



EL TIGRE NEWS



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

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Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Wing annual awards honors best of the best

The 162nd Fighter Wing assembles in Hangar 10 to witness the Annual Awards ceremony Feb. 7 honoring some of the best Airmen in the Air National Guard. Senior Airman Brian Henry (center) is presented the 162nd Fighter Wing Airman of the Year Award by Col. Greg Stroud, wing commander, while Maj. Gen. Hugo Salazar, Arizona Adjutant General, and Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, Arizona Air National Guard commander, wait to offer their congratulations. (Right) Honorees listen to opening remarks from General Salazar and the base honor guard retires the colors at the conclusion of the ceremony.

See story on Page 10

The Armament Flight



5

Wing Change of Command



Col. Greg Stroud
Assumes Command from
Brig. Gen. Rick Moisiso
March 7, 2 p.m.
Hangar 10

19

Wildcats & Tigres



20



Wing mission helps U.S. achieve “Balanced Strategy”

by Col. Greg Stroud
Commander

With the change of command ceremony scheduled for the March Unit Training Assembly it becomes my honor to address you as your wing commander. I am humbled by the opportunity to lead some of the best Airmen in the Air National Guard today, and it’s my pledge to represent you, tout your accomplishments, and communicate to you – in this and other forums – the strategies and policies designed to lead us into a new era of change in the Guard.

Looking back a decade to 1999, Brig. Gen. Ron Shoopman in his first *El Tigre* commentary as commander pointed out that the only constant was change and that the challenges of that year... aging aircraft, privatization, budget cuts, and demands to increase efficiency... could be met by the collective thoughts, talents and efforts of every wing member.

Each year since, you proved him right and you’ve meet those challenges.

I mention this now because of the current climate of change and the nature of present challenges that face not only the military, but the nation as a whole. The challenges that we faced in 1999 have evolved and will be met by new leaders at all levels. What has evolved in our favor is the level of importance assigned to International Pilot Training.



Colonel Stroud

As Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates becomes the first defense secretary to bridge two administrations of opposite political parties, his vision for the future of the military continues to emphasize the development of partner nation air forces.

“The United States is the strongest and greatest nation on Earth, but there are still limits on what it can do,” Gates wrote in the January/February 2009 issue of *Foreign Affairs* magazine.

His article titled, “A Balanced Strategy: Reprogramming the Pentagon for a New Age,” specifically calls upon the United States to build the capacity of partner governments and their security forces; which is coincidentally our full-time mission here; where we train foreign pilots to fly the F-16.

“In this kind of effort,” wrote the secretary, “the capabilities of the

United States’ allies and partners may be as important as its own, and building their capacity is arguably as important as, if not more so than, the fighting the United States does itself.”

Secretary Gates wrote that U.S. strategy is to use this indirect approach whenever possible to prevent skirmishes around the globe from escalating into costly intervention from the United States. He further writes that the United States cannot expect to eliminate national security risks through higher defense budgets... to do everything and buy everything.

As a key proponent to this approach, our wing has effectively accomplished an international F-16 pilot training mission since 1989; training financed by foreign governments.

The wing has trained more than 750 pilots from 23 of the 24 nations that fly the F-16. We’ve had quite a role in developing our friends’ capabilities.

We can feel proud that our wing has been leaning forward on this component of Secretary Gate’s strategy. It is my hope that every wing member gain an understanding of how their work fits into and contributes to the “big picture.”

I also encourage everyone to talk about this, or any of our vital missions - federal, state or homeland defense - with family, friends and neighbors, because it will be as a community that we meet the challenges of a new decade.

EL TIGRE NEWS

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Guardswoman makes history at 162nd

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

Keeping the world's most advanced F-16s up and running isn't a "man's" job – but rather a woman's.

At the Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson Airport a fleet of F-16 Desert Falcon's from the United Arab Emirates Air Force are maintained under the supervision of Senior Master Sgt. Yvonne Shealy, the first woman to take on the position.

Since January 2008, Sergeant Shealy has served as production superintendent for the 148th Aircraft Maintenance Flight here, leading both American and UAE Airmen. They keep "block 60" F-16s mission capable in support of the wing's full-time mission to train international F-16 pilots.

"It's been wonderful... the UAE folks are fantastic guys," said Sergeant Shealy. "Together we make sure all the scheduled maintenance happens, and make sure the flying schedule requirements are met so our instructor pilots here can train student pilots. And all this is done while ensuring the safety, efficiency, manpower and parts to make it all work."

The Prosperity, S.C., native may be the first woman in her current position, but she's not the first Senior Master Sgt. Shealy.

"I'm the second Senior Master Sgt. Shealy," she said. "My father was the first. So when I made this rank it was quite a glowing accomplishment for me and my family."

Shealy's path to success started in the late 1970's at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. As an active duty crew chief, she learned to make adjust-



Photo by Senior Airman Sara Elliott

Senior Master Sgt. Yvonne Shealy discusses repairs to an accessory drive gear box that caused suspected aircraft vibration with Staff Sgt. Jaryd Lamore. Sergeant Lamore is an aircraft maintenance technician for the 148th Aircraft Maintenance Flight.

ments and meet the challenges of a male-dominated career field.

"I was one of the first women in maintenance," said Sergeant Shealy. "Working on F-4s, there was a lot of heavy equipment. I soon learned that I had to be just as tough as the other maintainers and carry my weight, and I had to learn how to get people to take me seriously back then."

She transferred to the 162nd in 1987 and since then she's served as a crew chief and a flight chief while earning bachelor's and master's degrees from Embry Riddle.

"Being in the position I'm in now, and having the respect of the guys that I work with is a big accomplishment for me professionally," she said. "Receiving a master's degree and a bachelor's degree are also big for me. My advice to any Airman is to step it up a few notches if you are going to make it out here. You've got to give yourself every opportunity to succeed and advance. Take advantage of every civilian and military

education opportunity out there."

According to Chief Master Sgt. Bill Minter, former 148th superintendent, Sergeant Shealy is the right person for the job.

"She takes care of all the crew chiefs, avionics technicians and weapons people under her, and when I moved to manage the Security Forces squadron for the wing, the mission-capable statistics at the 148th went up," said the chief. "With my career coming to a close, it's good to know that people like her are here to lead and influence our newer troops for years to come."

In August, Shealy will experience another "first." Her team will deploy with UAE maintainers to Nellis to participate in Red Flag.

"We're going to work side by side," she said. "Everything a Guard maintainer will do at Red Flag, a UAE maintainer will do also. It's such a rewarding experience to have a part in training our allies and helping to advance international relations."



Medical Group rakes in major awards...

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

...And their mission keeps growing
Group plans humanitarian assistance to Jamaica

The National Guard Bureau announced the 162nd Medical Group as recipient of the 2008 Theodore C. Marris Team Award in recognition for outstanding medical readiness, Feb. 6.

The group was selected over 88 other Air National Guard units across the country. The award also singled out three key outstanding team members; Maj. Christine Rhodes, Master Sgt. Tracey Jorgensen and Master Sgt. Lance Bonlender.

In addition to the team award, individual recognition went to Chief Master Sgt. George Silvas who received the "Air National Guard Outstanding Enlisted Health Services Manager of the Year" award. Also, Master Sgt. Billy Eickmeyer earned the "Air National Guard Outstanding Public Health Airman of the Year" award.

"Everyone should be very proud of this achievement and continue with the momentum."

***-Col. James Balsarak
Medical Group Commander***

Col. James Balsarak, the medical group's commander currently deployed to Afghanistan, sent the team his congratulations.

"Thanks once again for an outstanding and unprecedented performance. You folks stepped up and knocked it out of the park," he wrote. "Everyone should be very proud of this achievement and continue with the momentum. We also need to thank the wing staff and senior leadership for helping us get our compliances to the best they have ever been. Congratulations to Chief and Billy, and to everyone else, the best medical group in the Air National Guard."

During a tumultuous and challenging year, the group's medical staff set ambitious goals and achieved them.

They deployed as a group to Iraq to gain "real-world" experience, increase morale and sharpen critical skills. They improved customer service through more effective scheduling and execution of member physical health assessments. And in their crowning achievement, the group scored an "Outstanding" rating during a health services inspection.



Courtesy photo

The 162nd Fighter Wing's medical group will deploy to Jamaica in April in support of an Air Forces Southern humanitarian mission. These children and their families, living in a small rural village, will benefit from Air Guard medical expertise.

In the wake of solidifying their place as the best medical staff in the Air National Guard with the Theodore C. Marris Team Award, the 162nd Medical Group will deploy to Jamaica to take on a humanitarian civic assistance mission, April 7-25.

In support of an Air Forces Southern initiative, 32 medical group members and one security forces specialist will deploy to provide medical planning support and medical care to Jamaicans in three rural villages.

Primary care physicians, nurses, technicians, optometrists, dentists and ancillary team members will work 10-to-12-hour days to bring much-needed treatment to people who normally don't have access to it.

"We deployed in support of a contingency last year, so this year we want to round out our experience with a humanitarian mission," said Col. Michael Mangen, mission commander. "After having such a great year and being so fortunate, we really felt compelled to give back to people truly in need."



Armament flight puts the 'fight' in Fighting Falcons

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Public Affairs

Air Guardsmen in charge of “alternate” mission equipment, or AME, know their mission is “primary” for the F-16 Fighting Falcons that take off here daily.

Airmen at the 162nd Armament Flight maintain the F-16’s complex matrix of pylons, launchers, adapters and other equipment used to hold bombs and missiles.

“Typically what we do is service AME and support equipment for the jets. Anything that launches weapons on the aircraft... we inspect and maintain,” said Staff Sgt. Byron Kooima, weapons technician.

In addition to the full inventory of AME currently mounted on 162nd Fighter Wing aircraft, the flight keeps extras in storage to quickly replace unserviceable equipment. The flight also maintains universal ammunition loading systems, linkless ammunition loading systems, bomb release units and triple ejection racks to name a few.

This amounts to the movement of hundreds of pieces of equipment annually.

“We maintain over 850 pieces of equipment and average 988 inspections a year, some AME require inspections every 90 days,” said Senior Master Sgt. David Voigt, 162nd Armament Flight Supervisor. “Within each calendar month we average 82 inspections.”

They also provide consistent and timely delivery of all inspections on AME for the F-16 aggressor program at the U.S. Navy’s Top Gun school in Fallon, Nev. Over the past five years, the flight has saved the Navy approximately \$10 million dollars.



Staff Sgts. Byron Kooima and Kathleen Branch, weapons technicians with the 162nd Armament Flight, remove panels, inspect and perform maintenance on an AIM 9 missile launcher from an F-16. AIM 9s require detailed inspections at a minimum of every 18 months from last service.

With so much to account for, the flight meticulously follows a rigorous maintenance schedule.

“We have two schedules, dayshift and nightshift, our biggest challenge is meeting the AME inspection schedules, and the unit’s requirements knowing without AME the pilots can’t make their missions,” said Sergeant Voigt.

The armament flight consists of 21 team members; 14 are full-time Guardsmen and seven are traditional Guardsmen. Of the 21, four are assigned to the tool room where maintenance and inventory is accomplished on more than 3,000 tools and various test equipment.

“There are a lot different aspects to what we do here. Not only do we perform inspections, maintenance, calibrations and ordering of sup-

plies but we have to keep track of all this. Knowing all the schedules and requirements for each can get crazy sometimes, but we do a pretty good job of keeping on schedule,” said Staff Sgt. Keith Evans, weapons and tools technician.

With all of these challenges, the job has its rewards.

“The people I work with are outstanding. The camaraderie is great. Whatever the tasking we all work together to get it done,” said Sergeant Kooima.

“Seeing our product returned to service and knowing we did a good job means a great deal to us in terms of job satisfaction, the bottom line is AME is used every day in several different configurations on the F-16 to meet the mission requirements for our training pilots,” said Sergeant Voigt.



Staff Sgt. Gregory Torrens, a weapons technician with the 162nd Armament Flight, disassembles and inspects a LAU-129 launcher from an F-16 Fighting Falcon for a required 18-month inspection.



Prestigious award named for 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee member, community leader

Story and photos
by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

When Tucson community and business leaders gathered to present the *Tucson Light: William G. Valenzuela Legacy Award*, the guest of honor was told he was attending a Valentine's Day party in downtown Tucson's Stillwell House, Feb. 13.

Bill Valenzuela, a 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman, Arizona State Chair Emeritus for the National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, owner of W.G. Valenzuela Drywall, and a noteworthy philanthropist quickly figured out the Valentine's Day ruse.

"When I saw Mensching, I knew something was going on," joked Valenzuela referring to Brig. Gen. (ret.) Joe Mensching, former 162nd Fighter Wing commander. "I knew tonight had nothing to do with Valentine's Day."

Sandi Eghtesadi, event coordinator and fellow 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee member, invited more than 100 of Valenzuela's family, friends and colleagues to surprise him with the city's first Tucson Light award named in his honor.



Tucson business and community icons Bill Valenzuela and Dorothy Finley trade jokes from the podium at the Tucson Light award banquet, Feb. 13. Finley was one of Valenzuela's grade school teachers.

"I've known him for eight or nine years. He is such a humble man," said Eghtesadi, "He's given so much to the community. We didn't have any other choice but to honor him in a special way. And with all of the support of his family and friends here today... this is only the beginning."

The *William G. Valenzuela Legacy Award*, intended to capture the spirit of all Mr. Valenzuela has given to the community, will recognize the accomplishments of future Tucsonans who aspire to his level of service.

He made significant contributions in raising the level of awareness among civilians about the military and the sacrifices of servicemembers. He spearheaded many projects to open lines of communication between the business community and military through a variety of projects including ESGR Boss Lifts and Statement of Support signings.

"He inspired me to volunteer when I didn't know I could," said Eghtesadi. "He has opened doors for people to become involved in their community and inspired us to give back to those who've made freedom possible for us. He is a true leader."

"I've seen him from a human perspective that is truly unbelievable," she said. "When everyone is out enjoying time off for holidays like Memorial Day, he's out there cleaning the grave sites of fallen servicemembers."

Tucson attorney Michael Murray has been friends with Bill Valenzuela for 35 years. Together they served the Tucson's Marine Corps League and ESGR.

"Anyone who wins this award in the future will have to be of a very high caliber if they are going to follow Bill Valenzuela because he's an outstanding guy," said Murray. "He's very generous without ever saying so. He's given so much to so many organizations, and you will never hear his name."

Jack Camper, president and CEO of the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, served as a master of ceremony for the evening. He recalled a recent anecdote to highlight Valenzuela's generosity.

Camper said the producers of ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" recently called on Valenzuela to donate drywall services to a Tucson family as part of an upcoming episode.

The family's oldest daughter Lizzie Bell, 14, was diagnosed in infancy with Diamond Blackfan anemia, a congenital disorder that affects only 600 to 700 people worldwide. The new home replaced her family's old one that had mold, a termite infestation and cracked concrete.



Bill Valenzuela, right, embraces friend and colleague Jack Camper at the banquet held in Valenzuelas honor. Camper presented a copper plaque on behalf of Tucson Mayor Robert Walkup.

Valenzuela quietly did his part and drywalled the home.

“That’s who Bill Valenzuela really is... just an outstanding guy,” said Camper.

Valenzuela graciously passed on the evening’s high praise.

“What a beautiful, beautiful night for me, but don’t fool yourselves... you’re the people that make me look good to them,” he said to his friends as he gestured to his family. “Thank you for what you have taught me. I’ll never give up on you. I’m with you all the way.”

According to Brig. Gen. (ret.) Ron Shoopman, former 162nd Fighter Wing commander, a leader always shows his true colors when he’s being recognized in front of a crowd. “Did he talk about his accomplishments? No. He looked around the room and talked about each and every one of you and the good works you have done,” he said. “This man inspires people.”

Tucson Light: William G. Valenzuela Legacy Award

On behalf of the people of Tucson it is with great pleasure and honor that this copper plaque is presented to you in recognition of your outstanding contributions to our community.

Your visionary leadership enables significant and sustained communication among diverse sectors in Tucson; private, educational, business and military. Your entrepreneurial skills and untiring drive helped make W.G. Valenzuela Drywall one of the most successful minority-owned businesses in the United States.

You also raised the bar and inspired many through your selfless giving and volunteerism. Your example showed family, neighbors and business associates how to make not only our community a better place, but also our state, country and world.

People of both high and humble backgrounds sought your advice and wisdom. Thank you, Bill, for sharing your gifts and talents with our citizens and for making a significant difference in the lives of so many. We wish you continued success in all of your future endeavors. May you continue to bless our lives for many years to come.

Given under my hand and the seal of the
City of Tucson Arizona,
this 13th day of February, 2009,
Robert E. Walkup, Mayor.



Chaplain's Corner

Introducing our new chaplain!

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

The 162nd Fighter Wing has a new chaplain who has joined our unit!

The chaplain team is now fully staffed with three chaplains and four chaplain assistants to serve the religious and spiritual needs of the people of the 162nd and their families.

As you know, we have Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Martinez serving as our Catholic Chaplain and I



Chaplain (Maj.) Laura Adelia, the newest member of wing chaplain team.

will continue to serve as our Wing (Protestant) Chaplain.

I would like to introduce Chaplain (Maj.) Laura Adelia, our newest chaplain, who joined us in January. She comes to us from the 944th Fighter Wing, USAF Reserve, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

Chaplain Adelia is ordained with the United Church of Christ, and has more than 18 years of military service. She is also a prior line officer and enlisted.

She says, "Hello 162nd Fighter Wing! I am very happy to be here with you! Over the next few months I will visit all the units and sections here at the 162nd. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you, serving you as one of your chaplains and being part of the team!"

Chaplain Adelia is from Phoenix. She holds a Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, Calif., a Bachelor of Arts in Education (secondary education - history), a Certificate in Islamic Studies from Arizona State University, and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Mercy Center.

In her civilian life, Chaplain Adelia currently serves at Shadow Rock Church in Phoenix, and is an adjunct professor of Religious Studies and History at Mesa Community College. She teaches courses in religions of the world, introduction to Islam, introduction to Christianity and history of the modern Middle East. Her specialties in ministry are teaching and counseling, and "just being there" when needed.

Chaplain Adelia enjoys hiking, playing electric bass and percussion, learning, teaching, talking, traveling,



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bob Norton

helping people and a good sense of humor.

Chaplain Adelia's office will be in building 1, next to the equal opportunity and retention offices. Stop by for a visit on drill weekend!

EVENTS

"A Growing Marriage" Conference with Dr. Gary Chapman coming Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Tucson.

Dr. Gary Chapman, best-selling author of *The Five Love Languages* (5 million sold) is coming to Tucson, Saturday, March 28. This military marriage conference is sponsored by the Arizona Air and Army National Guard as well as Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. 162nd Fighter Wing members and their spouses or significant others, and individuals wanting to prepare for future marriage are encouraged to attend.

This conference will be hosted at Catalina Foothills Church, 2150 E. Orange Grove Rd, which is donating their facilities for our use because "we want to encour-

More



Chaplain's Corner continued

age military families...it is the least we can do to show our gratitude for all you do for us." Registration is \$25 per couple or \$15 per individual and scholarships are available. Lunch is included. Childcare is provided. To register or for more information, call the Chaplain's Office at 295-6217.

Holocaust Remembrance Event to host 300 students Tuesday, March 17, 10 a.m. to noon in the Desert Rose Dining Facility.

162nd Fighter Wing members are encouraged to attend and help host 300 junior and senior high school students who will be attending our annual Holocaust

Remembrance Event. Again, Dr. Gail Wallen and holocaust survivors will present the message of the great tragedy of the Holocaust and the importance of preserving freedom for all people. The presentation is compelling and students are greatly impacted by this significant learning experience. Come and help host.

Volunteers are also needed for set-up and take-down as well as hospitality to our guests.

To volunteer, call the chaplain's office at 295-6217.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) coming April 29-30 to the 162nd Fighter Wing.

How are you going to use your annual training days this year? Why not come to the ASIST training and

participate in the best intervention training available today.

These two days of training equip men and women to be a good wingman in helping a person in crisis to choose life. Every year in America more than 30,000 people die from suicide!

Many of these suicides could be prevented if caring persons had the ASIST skills to help intervene. We want to continue training the men and women of the 162nd Fighter Wing to create a critical mass of trained personnel to greatly reduce our danger of suicide. Won't you register for the upcoming training. Call the Chaplain's Office today (295-6217). Space is limited. Don't delay! Register today.



PILOT'S FINI FLIGHT RAISES FUNDS FOR GUARD FAMILIES

Lt. Col. Bruce Patch, an F-16 pilot, gets hosed down on the flightline by Staff Sgt. Annie Jaramillo after his fini flight here Feb. 12. When Colonel Patch announced his fini flight to friends and co-workers weeks prior, a flood of volunteers came forward for the honor of drenching him. In turn, he raffled the opportunity among wing members at \$1 per ticket to benefit the 162nd Fighter Wing Family Readiness Group. The raffle raised more than \$100 to benefit Guard families. "I was hoping this raffle would become a tradition among pilots who retire from the 162nd. It's for a good cause," said Colonel Patch. He and his wife Tracy will move to Denver, Colo., where he will assume a position as a quality manager with the Veteran's Administration's Health Administration Center heading a Lean process.

Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve



Wing 2008 Annual Awards Ceremony honors Guardsmen, volunteers & family members



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Baleigh Jordan, 13, sings the national anthem to open the 162nd Fighter Wing Annual Awards ceremony, Feb 7. By all accounts, the young singer's talent amazed Guardsmen, families and community leaders attending the ceremony.

by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones
Public Affairs

An ocean of uniformed servicemembers filled chairs and stood lining the walls in the massive Hanger 10 here Feb. 7 during the 162nd Fighter Wing's 2008 Annual Awards ceremony.

The ceremony honored 44 wing members and six teams for outstanding contributions and personal development. It began with young Ms. Baleigh Jordan's singing the National Anthem.

"Holy smokes, what a voice," said Lt. Col. Dan Summers. "I can't believe Baleigh is 13. She was amazing; such a huge voice coming from such a little girl."

After hearing the National Anthem sung with such passion and beauty as to shame the most talented American Idol TV show contestants, the wing observed a moment to remember the 10 former wing members who passed away last year; Ed Hurd, Jim Barr, Steve Fuentes, Jerry Veltman, Charlie Lees, Bob Pearson, James Gaare, Matthew Merritt, Leroy Foss and Dale Hansen.

"I promise you I'm always there when your heart

AETC Ground/Weapons "Safety Well Done" Award
Tech. Sgt. Jaime Aviles
Tech. Sgt. Daniel Tibbitts
Staff Sgt. Michael Markve

162nd Fighter Wing Team Performance Award
Medical Group

Community College of the Air Force Associate Degree in Applied Science
Chief Master Sgt. Nikki Uremovich
Master Sgt. Terry Ladd
Master Sgt. Vincent Muskiet

Tech. Sgt. Livia Moreno
Tech. Sgt. James Mulcahey
Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Wallace
Staff Sgt. Carlos Almandos
Staff Sgt. Oscar Corrales
Staff Sgt. Edmundo Delvalle
Staff Sgt. Eric Hall
Staff Sgt. Bradley Krans
Staff Sgt. Israel Montoya
Staff Sgt. Tracy Schultz
Staff Sgt. Raymond Smith

Outstanding Personnel of the Year

Outstanding Officer
Lt. Col. Andrew Macdonald

Outstanding Senior NCO
Senior Master Sgt. Peter Carlson

Outstanding NCO
Tech. Sgt. Angela Walz

Outstanding Airman
Senior Airman Brian Henry

Outstanding Section
International Military Student Office

Maj. Gen. Donald E. Morris Leadership Award
Chief Master Sgt. Mary Minter

Commanders Special Recognition Award
Lt. Col. Daniel Grimwood
Maj. Windy Hendrick
Tech. Sgt. Michael Carpenter

Maj. Gen. Donald L. Owens Junior Officer Award
Capt. Gabe Johnson

Aquino Ground Safety Memorial Award
Air Field Management

John H. "Square Deal" McNeill Award
Lt. Col. Mark Harting



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

During his first visit to the wing as Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Hugo Salazar addresses a standing-room-only crowd in Maintenance Hangar 10 here, Feb 7. The general lauded the achievements of the wing's annual award recipients.

is filled with sorrow and despair," the words of "Footprints in the Sand" sang by Ms. Schlesinger reverberating throughout the Hanger.

As if on queue, an F-16 engine roared nearby punctuating the memorial tribute before the award recipients were called up by name, in turn, to accept their awards.

Among the day's highlights, three crew chiefs were recognized with the AETC Ground/Weapons "Safety Well Done" Award for stopping an F-16 that was rolling down the flightline out-of-control due to a malfunction.

The 162nd Team Performance Award was then presented to the Medical Group for, among other things, their 98 percent rating during the recent Health Services Inspection – the highest in history for an Air National Guard unit.

Fourteen individuals were recognized for earning their Associates Degree in Applied Science from the Community College of the Air Force.

Next, the wing recognized the outstanding performance of one individual in each rank category, and also the outstanding section of the year.

Airfield Management received the Aquino Ground Safety Memorial Award for ensuring zero lost airplanes in 12,000 flights and 16,000 flying hours over the year.

Seven more individuals were recognized with the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding achievement and meritorious service to the United States.

In honor of the award recipients Ms. Schlesinger once again graced the audience's ears by singing "God Bless America."

The ceremony ended with a first. A "Year in Review" video featuring all of the wing's activities for 2008. Members watched as the wing's history for the preceding year unfolded in front of them with the Steak Fry, the Holocaust remembrance event, water survival training, Chandra Smith's performance with Tops in Blues, the 9G Fitness program, Weapons and Tactics Conference, the Security Forces return and Brig. Gen. Rick Moisio's fini-flight.

As the Honor Guard retired the colors Senior Master Sgt. Shane Clark sang "America the Beautiful" to conclude the 2008 Award Ceremony and another great year at the 162nd Fighter Wing.

To view the "Year in Review" video visit www.162fw.af.mil/news/videos.

Family Readiness Group Volunteer of the Year
AMVETS Post 770 Ladies Auxiliary

162FW Minuteman Committee Employer of the Year
Arizona State Prison Complex

162FW Minuteman Committee Guardsman of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Harold Chandler

162FW Minuteman Committee Scholarship
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Skrentney

"Jimmy Jet" Volunteer Of The Year
Master Sgt. Roy Ertl

"Jimmy Jet" Kurth Memorial Scholarship Award
Ms. Megan Berge

"Jimmy Jet" Pamela J. Long Scholarship Award
Ms. Hannah Berge

First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Gary Jack

Instructor Pilot of the Year
Maj. Patrick McClelland

Operations Appreciation Award
Engine Shop

Tucson Metropolitan Chamber Of Commerce Award
Tech. Sgt. Lesleigh Smith

162nd Fighter Wing Meritorious Achievement Award
Lt. Col. Mark Emshwiller
Lt. Col. Erik Salomonson

Air Force Meritorious Service Medal
Maj. William Arnold
Maj. William Kinnison, Jr.
Maj. Erik Houston
Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Pacheco
Senior Master Sgt. Illario Talvy
Senior Master Sgt. Charles Kilmer
Master Sgt. Brett Hart



USA Basketball proclaims support for Guardsmen, Reservists

by Jessica Gonzalez
Arizona Department of
Emergency and Military Affairs

PHOENIX – On the eve of the highly-anticipated NBA All-Star weekend, an event that once again catapulted Phoenix into the National spotlight; Arizona’s most prominent political, business and military figures had cause for celebration.

At the Arizona Biltmore Resort, Arizona’s own Jerry Colangelo, managing director of the Men’s USA Basketball National Team, signed a statement of support for Arizona’s chapter of Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Feb. 12. ESGR is a Department of Defense organization that works to promote cooperation and understanding between Guard and Reserve members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee’s military commitment.

The occasion represented USA Basketball’s continued recognition of the nearly 700,000 Civilian-Soldiers and -Airmen that have gone to war for the United States since Sept. 11, 2001.

ESGR State Chairman Scott Essex was first to speak. In a gracious tone he thanked USA Basketball, and other supporting businesses on behalf of nearly 13,000 Arizona National Guard and Reserve members. He also recognized the dozens of volunteers that help ESGR achieve its employer-outreach goals.

Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon then extended the city’s support for Arizona’s servicemembers and veterans by offering the city and its resources in recognition and respect for their sacrifices, at one point noting that there is nothing more important to the City of Phoenix than assisting servicemembers in need.

Phoenix was the first major city in Arizona to support employees activated into service by providing differential pay to prevent financial hardship while deployed.

Reflecting on his world travels, Jerry Colangelo noted the pride he felt as an American overseas. Especially in Beijing, when the world converged to celebrate the 2008 Olympics, it was evident how much esteem U.S. armed forces had truly amassed.

Colangelo encountered servicemembers from foreign nations who spoke of the respect they had for America and how much its military aided in the protection of the world. Coming full circle Jerry expressed how much it meant to him and USA Basketball to be a part of ESGR. Supporting the Guard and Reserve, a seemingly basic responsibility of employers, took on a new meaning



Photo by Army Sgt. Ed Balaban

Arizona sports icon Jerry Colangelo, left, signs a Statement of Support for the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program as Major General Hugo Salazar, the Adjutant General of Arizona, looks on. Other dignitaries present included Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, background, far left.



with USA Basketball's statement of support. Colangelo hopes his organization's participation in this program will help other companies see the need to reform or establish their own polices.

Flanked by a back drop of Arizona National Guard Citizen-Soldiers in Army Combat Uniform, Maj. Gen. Hugo Salazar, Arizona Adjutant General, took to the podium. Salazar made it his first point to express his thanks to each representative from the companies present, including Mayor Gordon. He reinforced that the statement signed creates a commitment of understanding in which USA Basketball honors its men and women who wish to serve their country.

He remarked that Mayor Gordon's program should be a model for cities around the country; TriWest Healthcare Alliance's benchmark program has donated tens of thousands of dollars to the Arizona National

Guard's Emergency Relief Fund; Creative Healthcare Solutions was recognized nationally with ESGR's Freedom Award in the small business category; Honeywell explicitly supports its servicemembers and in fact granted a prolonged leave of absence to Command Sgt. Maj. Max Butler enabling him to serve as the Arizona Army National Guard's senior enlisted advisor; and finally he welcomed Nationwide Vision Center as the newest member representing small businesses throughout the state.

Salazar had a final message for the guest of honor, Mr. Colangelo, a thank you for his public proclamation and support for Arizona's men and women in uniform, but also a prideful thank you for bringing home Olympic gold for men's basketball where it belongs. This no doubt pleased Colangelo. The smile on his face was undeniable.



Photo by Army Sgt. Ed Balaban

Major General Hugo Salazar, the Adjutant General of Arizona, left, and Scott Celley, TriWest Healthcare Vice President for External Affairs, right, discuss the merits of the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Statement of Support program during a recent signing event in Phoenix. The ESGR Statement of Support Program seeks to inform and educate employers about their rights and responsibilities towards their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, and to also recognize and reward those employers who go "over and above" the requirements of the law.



Arizona Guardsmen take on NBA stars



Army National Guard members Staff Sgt. Maygen Matson, left, and Spc. Taylor Anonson pose for a photo with National Basketball Association superstar Shaquille O'Neal during NBA All-Star Weekend in Phoenix, Feb. 15.

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

PHOENIX -- Arizona Army and Air National Guardsmen were honored for their combat service Feb. 15 with an opportunity to score against National Basketball Association greats Shaquille O'Neal and David Robinson during the 2009 NBA All-Star Weekend here.

But this competition didn't take place on a basketball court. Instead, the troops vied for a chance to play the pros one-on-one via an Xbox Live video-gaming system.

Army Spc. Aaron Patten, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, climbed his way to the top of the brackets in the EA sports NBA Live 09 game to play against O'Neal, a Phoenix Suns all-star, in the finals.

Army Staff Sgt. Steven Barrett took second place and played against David Robinson, former star of the San Antonio Spurs, who is among this year's finalists for induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

O'Neal and Robinson signed autographs, posed for photos and shook hands with the troops. Robinson also

played a wounded warrior recovering from his injuries in Iraq live via satellite.

O'Neal played deployed Air Force Master Sgt. Anthony James and his family live via satellite, as well. O'Neal hoisted Trey James, the sergeant's son, up to the Web camera for a surprise appearance and conversation with his dad.

The father and son have been separated for two years due to James' deployment in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Greg and Addie Zinone, co-founders of "Pro vs. GI Joe," came up with the concept of matching professional athletes with returning and deployed troops.

Addie, who twice deployed with the Army Reserve, realized first-hand the importance of maintaining morale for deployed troops.

"So many of them are gamers on their down time anyway," she said. "We were able to team up with the USO to enable deployed troops to play against celebrities who are stateside."

"This was definitely a morale booster," Patten said. "These athletes have a lot of time to do so many other things, and taking time out to play with us is so cool."

Although Robinson competed against the troops, he also took time to honor the Guardsmen who are still deployed overseas: "Hang in there," he said. "We really appreciate what you're doing. It means a lot to us, and it doesn't go unnoticed. When you come back, we'll give you a hero's welcome."

Robinson is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a Navy veteran. O'Neal's father is an Army veteran. O'Neal was named co-Most Valuable Player at the all-star game later in the evening.



Arizona Guardsmen stop for a souvenir photo with NBA great, David Robinson.



Steak Fry serves 947 Airmen, retirees



Chief chefs

Chief Master Sgts. Russell Sullivan, Nikki Uremovich and George Silvas grill steaks in front of the Desert Rose Dining Facility for the wing's annual Steak Fry event, Feb. 7. The annual Steak Fry event is paid for with donations from officers and senior enlisted members and brings the entire wing family together to share a lunch.

Starting lineup

Lt. Col. Mitch Rebman serves a steak to Senior Master Sgt. Brian Karas. This year's Steak Fry event was the most highly attended in wing history. At 947 served, the event exceeded last year's participation by about 300 members.



Photos by Senior Airman Sarah Elliott

Expecting? Med Group works to protect your baby

by Master Sgt. Billy Eickmeyer
162nd Medical Group

For Guardsmen who may be expecting a child, congratulations on the new addition to your family! First, there are certain procedures that all pregnant drill status Guardsmen (DSG) must follow. DSG's must report a confirmed pregnancy as soon as possible to allow the unit to assess her work environment for potential hazards and accurately report operational and readiness capability quickly.

All pregnancies must be verified by written confirmation from the DSG's primary Obstetrics (OB) provider to the medical group (MDG). The 162nd MDG Public Health (PH) office interviews the pregnant member and her supervisor to obtain a description of the individual's specific duties and work environment.

The 162nd MDG Bioenvironmental Engineering (BE) office will survey tasks and potential exposures the worker is likely to encounter. BE relays this information to PH and/or the medical officer, as appropriate. PH will provide job descriptions and potential exposures to harmful material to the OB provider.

In response to this information, the OB provider must submit a statement to the member and the MDG indicating whether any additional restrictions should be instituted. A MDG medical officer reviews the OB provider's documentation, along with the PH workplace interview and initiates an Air Force Form 469, *Duty Limiting Condition Report*, to reflect all occupational restrictions. The form can be delivered to retail sales for issue of, or reimbursement for maternity uniforms.

Questions about the 162nd MDG Fetal Protection Program may be referred to 520-295-6302. Program regulations are found in Air National Guard Instruction 40-104, *Pregnancy of Air National Guard personnel*.



AFPC begins transfer of Health Treatment Records to VA

by Master Sgt. Kat Bailey
Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- Air Force officials announced the implementation of a new Total Force mission for the Air Force Personnel Center here, set to come on line Feb. 1.

AFPC will become the central transfer gateway to improve the flow of Air Force health treatment records of retired and separated Airmen - active, Guard and Reserve, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, aiding in the timely handling of any disability claims. The Center's effort will apply to the records of Airmen who retired or separated on Jan. 1 or later.

In 2007, the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense directed all branches of service to transfer health treatment records of retiring and separating military personnel to the VA from a "centralized personnel out-processing location." The nature of AFPC made it the Air Force solution.

"The Personnel community has the experience in records management required to meet the OSD directive," said Sharon Hogue,

AFPC Master Personnel Records Branch chief. "The Records Branch already had the infrastructure in place for the accountability and maintenance of centralizing Air Force personnel records; we offered to help the medical community streamline this process."

Last October, AFPC started testing this new process as the transfer point for Air Force health treatment records sent to the VA using Randolph, Lackland and Laughlin Air Force Bases as test bases.

The Center collected the records from the base medical treatment facilities, performed an accountability audit, verified all components were included and researched those that were missing. It then transferred the records to the servicing VA location of retired and separated Airmen who left the Air Force between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1, 2008.

The field test allowed AFPC to evaluate the transfer process and see if it could accommodate the additional workload that would be generated by taking on the Total Force mission.

"The AFPC Centralized Processing Center took in the records and processed them according to the new directive. Based on the findings of the field test, AFPC decided to

bring on the entire Air Force at one time, rather than in stages," Ms. Hogue said, "resulting in one-stop processing and streamlining the Air Force method."

Airmen do not have to wait until separation or retirement to file a disability claim with the VA. They can file up to six months in advance, providing they can be available for any requested VA medical appointments. In these cases, Airmen can request a copy of their records from their servicing MTF to provide to the VA.

Following the new guidelines, the Airman's MTF holds the original record until 30 days after separation or retirement to ensure all documentation from medical or dental appointments and procedures toward the end of an Airman's service is captured, and then sends the record to the AFPC Centralized Processing Center.

"We are confident we will provide a valuable accountability service to our Total Force Airmen and to the VA with this new mission," Ms. Hogue said. "When records of retired and separated Airmen are transferred and tracked by the Air Force Personnel Center, we will make sure they get to the correct VA location in a timely manner."

Retirees volunteer to help 'save lives'



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones

162nd Fighter Wing retirees John Palermo and John Salazar assist Staff Sgt. Sean Keel, aircraft maintainer, as he prepares to donate blood with the American Red Cross during the February unit training assembly. The average blood drive goal is 35 pints and the size of the Red Cross staff is based on that goal, said Greg Clements, Red Cross team leader. "We're really lucky to have volunteers here - most of the places we go to the donors have to check themselves in," he said. In February, the wing produced 30 units. The next blood drive will be held on base April 4.



El Tigre News postal changes

El Tigre News readers may notice two minor changes to the base newsletter this month.

First, the address box on the back cover has been moved from the bottom of the page to the top of the page.

This is due to new post office regulations for bulk mail. Their goal is to standardize all bulk mail by ensuring address boxes are located in the same place for easy scanning.

The second change is that names have been removed from the address box. Readers will now find their *El Tigre* addressed to "Current Resident."

This is in response to another new post office regulation for bulk mail which states if the name on *El Tigre* doesn't match the name of the resident it will be returned to the 162nd for a fee.

By addressing the *El Tigre* to "Current Resident" the wing can avoid unnecessary charges.

The goal of this regulation is to make bulk mailing address lists as accurate as possible; a goal shared by the *El Tigre* production staff.

Active members not receiving *El Tigre* must verify their correct address on the Virtual MPF via the Air Force Portal. If the address is correct on vMPF, members should contact their orderly room to verify their address in MILPDS.

Retired members who have moved recently or are not receiving *El Tigre* can be added to the mailing list by sending their name and address to the 162nd Fighter Wing Retirees Office at 162.retirees@aztucs.ang.af.mil, or they may call the retirees office at (520) 295-6663.

Questions about the postal changes affecting *El Tigre* may be referred public affairs at (520) 295-6192, or e-mail 162fw.pa@aztucs.ang.af.mil.

2009 Wing Picnic info

This year's annual wing picnic is scheduled for Sunday, April 5, at Udall Park from noon to 6 p.m. The event is an opportunity for unit members and their families to relax and enjoy a beautiful spring day.

Admittance tickets go on sale for \$3 per person on Saturday, March 7. The menu for this year's event is hamburgers, hotdogs, beans, potato salad, chips, soda and bottled water. Family Readiness will serve cake and ice cream. Lunch will be served from noon to 3 p.m.

Entertainment will consist of music, jumping castles and slides, a kiddy train, clowns, balloons, face painting, cotton candy and snow cones, horseshoes, volleyball and a homerun derby.

Please remember no alcohol can be brought to the park, our first sergeants will man a beer booth for \$2 for people over 21 with a valid ID. No pets are allowed at the event so please leave them home. Four sheriff's deputies will be patrolling the area to keep everyone safe.

If your organization would like to set up a booth, the fee is \$25, contact Senior Master Sgt. Rebecca Devine at 295-6877 for information. To volunteer for the ticket booth during the event, contact Senior Master Sgt. Sandra Ahern at 295-6013.

Get your tickets early as the admittance price will be \$4 per person as of noon on Saturday, April 4.

What every Airman should know about CCAF degrees

The Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) is the only federally chartered military institution in the United States that awards college degrees solely to Air Force and Air Guard enlisted personnel. CCAF, regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, awards Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees.

To earn an AAS degree from CCAF a student must complete 64 semester credit hours. CCAF grants credits for:

- USAF Technical Schools
- Skill Level
- Credit in physical education for basic training
- Credit in management for

professional military education (PME)

- Credit earned via testing
- Credit for courses from other colleges and universities
- Credit for some licenses and certificates (A&P, private pilot's license—if program applicable)

CCAF provides enlisted personnel an excellent tool for consolidation of program applicable military and off-duty education credits for updating their education level in the personnel data system (PDS). Reflection of proper educational level in the PDS is critical to promotion, career progression, etc.

The CCAF transcript is a means of documenting Air Force train-

ing and translating that experience into college credit. If review of the progress report or transcript shows that some or all military training is missing, the student must request verification of course completion from the school where the course was taken. This action serves as a means for updating official personnel records and serves as a resume for ultimate civilian employment.

For more information on degree requirement specifics, CLEP and DANTES testing opportunities for credit, PME credit or CCAF degree status please visit the force development section in mission support flight (building 1) or call 295-6568/6188/6793.



Retiree Info – Flying the American Flag

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

Many retired Americans show their dedication to our country by flying the Stars and Stripes in front of their homes. This action is a visual and rewarding way to show pride in the country we all love.

The National Flag Code was first written by representatives of the armed services on June 14, 1923. Later, on Dec. 22, 1942, it became public law 77-826, chapter 806.

The rules for flying the flag are considered a “code”; therefore, violations of flag flying protocol are not punishable by law. Unfortunately, many flags are flown improperly.

One would like to think that an improperly displayed flag is the result only of ignorance, not disrespect, so, to ensure the flag is flown

properly, here are some basic tips on proper display and handling of the American flag.

* The flag should never touch the ground. Note: It is sometimes said that a flag that touches the ground should be destroyed. This is not true. If your flag accidentally touches the ground just be more careful.

* The flag may not be used to make clothing.

* The flag should not be flown at night unless illuminated.

* If flown at a private estate (your house), the flag should be taken down during inclement weather.

* If dirty, the flag may be washed gently by hand and hung up to dry.

* If flown on a single staff with another flag, such as a state flag, the American flag will always be in the top position.

* To store the flag it should be

folded neatly and ceremoniously.

* When it becomes worn, torn, or otherwise unserviceable, the flag should be properly disposed of. Proper disposition of the flag is accomplished, preferably by burning, in a formal ceremony. Veterans Organizations and the Boy Scouts hold periodic ceremonies to properly dispose of flags. Contact any of these organizations for details.

We regret to inform you that former 162nd member Dale Hansen recently passed away. Our sincere condolences go out to Dale’s family and friends. He will be missed by all who knew him.

The 162nd Retirees Luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8. (In last month’s article we incorrectly identified this date as April 9). It will be held at the HomeTown Buffet on Wilmot road at 11 a.m. Ensure the correct date is reserved on your event calendar.

All in the EL TIGRE Family

Military Promotions:

To Staff Sergeant

Joseph Stier, Maintenance
Victor Valdez, Maintenance
John Hendrix, Maintenance
Brian Henry, Maintenance

To Senior Airman

Ana Canillas, Maintenance

New Members:

Staff Sgt. Chris Walker

Graduations:

Senior Airman Stacey Morris was Honor Graduate at Fighter Aircraft Maintenance Apprentice tech school.

Staff Sgt. Jose Escobar graduated 3-level tech school and is assigned to AGE.

Airman First Class Victor Hixon graduated 3-level tech school and is assigned to AGE.

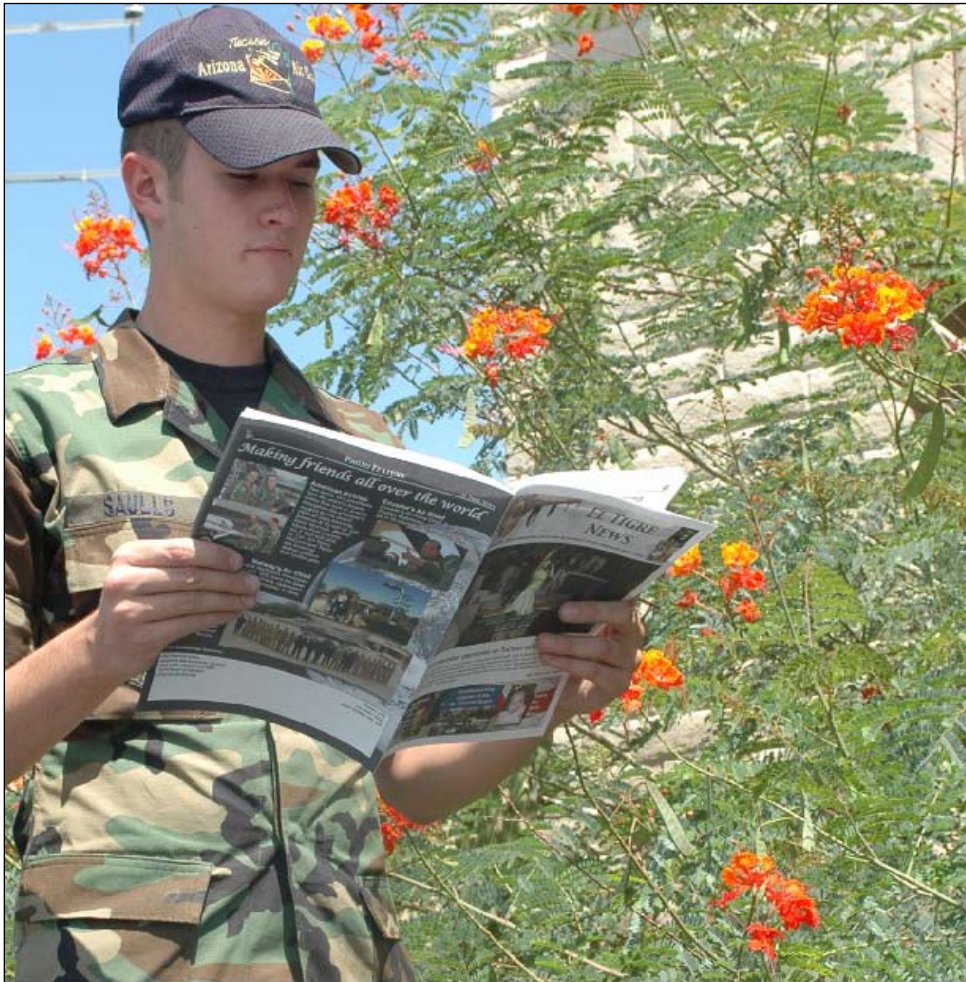
Births:

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Chris Nelson, electro/environmental shop, and his wife Genevieve on the birth of their new baby boy Ryan Christopher Nelson, born Dec. 24, 2008.

Congratulations to Master Sgt. Pete Hillier, electro/environmental shop, and his wife Sandra on the birth of their new baby boy Aaron Joseph Hillier, born Dec. 24, 2008.

Retirements:

Lt. Col. Bruce Patch, Quality Assurance



**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**

Cost for AGRs & Officers \$4.25

SATURDAY

- Baked Fish
- Roast Pork
- Mashed Potatoes
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Chicken Gravy
- Broccoli
- Steamed Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Potato Leek Soup
- Chocolate Fudge Brownies
- Dutch Apple Pie

SUNDAY

HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY

- Herbed Baked Chicken
- Corned Beef
- New Potatoes
- Steamed Rice
- Steamed Cabbage
- Peas & Carrots
- Steamed Corn
- Potato Leek Soup
- Black Forest Cake
- Blueberry Crisp

**SHORT ORDER &
STANDARD ITEMS**

- Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers
- Special Item TBD
- Chicken Strips
- Fish Sandwich
- Tuna Sandwich
- Pizza
- Baked Beans
- French Fries
- Onion Rings
- Baked Potato Bar
- Assorted Breads
- Salad Bar w/Condiments
- Fresh Fruit
- Jell-o
- Frozen Yogurt

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

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

**Celebrate the 162nd Fighter Wing
Change of Command**

Col. Greg Stroud will assume command of the 162nd Fighter Wing from Brig. Gen. Rick Moasio Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m. in Hangar 10. Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, Arizona Air National Guard commander, will be the presiding officer. Wing members participating in the ceremony formation will be in place by 1:20 p.m. All other attendees will be seated at 1:30 p.m.

Dress will be ABUs, BDUs, flightsuits or civilian casual. All are invited to attend.



162ND FIGHTER WING
ARIZONA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
1650 EAST PERIMETER WAY
TUCSON AZ 85706-6052
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRSRRT STD
US POST PAID
ANG PERMIT NO. 394
TUCSON, AZ

Arizona Guard, Arizona Softball team up for 2009 season poster



The University of Arizona Softball Team visited the 162nd Fighter Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard Jan. 27 to take photographs for the team's 2009 season poster. All 19 athletes visited the flightline at Tucson International Airport for a sunrise portrait with an F-16 Fighting Falcon. According to University officials, the posters will be printed in March and will be available free of charge at the Athletic Department offices at McKale Memorial Center.



Tech. Sgt. Dave Marquez, Master Sgt. John Lambert, Tech. Sgt. Rick Bain, Master Sgt. Jay Good, Tech. Sgt. Jeff Maeser and Capt. Larry Henry take a photograph with UofA Softball Coach Mike Candrea. Coach Candrea was the U.S. Olympic Softball coach in 2004 and 2008, and he led teams to eight NCAA championships during his coaching career.

Photos by
Master Sgt. Dave Neve