadron in Tucson, Ariz.

to Balad Air Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He worked as an augmentee maintenance mechanic and crew chief. While there, he volunteered his off-duty time in the hospitals assisting medical professionals with wounded soldiers, preparing beds and assisting with evacuating seriously injured servicemembers out of theater.

“When I watch the news and see all that is going on with this war, I feel good knowing that I have done my part. I can say that I did something,” he said.

His commitment is displayed through his self-sacrifice. The majority of his volunteering is done on his own time. He is supported by his wife of eight years, Lina, and their son, Gilbert.



162FW Minuteman Committee gathers for fall banquet

by **Capt. Gabe Johnson**
Public Affairs

The 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee held its annual meeting and awards banquet here Sept. 26.

The committee, comprised of Southern Arizona community and business leaders, works to assist wing members and their families through fund raising events, and is a strong advocate of the Guard mission in Tucson.

Thirty-five Minutemen and their guests convened in the Desert Rose Dining facility to hear Guardsmen speak about current events and operations at the 162nd Fighter Wing.

Tim Amalong, the new committee president, served as host for the evening taking over the position from former president Izaro Urreiztieta just days prior.

"I feel good about taking on the role," said Amalong. "My goals as president are to double the membership of the Minuteman Committee, increase enthusiasm for the mission and to personally learn more about the Guard."

Brig. Gen. Rick Moisiso, wing commander, greeted the committee and updated members on the current state of the wing and the road ahead for the unit. Guests also heard a presentation from Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, the Arizona Air National Guard commander, who described the varied missions and contributions of Air Guardsmen across the state to include the Predator mission at Davis-Monthan and the aerial refueling mission in Phoenix.

The Minuteman banquet was General Colangelo's first since assuming command of the state's air component in July.

"I don't think you are going to find anything like this committee

anywhere else in the Guard," said General Colangelo. "I came to Arizona from the Connecticut Guard and there was a community support organization there, but nothing like this. I'm most impressed by how these folks think of the 162nd like it's their own."

Capt. Steve Weatherford, the wing's security forces squadron commander, received a standing ovation followed by words of gratitude from the audience after talking about the squadron's recent deployment to Baghdad International Airport.

Nineteen security forces members volunteered to deploy to Iraq from February to August where they secured the airport, escorted dignitaries and heads of state and trained Iraqi security forces.

"General Petraeus' plan is working and violence is decreasing," Captain Weatherford told the committee. "We are making a difference."

Col. Jose Salinas, vice wing commander, also spoke about his recent deployment as United States Central Command's Joint Operations Center director. He spent four months briefing daily operations to CENTCOM commanders and two months as a liaison officer in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"It was a great experience and I intend to use some of the lessons learned on this deployment here at the wing," said Colonel Salinas due to assume command of the 162nd in February, 2009.

"What the men and women of this wing do for our country is amazing," said Amalong.

At the conclusion of the banquet, Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Martinez drew a member's name at random for a back-seat ride in an F-16.

He called out the name of Matt Brogen, an eight-year committee member.

"This is incredible! I told John Del Frari [Minuteman Golf Tournament



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Matt Brogen, an eight-year member of the 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee, is all smiles after hearing his name drawn for a back-seat ride in an F-16.

organizer] that if I won the flight I would take over the golf tournament for him next year," said Brogen. "I've flown in a KC-135 as part of an ESGR Boss Lift and I've seen them refuel an F-16, so flying with the 162nd is going to be an exciting way to complete my flying experience with the Guard."

"There's nothing like it," said General Colangelo speaking of his own experience on an F-16 incentive ride. "It's a chance of a lifetime."

"The ride is our way of showing gratitude to the committee for all of its support for the wing and its families," General Moisiso said, "and it's important for our community leaders to have a real understanding of our mission so they can speak from experience about our contributions to the defense of our country and state."



QA program redirects funds for mission use

**Story and Photos by
Tech. Sgt. Angela Walz
Public Affairs**

Tech. Sgt. Chris Sabre is, in essence, the unofficial Santa Claus of the 162nd Fighter Wing. His job ensures sections of the base receive “wish list” items that might not otherwise receive funding approval.

As the program manager for the base’s Repair Enhancement Program (REP), Sergeant Sabre oversees the Quality Assurance program that increases mission readiness by repairing certain unserviceable aircraft parts and placing them into the supply system, thereby serving as an alternate source of supply of parts for unit aircraft.

“This is a great program that not only does great things for our Maintenance Group, it also benefits the entire wing,” said Col. Greg Stroud, 162nd Maintenance Group commander.

Sergeant Sabre explained, “The REP benefits our unit by generating

a cost savings on every part that’s repaired through the program and turned in to meet a supply demand. Current regulations allow us to capture the funds saved through REP in a separate account and use those funds to meet other mission related requirements.”

His efforts garnered an Air Force credit of \$612, 069.08 for parts repaired through the program in fiscal 2008 and turned in to the supply system. “After taking into account the cost to repair the parts,” Sergeant Sabre said, “a cost savings of \$487,950.45 was generated.”

Tangible products abound throughout the base as a result of the REP. Some of the fiscal 2008 funds were used for the following large purchases:

- Jet blast deflectors and pads
- Line stripe machine
- Weapons parts washer
- Pressure washer
- New lockers for Building 33
- Laptops for the flight line
- Munitions gate opener
- Telephone switch components



Tech. Sgt. Chris Sabre oversees the base’s Air Force Repair Enhancement Program from the 162nd Fighter Wing Quality Assurance office here. “One of the things I try to do in my position is to maintain good working relationships with my customers,” he said.

Master Sgt. Jim Stenger, the assistant weapons section supervisor here, is enjoying his section’s new automatic gate opener that was purchased with REP funds.

“The motor went out in our old gate so we were locking and unlocking, and opening and closing the gate by hand,” Sergeant Stenger said.

“Now there’s a sensor under the concrete pad on the inside of the gate, and remote controls in each of our trucks to automatically open and close the new gate from the outside. It’s great, and it saves us so much time,” he said.

Sergeant Sabre lauds the Repair Enhancement Program as a means to meet mission readiness and wartime requirements, and says he enjoys the working relationships he has maintained while in his position and in his nine years in the unit.

“I just report the money,” he said, “The commanders get to spend it.”



The new south munitions gate and sensor pad were installed and paid for with Repair Enhancement Program funds.



Unit defines the word ‘Service

Story and Photos
by 1st Lt. Dan Dodson
Public Affairs

As unit members work throughout the day the Friday before drill, many of them are probably wishing it was Saturday, so they could eat. This is because of the great smell radiating from the base dining facility.

The aroma is being created by a few servicemembers performing an annual training day preparing the food for the coming drill weekend. Last month, unit members would have smelled turkey roasting on the grills outside the Ellwood Dining Facility.

But the meal doesn't start there. There is a highly coordinated effort to get the food to the grill. "We are planning next month's meal during the drill before," said Services Superintendent Senior Master Sgt. Michael Soich. "We have to plan for two meals, plus

the short order lines," he said.

The food arrives from Shamrock Foods in Phoenix the week of drill. "We serve almost eight-hundred meals per day."

While Friday is a busy day for many services personnel, the days get longer for them on Saturday and Sunday. "Our people work real hard. We usually are the first section to arrive on base and the last to leave," said Food Service's Manger Master Sgt. Stan Peterson.

It's not unusual to see them preparing meals at 5:30 in the morning, and having a formation late in the afternoon. In fact, sometimes they arrive as early as 3:30 a.m., depending on the meal.

"We have amazing people in our section," said Service's Commander Capt. Paul Jefferson. To start with, only one of the services personnel is in the food industry in their civilian employment. More amazing than that, preparing food is just one of their many jobs.

In addition to preparing food, they're in charge of lodging, fitness and recreation, mortuary affairs and the fatality search and recovery team. They're under the soon-to-be-



Staff Sgt. Raul Ve... club sandwich for... the sign reads, S... came up with the... serving to the bas...



Senior Airman Svetlana Sevciuc prepares hamburgers for short order. Approximately 250 to 300 meals are served a day at the short order line.



Once the food is served, services personnel still have work to do, to which Staff Sgt. Dawn Hanby can attest. She is cleaning an oven in the afternoon after most of the food is served.



Capt. Paul Jefferson, s... Russell Sullivan and Lt... Captain Jefferson make... the appropriate portion... within plus or minus 10... make or lose much mo... able to successfully me...



' while wearing several hats



Sergeant Verdugo prepares a meal for a unit member. As a chef, he is a special he is very popular.

activated 162nd Force Support Squadron. They are a multi-faceted career field. For perspective purposes, if they were activated to assist during Hurricane Katrina, they could very well have prepared breakfast, then searched for human remains.

“What they are able to accomplish is incredible,” said Captain Jefferson. They deployed with the medical squadron to Michigan, with the recruiters to Camp Navajo, and made sure vehicle maintenance received food while in Bowie, Ariz., to name just a few. Many of these tasks were accomplished when their former commander was performing three tours in Iraq.

The services flight is currently working on a 3,000 square-foot fitness room. Also, they are constantly training because they are in an Air Expeditionary Force cycle. This means there is a high chance of a deployment in their future. They are also in charge of the joint use facility, building 15 (TAGRA).

While other sections are able to close temporarily to complete training, this is not a luxury for the services section. They do it all while preparing meals, cross-training

for other duties, managing monthly mobility requirements and meeting their \$80,000 annual budget.

With all this going on, Captain Jefferson understands their number one goal is to provide high-quality food to everyone that walks into the Ellwood Dining Facility. “We know we are only as good as our last meal, and we work hard to make sure that meal is a good one.”



Staff Sgt. Aaron Bisher puts cheese sauce on broccoli. Sergeant Bisher is one of thirty members in food services. Each is mobility tasked, which adds additional training requirements.



The services commander, talks with Chief Col. Chuck Recker about their lunch. They are sure the food is good, and served with care. Services has to meet Air Force standards for 95 percent. That means they are not able to take any. Monitoring portions is one way they are able to meet rigid standards.



Services flight now uses the Food Service Expenditure System. The system replaced members having to physically sign-in to eat at the dining facility. The system reduces wait time by simply scanning ID cards. It also accurately informs services if members must pay or not. This is one of many ways services constantly improves customer service.



Fraud, Waste and Abuse Prevention Program

by Lt. Col. Chuck Recker
Inspector General

The Air Force policy on fraud, waste and abuse (FWA) is to use all available means to prevent, detect and correct instances of FWA; to appropriately discipline perpetrators involved in FWA activities; and to recoup, if possible, losses of cash property and services resulting from FWA.

The success of the FWA program lies with each individual within the Air Force. Support by both military and civilian members is crucial in preventing and eliminating FWA. Any individual aware of FWA or lack of controls that could permit resources to be wasted or diverted must report the situation to the Inspector General.

Here are some terms and definitions pertaining to the FWA Prevention Program:

Fraud – any intentional deception designed to unlawfully deprive the Air Force of something of value or to secure from the Air Force for an individual a benefit, privilege, allow-

ance or consideration to which he or she is not entitled. Some examples are accepting bribes or gratuities, submitting false claims, misrepresenting material facts, falsifying records or conflict of interest relating to procurement and disposal matters.

Waste – The extravagant, careless or needless expenditure of Air Force funds or the consumption of Air Force property that results from deficient practices, systems controls or decisions. The term also includes improper practices not involving prosecutable fraud.

Abuse – Intentional wrongful or improper use of Air Force resources. Examples include misuse of rank, position or authority that causes the loss or misuse of resources such as tools, vehicles, computers or copy machines.

Gross Waste of Funds – An expenditure that is significantly out of proportion to the benefit expected to accrue to the government. It is more than a debatable expenditure.

Once reported, the IG may perform an investigation and ensure that corrective actions are taken as

a result of substantiated findings. There are also established controls to protect the identity of individuals who request anonymity or confidentiality. The FWA program ensures that no form of reprisal is taken against any individual making a FWA disclosure and that no one prevents or hinders any person from making a FWA disclosure.

Over the years, the Air Force has adopted numerous procedures and controls that are designed to protect and safeguard resources. When properly followed and practiced, these procedures and controls significantly reduce an activity's susceptibility to fraudulent, abusive and wasteful actions. Conversely, FWA tends to occur when activities allow deviations from established procedures. The only way this program is successful is the full cooperation from each military and civilian member to report such findings.

For more information contact the 162nd Fighter Wing Inspector General, Lt. Col. Chuck Recker, at 295-7770, or email charles.recker@aztucs.ang.af.mil or IG.162FW@aztucs.ang.af.mil.

Federal Employees Health Benefits Fair, Nov. 4

by Master Sgt. Susan Echeverria
Human Resources Office

The 162nd Fighter wing is scheduled to hold a Federal Employee's Benefits (FEHB) Fair here Nov. 4.

The event will kick off open season which is Nov. 10 through Dec. 8. Employees and retirees can use the open season to shop health plans and make changes to better meet their medical and financial needs. This year's fair will be held in the Dining Facility from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

In 2009, 10 fee-for-service plans and a number of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) will expand coverage of hearing benefits for adults. This enhancement follows the Office of Personnel Management's

challenge last year to health carriers to improve the coverage of diagnostic tests and hearing aids for children.

Open season gives federal employees and retirees the opportunity to select a new health plan and the chance to select supplemental dental and/or vision coverage. Those current employees who are not enrolled may elect FEHB coverage at this time.

The open season also gives employees the opportunity to elect coverage under a tax-deferred Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for health care and/or dependent care, or to adjust an existing FSA. Current FSA enrollees must re-enroll for coverage in 2009 during the open season. By law, retirees are not eligible for FSA benefits.

All federal employees are encouraged to stop by to meet FEHB representatives to learn about any changes that may affect their policies.



AETC Chaplain 'celebrates America' with Tucson ANG

Story and Photo by
Tech. Sgt. Angela Walz
Public Affairs

The Command Chaplain from the Air Education and Training Command, Colonel Howard D. Stendahl, was the guest speaker at a prayer breakfast held here at TAGRA Oct. 4.



A Minnesotan at heart and by birth, Chaplain (Colonel) Howard Stendahl says he wanted to be a military chaplain since the age of three. Ordained into the ministry in 1977, he entered the Air Force Chaplain Service in 1985.

"Celebrate America" was the theme of the recent feast, which began with guest and audience participation in a rendition of America the Beautiful and God Bless America. Audience members enjoyed a catered breakfast while Chaplain (Col.) Stendahl offered a message.

"Regardless of your faith, prayer changes things and people. Begin with yourself and with a prayer that seeks change," said Chaplain Stendahl. "We can mold and influence other people, but we can't change them," he said.

The breakfast also included a prayer for our nation, a prayer for our troops, and concluded with a prayer of blessing.

Chaplain Stendahl is responsible for providing functional leadership to all AETC bases and other chaplain units, to include developing chaplain policies, plans, programs, readiness and contingency requirements, and religious support for more than 43,000 active duty members and their families.

He directs the AETC headquarters chaplain staff and exercises oversight to a dynamic Air Force chaplain service of approximately 210 personnel at 18 locations in the Command.

Looking for a few good Honor Guardsmen



Photo by Capt. Gabe Johnson

The 162nd Fighter Wing Honor Guard presents the colors at the Tucson Airport Authority Open House here Oct. 11. "We're looking for more members," said Master Sgt. Gary Jack, team coordinator. "Uniforms are issued, training is provided and the pride of representing the unit is incomparable." Interested wing members may contact the team coordinator at 295-6371.

Tig Bits

162nd Saving Lives

The wing's October blood drive resulted in 34 registered donors, two first-time donors, 31 total productive units and 89 percent of the drive's goal. That's up to 93 lives saved! The next blood drive is scheduled for Dec. 6, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at building 15 (TAGRA). Contact unit blood drive coordinators at 295-6652 or 295-6808 for more information.

Holiday Bird

For tips on preparing, serving and storing food over the holidays:

FDA Seafood Hotline:

(1-800) 332-4010

Consumer educators available to answer questions.

USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline:

(1-800) 535-4555

Home economists and registered dietitians available to answer questions.

Annual Awards

The wing's annual recognition weekend, steak fry and commander's "How Goes It" briefing for retirees are all scheduled to be held during February's Unit Training Assembly. Recognition weekend, usually held in November, was rescheduled due to the unit's Health Services Inspection scheduled for that month.

Office 2007

Home use editions of Microsoft Office Suite 2007 can now be purchased by members of the 162nd for \$20. This program is made available through the Microsoft Home Use Program. For more information contact Tech. Sgt. Stephen Zimmer at 295-6228.



Chaplain's Corner

Have you prayed for the president today?

by Chaplain
(Lt. Col.) Bob Norton
Wing Chaplain

We are about to exercise our cherished freedom to vote in a national presidential election. Who will you vote for? Who will serve the next four years as our president?

These troubled times will test the leadership of the person we elect to the highest office of the land. When some think of the role of president they focus upon the privilege, power and prestige. The flip side of the coin reveals that it is the most difficult responsibility in the world. Presidents are often lonely people isolated from family and crushed by the sheer weight of burden for the welfare of the world.

When President Bill Clinton served as our president, I must confess that I was very critical of his leadership.

One day a colleague in the ministry looked me in the eyes and asked, "Have you prayed for the president today?"

My response was, "No, I haven't. I've criticized him, but I have not prayed for him."

My friend rightly confronted me with "But don't you realize that our role is to pray for our president, regardless of whether we agree or disagree with his politics?"

He reminded me of 1 Timothy

2:1-2 which reads, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness..."

This encounter was the bucket of cold water tossed in my face which woke me up to the reality of my responsibility. I repented of my bad attitude and began regularly praying for our president. My attitude changed. Contrary to popular opinion, you can teach old dogs new tricks!

We tend to believe in the old adage, unless you want a congenial party to turn into a contentious brawl stay away from talking about religion and politics. I disagree. I love talking about religion and politics. I want my religion to inform my politics. I have many friends with whom I disagree on political issues; however, we love one another and agree to disagree. The one thing I do encourage everyone to buy into is to pray for the president.

Voting is a sacred privilege and responsibility. Men and women of faith must take seriously this act of obedience to God. The common grace of democracy is a gift from God. With an attitude of gratitude we get to the polls and exercise our cherished freedom to vote according to our conscience. The transition of power will be orderly and honoring to God. Across the world, many nations experience bloody revolution and violent reprisals against political opponents. We vote. Then we get busy supporting the person elected.

Whoever is elected Nov. 4, would you join me in praying for him? Pray



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Norton

for protection. Pray for wisdom. Pray for integrity. Pray that our president will be a purveyor of hope to the American people.

In the darkest days of Israel's history, the prophet Jeremiah served as God's mouthpiece when he said, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Remember, the kingdom of God will not arrive on Air Force One, but the president of the United States can lead us into a God-honoring future with the help of your prayers.

Remember our Faith Group Opportunities for Worship/Study:

- Jewish Awareness Group, Saturday, Oct. 4, 9:30 a.m. in the Chaplain's Office*
- Protestant Worship Service, Saturday, Oct. 4, noon in Ops Classroom F*
- Catholic Mass, Sunday, Oct. 5, 8 a.m. in Ops Classroom E*
- LDS Study Group Sunday, Oct. 5, noon in Ops Classroom F*
- Buddhist (SGI) contact Lt. Col. Dan Summers.*



Integrity First will allow you to have Excellence In All You Do!

by Lt. Col. John Bobroski
Air Force Advisor

How many have heard the old adage, “You need to earn respect?” Respect should be a given until a person does something to lose respect. The quickest way to lose respect is to violate one of our Air Force core values, “Integrity First.”

Integrity is the backbone to any person or organization. With it, people are proud to be associated with you and the unit. Workers are focused on the mission, productivity increases and people work harder for their supervisors because they know everyone is working toward the same goal or vision.

Integrity is easy to lose and very hard to get back. At one of my previous assignments I had a wingman put his F-16 out of control (OOC) at the end of a basic fighter maneuver (BFM) engagement as the flight was resetting. The flight lead did not observe the OOC in the air. At this point the OOC was a mistake made by an inexperienced pilot.

The wingman made an honest mistake, but was

remiss when he failed to report it immediately to his flight lead. Instead, the wingman reset for another engagement, then returned to base, performed a hot-pit refueling, and flew another BFM mission. It was not until debrief, when the flight lead noticed something wrong on the video playback, that the wingman confessed to the OOC.

The mistake was going OOC; the crime was not reporting it immediately. This action could have resulted in a loss of an aircraft and pilot if the OOC was caused by a flight control malfunction.

When people try to cover up mistakes it's for fear of the punishment. Fess up to mistakes and supervisors will get you the training needed, and will respect you for your integrity.

If the wingman would have confessed immediately, the flight lead would have brought him back to base and discussed the reason for the OOC, and how to avoid it in the future. That's it! No punishment!

Although that wingman was a good pilot and performed well for the squadron on subsequent tasks, I always questioned his motives afterward. Don't let this be you. Integrity First will allow you to have Excellence In All You Do!

NDI finds bullet in deployed C-130

From Master Sgt. Alberto Gonzalez
Non Destructive Inspection

Editor's note: Master Sgt. Alberto Gonzalez is a 162nd Fighter Wing non destructive tester serving as Non Destructive Inspection Shop Chief at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Sergeant Gonzalez has 27 years of experience in NDI; and he used all of it to accomplish an unusual inspection request which he tells about here. He deployed Sept. 9 with seven other maintainers from the wing.

In the middle of the night, Oct. 8, I had an experience I'll never forget... and this has to be a first in non destructive inspection history.

They came and got me out of bed. A C-130 was shot at and there was an AK-47 bullet somewhere, they wanted to know if we could x-ray to locate it. Senior Airman Matt Corbett from Tulsa and I looked over the area and told the Pro Super, “Yes we can x-ray, and we'll see what we can do.”

We shot it [with a radiographic inspection exposure]



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Alberto Gonzalez points to an x-ray of a C-130 aileron and the AK-47 round he found lodged in a discrete corner.

and we found it! There it was lodged in the corner, a picture-perfect radiograph. I called and told them that we found it, now everybody wants to see the bullet that NDI found.

The Guard from the 162nd NDI Lab did it. I've never heard of using x-ray to find a bullet in an aileron. I forgot to mention while we were x-raying, we could here live fire thunder in the background.



Retirees - Who to contact for survivor benefits

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

The 162nd Fighter Wing is more than 50 years old. Our retirees list has more than 900 names on it and our 162FW memorial on-base pays homage to more than 175 dedicated Guardsmen who have passed away.

With each member that passes on, there are family members who will need to go through the sad ritual of burial followed by the maze of contacts and paperwork required to transfer assets from the status of married wife (or husband) to being a surviving spouse.

The rules of transferring benefits can be intimidating, however, with some basic knowledge and a list of who to contact, the entire process

can be simplified. There are forms to complete and most organizations will require proof of death in the form of a death certificate. To transfer survivor's financial benefits most government forms can be downloaded from the web sites or mailed to a residence by making a simple phone call. Once forms have been received, assistance in filling them out is available by calling the toll free number where a trained representative can answer questions.

Contact information follows: the Civil Service Retirement Pay system (OPM) can be reached by calling 1-888-767-6738 or access the web site at www.opm.gov.

Military Retirement Pay System (DFAS) call 1-800-321-1080 or access the web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

For Social Security Benefits call 1-800-772-1213 or access the web

site at www.ssa.gov.

Also, if the deceased qualified for Veterans Benefits, call the Veterans Administration at 1-800-827-1000 to ask if any surviving spouse or other family benefits are available.

To make the transition process less intimidating for the survivors every retiree needs to ensure important documents that include contact information are in a convenient, safe place so survivors will have access to all necessary information. This includes life insurance policies, statements for both military and civil service retirement pay, social security statements, and any other documents that would help transfer assets to survivors.

On a sad note we regret to inform that former 162nd member Bob Pearson recently passed away. Sincere condolences go out to Bob's family and friends.

All in the EL TIGRE Family

Military Promotions:

To Senior Master Sergeant
William McManus

To Master Sergeant
Allen Quinton
Karl Yoerns

To Technical Sergeant
Michael Brizuela
John Acquart
Raymond Ramirez
James Vanwinkle
Patrick O'Rourke
Mitzi Sloan

To Staff Sergeant
Andrea Jaramillo
Samuel Chaney
Benjamin Koughn
Michael Yaeger

To Senior Airman
Richard Akers
Jamin Ruff

To Airman First Class
Katrina Settlemyer

To Airman
Calmelat Sylvia

Technician Promotions:

Staff Sgt. Waylon Erb (WL-10), Propulsion

New Members:

Staff Sgt. Christopher Werve, Propulsion
Staff Sgt. Josiah Stockton, Egress Shop
Senior Airman Lajuan Whitlow, Maintenance Group
Airman Laryssa Morales, Maintenance Group

New Hires:

Staff Sgt. John Diehl, Propulsion
Staff Sgt. Nic Merchant, Propulsion
Senior Airman Jacob Weinstein, Fuels Shop
Senior Airman Benjamin Koughn, Metals Technology Shop

Graduations:

Staff Sgt. Kurt Stritar, Technical School
Airman 1st Class Justin Gervais, Technical School

Births:

Staff Sgt. David Fontagneres and his wife, Sharon, welcomed their baby boy, Andrew Shayne, Sept. 12.
Staff Sgt. David Pazak and his wife, Amanda, welcomed their baby girl, Alice Grace, Sept. 24.
Staff Sgt. Leonard Moreno (POL) and his wife, Gabriela, welcomed their baby girl, Miranda, Oct. 10.

Temporary Tech/AGR:

Airman 1st Class Stephen Scruggs, Phase Element





DATE: 1 November 2008 NUMBER: 56

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY - DIAL 911

The following schedule of events is the:

November 2008 UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

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

NEXT UTA - 06 & 07 Dec 2008

SATURDAY ~ 01 NOV 08

ACTIVITIES, LOCATIONS AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

START	END	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	POC
0600	0800	MSF CLOSED FOR IN-HOUSE/PERSCO TRNG	MSF	DPM/6466
0630	1130	PREVENTIVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT (By APT)	MEDICAL GROUP	MDG/6172
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
0700	1000	CDC TESTING (DRILL STATUS HAS PRIORITY)	MSF CLSRM	MSF/6793
0800	1030	GAS MASK FIT TESTING (BY APT)	MEDICAL GROUP RM 208	BEE/6110
0800	1100	SELF-AID BUDDY CARE-Instructor/Refresher Crse	OPS CLSRM E	MDG/6172
0800	1100	INTRO PROGRAM NEWCOMER'S ORIENTATION	HQ CONF ROOM	MSF/6191
0800	1500	FLYING	OPS	OSS/6377
0830	1330	DRUG TESTING	BLDG 15	MEO/6671
0830	1130	INITIAL RECORDS MGMT COURSE	CF CLSRM	CF/6853
0900	0930	UTA SCHEDULING 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

SUNDAY ~ 02 NOV 08

ACTIVITIES, LOCATIONS AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

START	END	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	POC
0600	0800	MSF CLOSED FOR IN-HOUSE/CSS TRAINING	MSF	DPM/6466
0630	1400	COMBAT ARMS TRAINING (CATM)	BLDG 5	SF/6530
0630	0730	PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST (RUNNERS/STEEPERS)	BLDG 3 UPSTAIRS	SVF/6121
0700	0900	BLOCK TRAINING	AUDITORIUM	MSF/6568
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

THE MEDICAL GROUP WILL BE UNDERGOING THEIR HEALTH SERVICES INSPECTION FROM 30 OCT 08 TO 3 NOV 2008.
- UTA PAYS: 12 NOV 08.



You too can contribute to El Tigre and 162fw.ang.af.mil

submit articles and photos to 162fw.pa@aztucs.ang.af.mil

DESERT ROSE DINING FACILITY MENU

SATURDAY

Holiday Meal:

Cost for AGRs & Officers \$6.35

- Roast Turkey
- Honey Baked & Glazed Ham
- Steamship Round
- Turkey Gravy
- Savory Bread Dressing
- Mashed Potatoes
- Steamed Corn, Glazed Carrots
- Green Beans w/Mushrooms
- Pecan, Dutch Apple, Pumpkin Pies
- Vegetable Soup & Shrimp Cocktail

SUNDAY

- Spaghetti
- Baked Chicken
- Steamed Rice
- Mashed Potatoes
- Gravy
- Peas 'n Carrots
- Broccoli
- Cauliflower Au gratin
- Chocolate Chip Cookie
- Yellow Cake w/ Chocolate Frosting
- Vegetable Beef Soup

SHORT ORDER & STANDARD ITEMS

Sunday Only Due to Holiday Meal on Saturday

- Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers
- Chicken Strips
- Baked Beans
- French Fries
- Onion Rings
- Salad Bar w/Condiments
- Baked Potato Bar
- Fresh Fruit
- Frozen Yogart
- Jell-O & Sugar Free Jell-O
- Assorted Bread w/Margarine
- Coffee, Sodas, Milk

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

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

Wing wraps up Hispanic Heritage Month



Col. Jose Salinas, vice wing commander, thanks Cadet Julian Figueroa for assisting with the wing's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Figueroa and fellow Desert View High School JROTC Honor Guard members presented the colors to kick off the event Oct. 3. Colonel Salinas also presented the students with a plaque to commemorate their contribution.

(From left to right) Col. Jose Salinas, vice wing commander, looks on while Staff Sgt. Robert Pensas, Master Sgt. Miguel Islas and Senior Airman Ben Koughn present Mr. William Valenzuela a chro-
m-
ed plaque they constructed by hand. The plaque reads, "The 162nd recognizes Mr. William Valenzuela for his outstanding support of the military and their families. Your tireless efforts on behalf of our unit are a shining example of your patriotism and deep love for those who wear the uniform. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month we are proud to call you a true friend and compadre."



Rachel Gomez (left) and Jacqui DuPont, from Tucson's Ballet Folklórico Los Mextucaz, demonstrate Mexican folk dancing in the 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Courtyard.



Student musicians from Tucson's Cholla High School perform mariachi music for Guardsmen in the 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Courtyard.

Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

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