



EL TIGRE NEWS



APRIL 2009

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

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Elliott

New 162nd commander takes the helm

Col. Greg Stroud, right, assumes command of the 162nd Fighter Wing with a symbolic passing of the flag from Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, Arizona Air National Guard commander, March 7. Colonel Stroud, an F-16 pilot by trade, is the former 162nd Maintenance Group commander and has served in the wing since 1988 at all levels of command.

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El Tigre to go quarterly

Modernizing the way we think about base news

by Col. Greg Stroud
Commander

It's been said, "Change is coming." Now, change is here. *El Tigre News* will convert from a monthly publication to a quarterly publication this year.

We will publish *El Tigre* as a monthly publication through June, and starting in September readers will see the "Fall 2009" edition; the first quarterly version of the base newsletter.

The Air Force and Air National Guard are leading us all down a road to ween us from printed newspapers and newsletters, an 18th Century innovation, in exchange for a modern approach to communication, Web sites and videos.

New regulations will soon prohibit wings from funding base newspapers. Across the Air Force, manning in public affairs has been cut by 33 percent since 2006. Over recent years here at the wing, public affairs and multimedia staff has dropped from seven full-time personnel down to two.

For these reasons, unit-funded publications are being discontinued around the world, and the frequency of *El Tigre* needs to be reduced.

Here at the 162nd, we have a



Colonel Stroud

unique audience of supportive retirees and community members. Therefore, I have decided to keep *El Tigre* going on a quarterly basis which will serve as a digest of news and articles to keep them connected and informed. In addition, the retirees' office will continue to produce the *Retirees' Newsletter*.

For timely news, the 162nd Fighter Wing public Web site at www.162fw.ang.af.mil will be our resource.

I know this is a big change for some. It's only natural to think the wing commander's primary communication tool is strictly the base

newsletter. After all, *El Tigre News* has been the most visible communication product at the wing for decades.

Each month public affairs assembles the newsletter on my behalf to communicate to you the latest news, information and guidance as well as mission features and people profiles to highlight your achievements and contributions. And they've always done an outstanding job.

However, the problems with newsletters today are many. Space is limited. The news is nearly a month old by the time *El Tigre* reaches your mailbox. Bulk mail can be unreliable causing you to miss the newsletter or receive it after drill. And the cost of printing and mailing needs to draw down in light of new budget challenges.

Twelve issues of *El Tigre* costs the wing about \$33,600 per year. A quarterly publication will save us about \$19,000. In today's financial situation, every dollar counts.

Today's Guard calls for new communication methods. I, as well as other base leaders, need to communicate to you more than once a month. The pace of current operations, the size of our full- and part-time force, and the speed of communication in the information age demand it.

The answer is online. You are all familiar with the wing's public Web site, but I want to encourage each of you to become more than "familiar" with it. It's my hope that you begin a habit of checking the Web site at least once or twice per week.

To be clear, this site is my new primary communication tool.

EL TIGRE NEWS

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162nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
1650 E Perimeter Way, Tucson, AZ 85706
(520) 295-6192, 162fw.pa@aztucs.ang.af.mil

162ND FW EDITORIAL STAFF

Commander..... Col. Gregory N. Stroud
Chief of Public Affairs..... Capt. Gabe Johnson
Deputy Public Affairs Chief..... Capt. Dan Dodson
NCOIC Public Affairs..Staff Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Staff Writer Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones
PhotographerMaster Sgt. David Neve
Photographer Staff Sgt. Sarah Elliott



Having launched about one year ago, our public Web site isn't exactly new to the wing. The word "new" refers to my heightened commitment to this medium and my hope that wing members, retirees, families and Tucson community members will come to rely on the site for virtually all wing-related news and information.

The site contains everything found in *El Tigre News*, and more. In addition to news and feature articles, users can find the weekend lunch menu, fact sheets, videos, photos, graphics, scholarship information, events and links to other helpful resources. In fact, you'll even find this article on the site in the "Commentaries" section of the home page.

It's the default home page on all base workstations making it easy to check at work.

It's a public site that anyone can view at home, so there is no need for passwords or common access cards,



and it's simple to add the site to your "favorites" menu at home. I strongly recommend this especially to all of our drill status Guardsmen who are, in a sense, "disconnected" from the wing between drills.

Best of all, as an Air Force-funded program, it's free for the wing.

Remember when e-mail was a new concept to the unit? It wasn't exactly welcomed with open arms at the time, but today it's hard to imagine a workplace without it. That was a

cultural change that illustrates the change we need to make when thinking about keeping up on wing news and events.

Before you send out another base-wide e-mail, ask yourself, "Should this be posted to the Web site instead?"

Before you submit news to PA for publication in *El Tigre*, think about submitting it for the Web site.

When your drill status Guardsmen report to drill ask them if they saw the notice about the golf tournament scheduled for May 4. If they don't use the site they may start because as a supervisor, you have shown them that it's important to you.

This is how I propose we begin to change our culture of communication across the 162nd.

The public affairs staff is available to answer any questions you may have. They can be reached at 295-6192, or 162fw.pa@aztucs.af.mil.

2009
162nd FW Annual Picnic

Fun Stuff!

- Sno-Cones
- Jumping Castles, Slides
- Obstacle Course, Joust
- Horseshoes
- Kiddy Train
- Clowns, Balloons,
- & Face Painting
- Cotton Candy Machine
- Volleyball
- Homerun Derby

Please bring your own camera and sporting equipment (Softball Fields available)

Sunday, 5 April 2009

Udall Park

1200-1800

Ramadas 4-9 reserved

Join the Fun!

Must present Admittance coupon for lunch \$3.00 Per Person

**Vegetarian Plate Available*

Beer stamp \$2.00 for the day (Served 1200 - 1700)

Tickets Purchased after 1200 on Saturday, 4 April will be \$4 for admittance

**No pets allowed!
 Individual Alcoholic Beverages not allowed!
 Lunch served from 1200-1500**

**Must be 21 to consume alcohol (ID required)
 Please drink responsibly!**

Picnic Lunch!

- Hamburgers
- Hotdogs
- Potato Salad
- Beans
- Chips
- Soda & Water
- Cake and ice cream!**





Arizona's fighter wing welcomes new commander

by Staff Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Public Affairs

The Air National Guard's premier F-16 fighter pilot-training unit welcomed a new commander during a change of command ceremony here March 7.

Col. Greg Stroud assumed command of Arizona's 162nd Fighter Wing from Brig. Gen. Patrick Moisio before wing members, family and friends assembled at the Air Guard base at Tucson International Airport. Stroud is the wing's 10th commanding officer since its inception in 1956. He is responsible for more than 1,440 Arizona Air Guardsmen.

"As I look into the audience I see many people who have helped me get to this point in my career. Thank you to all of you," said Colonel Stroud, former maintenance group commander and 162nd member since 1988. "Our current mission will continue, and we will keep on doing business in the same outstanding way we have always done. I have every confidence in the men and women of the wing and I could not be more proud to be your commander."

Arizona Air National Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo presided over the change of command. He emphasized the wing's vital role in the Guard and expressed confidence in Colonel Stroud's ability to lead the wing.

"Colonel Stroud could not be more ready. He wants to be successful and he cares about the men and women of the wing. He is the right person, and most motivated, to continue General Moisio's legacy," said General Colangelo. "We wish you and [your wife] Pennie the best of luck."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Elliott

Tech. Sgt. David Marquez, removes Brig. Gen. Rick Moisio's name from the "Wing King" aircraft to reveal Col. Greg Stroud's name; symbolizing the change of command.

A 'Two Star' Farewell...

General Moisio served as the commander of the 162nd since November 2004. The audience cheered and applauded at length at the surprise announcement that he will be the next deputy director of the Air National Guard; a position that carries with it a promotion to major general.

"I would like to publicly thank General Moisio for a wonderful job at the wing. Everyone who knows him knows that everything above and beyond outstanding is his normal way of doing business," said General Colangelo.

General Moisio considered it an honor to have his promotion ceremony at the 162nd, but that the greatest honor of his life was to have led the 162nd.

"This is a great wing. It's comprised of really great people. Thank you to the men and women of the wing. The excellent performance and enthusiasm you have exhibited everyday is what has made this wing

a great place," said General Moisio.

"Colonel Stroud is going to be a great commander. The continuity, knowledge and experience of the command are what make a great commander and he is going to be the best," he said.

Immediately after the change of command, General Moisio received his second star from Maj. Gen. Hugo Salazar, the Arizona Adjutant General.

"This wing has done extraordinary things under his leadership. He will continue to do great things not only for the Air National Guard, but for the state of Arizona as well," said General Salazar.

General Moisio and his wife Mary will immediately proceed to Arlington, Va. He succeeds Brig. Gen. Stanley Clarke III, who took a position as the military assistant to the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, strategic plans and programs. Moisio's new post was effective March 6.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

by Master Sgt. Holly Gwaltney
162nd Fighter Wing
Sexual Assault
Response Coordinator

Nationally, April is observed as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) as a way to raise awareness and promote prevention of sexual violence through special events and public education.

SAAM creates an opportunity to highlight the Department of Defense (DoD) and Service policies addressing sexual assault prevention and response.

The DoD theme for SAAM 2009 is "Our Strength is for Defending." It's intended to highlight the fact that our mission not only involves national defense, but the defense and safety of the Americans who voluntarily risk their lives in our defense.

Every servicemember, starting with senior leadership, must understand the importance of safely intervening and preventing the crime of sexual assault. Service members have to safely intervene when they identify behaviors that may lead to sexual assault.

Sexual assault degrades mission readiness and is fundamentally at odds with the responsibility of the men and women in uniform to treat all people with dignity and respect.

There will be a series of posters for each military service that illustrate real-life situations that encourage everyone to make helpful decisions.

Also in April, the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault is sponsoring its annual Dine Out for Safety event April 29. Dine Out for Safety is the center's

OUR STRENGTH IS FOR DEFENDING.

PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IS PART OF OUR DUTY.

162nd FW SARC
(520) 295-6568/295-6102
24-Hour Contact (520) 516-7676
(520) 516-8802

MyDuty.mil

READINESS = RESPECT

signature community outreach and fundraising event. It unites local restaurants, businesses, organizations and individuals in a unique and fun community-wide experience.

Participating restaurants will generously donate up to 20 percent of their day's proceeds to support the center's mission. These restaurants will be staffed by community hosts, including community leaders and local celebrities, Pan-Hellenic organizations, college athletes, center staff, board members and volunteers.

In 1997, the center partnered with a single restaurant in its first Dine Out for Safety. This event raised \$12,000. In 2008, Dine Out for Safety included 32 locally-owned restaurants and cleared more than \$75,000 – all of which went directly

toward providing services to survivors of sexual assault and their families.

Some participating restaurants this year include: Blanco, Barrio, Bluefin, Chad's Steakhouse, Feast, Frog & Firkin, Kingfisher, Magpies (six locations), Roma Café, Wildflower and Zona 78. For a complete listing or more information contact 327-1171 or visit dineoutforsafety.com.

In upcoming months the 162nd Fighter Wing will begin offering the next phase of annual training. Information will be sent out to base members.

Members are encouraged to learn more about the issue of sexual assault and what you can do to prevent it. Visit www.sapr.mil or www.nsvrc.org/saam.



Recruiters exceed goals, bring home the gold

by Capt. Dan Dodson
Public Affairs

Imagine trying to convince someone to join the military in wartime when potential recruits know their next summer vacation could very well be in Afghanistan.

Recruiters at the 162nd Fighter Wing make it look easy. They recruited an astonishing 197 Airmen last year.

Master Sergeants Teresa Denogean, Brian Jones, Jeff Schultz and Johnny Martinez exceeded their recruiting goals in 2008 and all four are currently wearing the prestigious Recruiters Gold Badge.

“We achieved this because of the support we received from all areas on base,” said Sergeant Denogean, recruiting office supervisor.

The badge is awarded to recruiters who exceed their goal for the year with 125 percent or more. Only 180 recruiters nation-wide are wearing the badge today and they are the top 25 percent of the 700 in service.

The 162nd Fighter Wing Recruiting Office was the only recruiting office to have each recruiter surpass their goal by such a wide margin. “It is because we work so well together, we have a great team,” said Sergeant Jones.

The team includes retired Senior Master Sgt. Ira Zarin.

He works at the office full time. “Ira is amazing; he does a little bit of everything. Having him around also frees us up to do more,” said Sergeant Denogean. In the past, the recruiters would have to close the office when they were at events. Now with Zarin in the office, they are able to reach more potential recruits.

Who are the wing’s newest Airmen? Prior service accounts for 76 percent. “With all



Photo by Capt. Gabe Johnson

Master Sgt. Johnny Martinez, Air Guard recruiter, gives a base tour to potential recruits. The base tour is one of many tactics recruiters use to generate interest in joining the 162nd Fighter Wing.

the deployments going on, a lot of active duty personnel are working with Guard folks in theater, and they learn about the beauty of the Guard,” said Sergeant Martinez.

“These folks enjoy the military, but the stability of the Guard seems to be more conducive to raising families,” said Sergeant Schultz.

The other 24 percent are non-prior military. “We receive a lot of referrals from current unit members, and the Guard Recruiter Assistance Program has helped us be successful,” said Sergeant Jones. The program pays \$2,000 to unit members who bring an enlistment to the Guard.

“It was a good year for the Air National Guard, and it was an outstanding year for us,” said Sergeant Denogean. They filled many mission critical positions; 33 crew chiefs, 15 weather personnel, 14 intelligence positions, 13 aerospace ground equipment positions and 12 security forces vacancies to highlight a few.

“We have an incredible staff. They should all feel very proud,” said Sergeant Denogean.





'Bring a Buddy' builds a recruiting foundation for 162nd

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

Friends and family of 162nd Fighter Wing members participated in a 'no pressure' recruiting event here March 7; the second annual "Bring a Buddy to Drill."

The event, organized by the wing recruiting office, gave 35 visitors the chance to see a day in the life of Arizona Air Guardsmen. Each "buddy," invited by a friend or relative in the unit, got in-depth tours of the hush house, the aerospace ground equipment shop, the aircraft hangars, the engine shop, avionics, and operations. They also ate a lunch in the award-winning Desert Rose Dining Facility.

"This year the word was out there and we had a lot of participation," said Master Sgt. Johnny Martinez, Bring a Buddy to Drill project manager.

"The Guard Recruiters Assistance Program (GRAP) participation was good. We also have a large student flight and they brought a lot of people to drill as well."

In 2008, its inaugural year, Bring a Buddy yielded four enlistments; each a non-prior service recruit.



Photo by Capt. Gabe Johnson

"Bring a Buddy to Drill" participants stand in awe before an F-16 jet engine in the hush house prior to an engine test demonstration, March 7. The success of the recruiting event hinges on wing members inviting friends and family to see what the Guard is like.

"Our best voices are people that are in the unit," said Sergeant Martinez. "They're the ones who go back to their schools or work sites, or they have kids who are looking for opportunities, and they bring in potential recruits. GRAP also provides them an incentive to bring people to the Guard. They get \$2,000 per enlistment and \$4,000 for officer accessions."

Across the Air National Guard, GRAP proves to be an effective program for recruiting, however,

caliber people we have here in our wing, and of the new people brought into it," he said.

Eric Bette, a student flight trainee, enlisted in the Guard in August 2008. He's attended every drill since then and thinks so highly of his experience that he brought four people to the event.

"My brother and sister are looking for educational benefits," said Bette. "My friend Benny works for the railroad and I think he's concerned about the economy so he's looking into the military. And my other friend is here to just learn more about the wing."

Bette will work in aerospace propulsion after he completes basic training and technical school. "It's actually this hush house that made me want to go into that field," he said. "I was really impressed and I liked the people in that shop."

"I love the military, how supportive everyone is, and I think that's how I got so many people to come to Bring a Buddy to Drill. I'm always talking about how much I like it."

"I love the military... and I think that's how I got so many people to come to Bring a Buddy to Drill. I'm always talking about how much I like it."

**-Eric Bette
Student flight trainee**

According to recruiters the true impact of the program takes years to assess because participants may come back much later or tell other friends who end up joining.

recruiters only enlist about 10 percent of the people who attempt to join due to the Guard's high standards.

"It's an indication of the high



AZANG star performers shine at OAY banquet



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Elliott

(From left) Airman of the Year, Senior Airman Jared Sawyer; Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Robin Lafferty; Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Master Sgt. Jesse Bautista; Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year, Senior Master Sgt. Barbara Alexander; Outstanding Honor Guard Member of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Michael Brizuela; Major General Donald L. Owens Junior Officer of the Year Award, Capt. Austin Moore; and Command Chief Master Sergeant Award, Tech. Sgt. Jason Handa.

by Staff Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Public Affairs

The Arizona Air National Guard gathered under the evening sky to celebrate its star performers at the Outstanding Airman of the Year Banquet held here March 7, at the Westin La Paloma Resort.

The OAY banquet is an annual celebration honoring the best of the best in the Arizona Air National Guard. Supervisors nominate Airmen based on criteria focusing on the Airman's exceptional service in the military and community.

Out of 17 nominees, only seven Airmen took home the honors in their respective categories for 2009.

The 2009 Arizona Airmen of the Year are:

Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Jared Sawyer, assigned to the 107th Air Control Squadron.

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Robin Lafferty, assigned to Detachment 2, Joint Force

Headquarters, Arizona Air National Guard.

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Master Sgt. Jesse Bautista, assigned to the 107th Air Control Squadron.

Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. Barbara Alexander, assigned to the 161st Air Refueling Wing.

Outstanding Honor Guard Member of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Michael Brizuela, assigned to the 162nd Fighter Wing.

Command Chief Master Sergeant Award: Tech. Sgt. Jason Handa, assigned to the 162nd Fighter Wing.

Major General Donald L. Owens Junior Officer of the Year Award: Capt. Austin Moore, assigned to the 214th Reconnaissance Group.

Chief Master Sgt. Jonathan Rosa of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, Kentucky Air National Guard, was the guest speaker. The highly-decorated combat controller recalled his account of experiences as an Airman post Sept. 11, and the future of the Air Guard as forward deployers.



“The work of our Air Force never ends,” he said. “Our Airmen are serving in more than 120 countries world-wide and the legacy of your service inspires them to answer the call of duty. The eyes of the world are upon you. At the end of everyday you will know that you have faithfully done your duty and that you will always bring the high standards of the United States Air Force. On behalf of the nation, I congratulate each of you on the awards you’ve earned and to the credit you bring to the Air Guard and the Air Force.”

Maj. Gen. Hugo Salazar, Adjutant General for the state of Arizona, thanked the winners on stage, their family members, coworkers and supervisors for their contributions in supporting the annual award winners.

“It’s always nice to see the reactions of the family and friends of the winners. I want to thank each of them for supporting these individuals. Congratulations to each of the winners as well on your well deserved recognition,” said General Salazar.

Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, Arizona Air National Guard commander, also congratulated the winners and expressed pride in the Guardsmen.

“What a great evening for the Arizona Air National Guard. It has been tremendous. We have some of the

most professional, highly trained and highly motivated Airmen in the world,” he said.

In addition to trophies, all award winners were presented with mementos, gift certificates and coins.

“This has been a ‘re-blueing’ experience for me,” said Airman of the Year winner, Senior Airman Jared Sawyer. “I’m proud to be surrounded by my family and supervisors. I’m especially proud to be part of the Air Force.”

“This has been overwhelming. There is so much good competition out there. I attribute this achievement to the support of my family and the people I work with. Winning this award is not about us here today, it’s about the Airmen who will lead us tomorrow. They are our future,” said First Sergeant of the Year winner, Senior Master Sgt. Barbara Alexander.

The Arizona OAY winners will now compete against other states’ outstanding personnel for the honor of being named one of the Air National Guard’s 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

The Air Force’s Airman of the Year program was initiated at the Air Force Association’s conference of 1956. The Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, a general officer and selected MAJCOM command chiefs form the selection board.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Elliott

Tech. Sgt. Michael Brizuela, Arizona’s Outstanding Honor Guard Member of the Year from the 162nd Fighter Wing, salutes Maj. Gen. Hugo Salazar, Arizona Adjutant General at the Arizona Air National Guard’s Outstanding Airman of the Year banquet March 7.



Chaplain's Corner

Meet the new Vice Wing Commander

Easter People

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



Chaplain
(Lt. Col.)
Bob Norton

Earl finished final exams at Princeton, and he and three of his classmates piled into a car to return home to the West Coast. They drove straight through, taking turns driving.

At 3 a.m. in Iowa, the driver passed a gas station, realized he needed to fill-up, and did a U-turn. After filling the tank, he woke Earl up and told him to drive. He failed to tell Earl that he'd done a U-turn and was now headed east.

For three hours, Earl drove east, instead of west. When a bus passed with the destination sign, "Las Vegas," Earl thought: "They really should change those signs more often." He was too tired to notice all the highway signs were telling him he was headed east. It was only when the sun started to rise that he realized his error. That was too big of a sign to ignore!

Christians believe that Jesus, God's Son, rose from the grave. We believe, as in Earl's experience, that's too big of a sign to ignore! One writer described the relevance of the Resurrection with this parable.

Some grub worms in the swamp often discussed what life was like above them, and if any thing existed beyond what they knew. They agreed that if one ever found something different, they would return to tell the others.

One day, one of them had an urge within him to climb a plant stem. It led him completely out

of the water, and onto a lily pad. While sunning him-self on the lily pad, his worm body was transformed into that of a gorgeous butterfly. He began to soar above the swamp. It was unbelievable.

Then he remembered the grub worm pact - if one escaped, they would return to tell the others. But he realized they would neither recognize him nor believe him. He just hoped one day that they would find this glory, too.

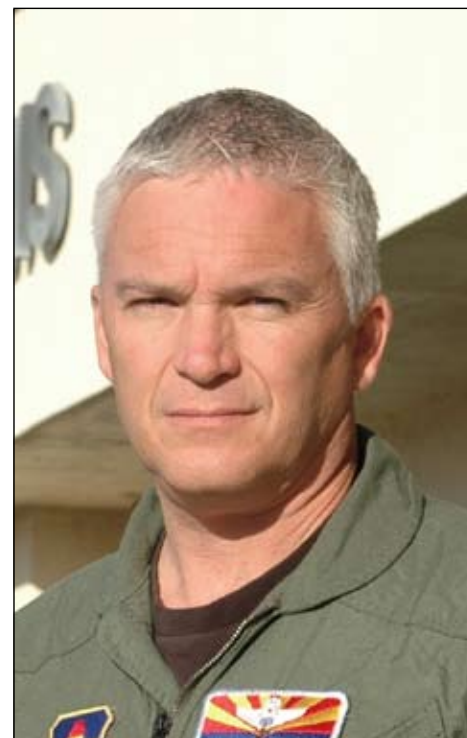
By the power of Jesus Christ who rose from the dead, Christians believe that our death is not a final exit, but an entrance into a whole new way of life. The hope transforms our lives. This is why Christians are sometimes called "Easter People."

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

Offered at the 162nd Fighter Wing, April 29-30

Don't delay in registering for the upcoming ASIST training at the 162nd.

ASIST is the best, suicide intervention training in the world today. Two days of high-level training to help people in crisis choose life. What a great way to use two of your Annual Training days! Let's work together to help create a safer environment at the 162nd. Call the Chaplain's office today at 295-6217 to register. You may be the one to save a life this year.



Lt. Col. Edward Maxwell

Previous Assignment: Maintenance Group Commander
Next Assignment: Vice Wing Commander

Organizational Goals: Continue to be the world's premier F-16 training wing and focus on our strength... our people.

Work philosophy: Do your best in all you do.

Off-duty time is for... enjoying all types of sports – playing, coaching and watching.

Life Accomplishments: Raising three great kids.





New Maintenance Group Commander



Lt. Col. James Taylor

Previous Assignment:
OSF Commander

Next Assignment:
Maintenance Group
Commander

**Organizational
goals:** Make certain
we continue to do
quality maintenance
in compliance with
instructions, continue to

take care of the people and ensure they know we care about them. We will do what we can and by doing so improve our total maintenance production.

Off-duty time is for... my three daughters – keeping up with their activities of swimming and jumping on trampolines.

New HQ Squadron Commander



Lt. Col. Doug Slocum

Previous Assignment:
Wing Chief of Safety

Next Assignment:
Headquarters Squadron
Commander

Work Philosophy: Family
first - both at home and
at work. Our strong
foundation in people is
what makes the Air Guard
different.

Life Accomplishments: I've really enjoyed traveling and teaching the DoD MRM (Maintenance Resource Management) safety seminars. It's made a proven difference in safety across the USAF and ANG - and it's been great meeting so many Guardsmen in the process.

Test Center discusses possibilities with Air Mobility Commander



Photos by Capt. Gabe Johnson

Col. Dan Bader, Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Test Center (AATC) commander, gives Gen. Arthur J. Lichte, commander of Air Mobility Command (AMC), a tour of the AATC facility on base March 11. In keeping with Air Force-wide transformation initiatives, AATC is expanding its testing mission to several areas to include intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, space and Air Force mobility missions. The meeting with the mobility commander was a perfect opportunity to discuss future testing projects for AATC; an AMC-approved test enterprise.



Arizona Air Guard helps students learn about the Holocaust

Story and photo
by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones
Public Affairs

“It’s the ghetto. That’s just how it is here.”

These words, or some variant thereof, are heard regularly by Americans. They are a statement of apathy, complacency and despair.

But for more than 250 high school students gathered in the 162nd Fighter Wing’s Desert Rose Dining Facility here March 17, the word “ghetto” was a rallying cry of a time now long in our past that must not be forgotten – it must not be repeated.

“You are going to be getting a gift and a burden,” said Dr. Gail Wallen, teacher, historian and clinically certified hospice chaplain. “The gift is their story; the burden is how you will handle it. You will be the last generation to hear their story,” she told students as she talked about seven Holocaust survivors who came to the Guard base at Tucson International Airport to tell their stories.

The students separated into small groups, each to hear the story of the Holocaust, not from a historian or a teacher reading a textbook, but eyewitness accounts from survivors who had actually been there.

“I am an only child,” started Klara Swimmer, an 84-year-old Holocaust survivor. “I am Hungarian. My father was taken to a slave labor camp when I was 18 – I never saw him again.”

They were taken to the ghettos where she lived for a short time, she said.

It was during this period of time in the early 1940’s that the term Jüdischer Wohnbezirk, or Jewish “ghetto,” was first defined. It was located in the poorest neighborhood, surrounded by a wall, crowded, dark and damp with epidemics of typhoid



Klara Swimmer, an 84-year-old Holocaust survivor, tells her story to a group of Tucson area high school students during the 162nd Fighter Wing’s Holocaust Remembrance event here, March 17.

and other diseases.

“We were told we had to go to the railroad station,” Swimmer recalled. Tears filled her eyes as she described the cattle cars that she and her Jewish neighbors were forced into. The cars were locked, and they traveled for three days from Hungary without any food. During the trip people died; those in the cars couldn’t get away from the bodies.

“When they opened the cars the whole place was dark except for flames in the distance. The German’s yelled ‘Get out! Get out!’,” said Swimmer.

“We were separated; those who were healthy went in one direction, the rest went in another,” Swimmer said, recalling with pain how she and her mother had been sent in different directions. Babies, the sick and the elderly were all sent in the same direction as her mother; sent to die by gas poisoning. The other group was tagged.

“I was not engraved because they were already losing the war; they needed the ink. My number was 25,480,” more than 60 years later Swimmer still recalled the number from her tag.

“What would you have done if

you had been in my place?” she asked. “If I would have been smart enough and taken my mother to the border...” her voice trailed off.

Later, Swimmer and 300 women were shipped to a factory where they made hand grenades. They were fed a slice of bread and black water, called coffee, in the morning and a bowl of soup at night. Often people would try to be at the end of the lines because the meat in the soup came from rats.

“May 8, 1944, I had fallen sick and the next morning Allied soldiers rescued us. I was taken to a field hospital and I was given two injections of penicillin by American doctors,” she said.

She then turned her attention to Guardsmen attending the event.

“We are so grateful to them [the Guard] and what they are doing for us,” Swimmer said, grateful to the men and women in uniform who protect her freedom today. She named the service branches in turn, thanking each one. “You are so lucky to be born here and I am so grateful to be a citizen,” she told the students.

“In my story, I have a message of freedom – a message of combating injustice,” said Swimmer.



Enlisted Association offers scholarships

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Arizona (EANGA) recently announced open season on four scholarship programs for Arizona Air National Guard members and dependents.

"We would like to encourage increased participation in these scholarship programs," said Chief Master Sgt. Dean Miller, EANGA board member. "These scholarships offer great opportunities for our Airmen and their families, and they represent the association's commitment to developing the Guard's future leaders."

Scholarship applications and eligibility criteria may be downloaded from 162fw.ang.af.mil/resources or eanga.org. Completed packets must be post-marked no later than June 1, or hand-carried to the EANGA President at the Enlisted

Association National Guard of Arizona, 5636 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, Ariz. 85008-3495.

The Command Sgt. Maj. Virgil R. Williams Memorial Scholarship awards two \$2,000 scholarships annually.

The Chief Master Sgt. Gerald R. Guild Memorial Scholarship offers two, \$500 scholarships annually.

Through EANGA, USAA is offering one \$500 scholarship this year.

Additionally, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Auxiliary Scholarship also sponsors an annual scholarship program and awards scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,250.

Questions may be referred to Sgt. Maj. Michael Sojourner, EANGA president, at (602) 267-2467.

NGAAZ, EANGA Annual Conference May 29-30

Mark your calendars for the 60th annual combined National Guard Association of Arizona and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Arizona state conference.

It will be held in Tucson May 29-30 at the Westin La Paloma Resort. Friday begins with a golf tournament and culminates with a professionally run, country-themed casino night and buffet. There will be prizes for casino winners!

Saturday begins with the business session and will culminate with the greatest enlisted honor bestowed upon Maj. Gen. (retired) Ratacazack, the "Order of the Sword."

Register for the conference at <http://ngaaz.org> and make your hotel reservations early to lock into our significantly discounted rates.

If interested in volunteering for this event, please email dean.miller@aztucs.ang.af.mil.

"What are the steps for Operational Risk Management?"

1. Identify Hazards
2. Assess Risks
3. Analyze Controls
4. Make Control Decisions
5. Implement Risk Controls
6. Supervise & Review



A message from 162MXG

Tig Bits

Golf Tournament

The 162nd Fighter Wing Softball Team is hosting the 4th Annual Golf Tournament May 4 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to raise funds in support of the team's participation in this year's Air National Guard Softball Tournament in Sioux Falls, S.D., Aug. 12-16. Call the tournament organizer at 295-6356 to sign up.

April Blood Drive

Give the "Gift of Life." The next 162nd Fighter Wing Blood Drive will be held here Saturday, April 4, with registration at building 15 (TAGRA), from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please bring a picture ID. Contact the wing's blood drive coordinator, at 295-6652 to make your appointment to save a life. For more information visit <http://www.givebloodgivelife.org/donors/>.

Update CEI

Updated civilian employment information (CEI) provides Defense officials visibility of who can be called up for active military duty without jeopardizing the civilian forces responsible for safeguarding our country. Airmen now can access the OSD Guard-Reserve Portal to update their CEI when they log into the vPC-GR Dashboard. Beginning 60 days before their birthday, a pop-up reminder will appear when Ready Reserve Airmen log on to the Dashboard. All ANG and Reserve Airmen, with the exception of Active Guard Reserve members and retirees, are required to complete this annual requirement.



Retiree Info – Do you remember FEGLI?

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

When we talk about retirement benefits it's usually military benefits we address, however, this month we direct our attention to our former federal employees, or air technicians.

While working, many air techs were signed up for life insurance under Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI). This insurance consisted of a basic life policy with the amount based on salary and there were several options that would increase the amount of insurance available to you and also to family members.

Upon retirement several paths were available that allowed individuals to:

1. Let the insurance lapse on

retiring.

2. Convert it to a permanent life insurance policy.

3. Continue the insurance into retirement.

Depending on when you retired, there were also different options available if choosing to continue insurance into retirement.

Do you know if you have FEGLI insurance, and if so, how much? If not, answers are easy to get. Your policy information is readily available from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) which handles all data on retired federal employees. For details on your FEGLI insurance, as well as other information regarding your civil service retirement benefits, call OPM and talk to a representative. You will need your CSA number or social security number when calling. The number for OPM is 1-888-767-6738.

This phone line is normally busy so

the best times to call are mid-week, early morning or late afternoon, Eastern Time.

It is to your advantage to ensure that you, and your spouse/survivors, are fully aware of all of the retirement benefits you have earned and have coming to you. If you are not aware of the current status of your complete retirement package, call OPM today!

Don't forget, the Retirees Luncheon is almost here. It will be held on Wednesday, April 8, at 11 p.m., at the HomeTown Buffet on Wilmot Road. Come and share a lunch with old friends and coworkers!

Another upcoming retiree's event is the White Mountain Picnic. It will be held Thursday, June 18, at Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area from 3 to 7 p.m. It's not too early to think about putting this annual event on your calendar.

All in the EL TIGRE Family

Military Promotions:

To Master Sergeant

Daniel Larrivas
Joseph Duyck
Jason Handa
Hollie Hansen
Robert Labonte
Daniel Barry

To Tech. Sergeant

Alvin Conde
Michael Royval
Abraham Pena
Leon Woodward
Philip Giarraputo
Jeremy Gundlach

To Staff Sergeant

Sarah Elliott
Jeffery Shea
Brendan Roe
Scott Coffey
Shawn Bell
David Smith

Academy of Military Science:

McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.

James Barnet, Angela Walz, Jason Gutierrez and Byron Kooima are attending AMS March 16 - April 24 to earn commissions in the Air National Guard.

Retirements:

Chief Master Sgt. Ralph Delgado, Anti-terrorism Office
Senior Master Sgt. Dale Clark, Mission Support



Validating early retired pay

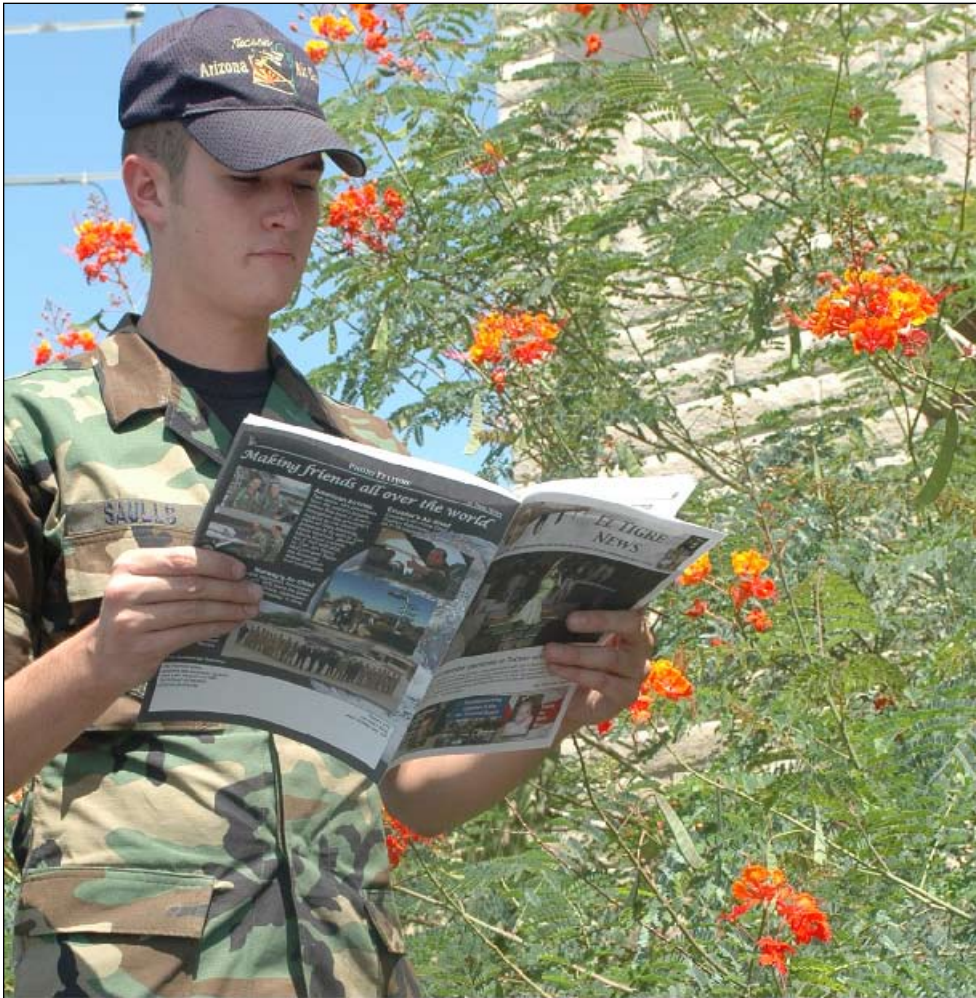
Air Reserve Personnel Center officials are finalizing procedures for validating the receipt of retired pay before Citizen Airmen turn 60 years old.

Since Jan. 28, 2008, Guard and Reserve Airmen can reduce the age they receive retirement pay by three months for each aggregate of 90-day period of qualifying active duty served in any fiscal year, but they cannot receive retired pay before age 50. Specific details are available online.

ARPC officials are working with counterparts at the Air Force Personnel Center to add a field into the Military Personnel Data System so Citizen Airmen can see their estimated retired pay date.

So far, six people are already eligible to receive their retired pay before they turned 60. Information in MilPDS indicates more than 250 Citizen Airmen who are awaiting pay at age 60 may already be eligible for reduced pay age, ARPC officials said. After reviewing these records, ARPC retirement technicians will contact those who are eligible.

For more information, call 800-525-0102 or visit www.arpc.afrc.af.mil.



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

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

Jimmy Jet Breakfast

April Drill

6 a.m. Saturday, April 4

6 a.m. Sunday, April 5

Breakfast Burritos

Coffee & Juice

At Buiding 15 (TAGRA)



\$3

DESERT ROSE DINING FACILITY MENU

Cost for AGRs & Officers \$4.25

SATURDAY

- Turkey Tetrazini
- Roast Beef
- Oven Browned Potatoes
- Steamed Rice
- Brown Gravy
- Green Beans
- Cauliflower Au gratin
- Steamed Carrots
- Cheese Cake

SUNDAY

- Wing Picnic
- Udall Park, 12 to 6 p.m.
- NO BREAKFAST OR LUNCH MEAL WILL BE SERVED.
- MISSION ESSENTIAL MEMBERS THAT MUST REMAIN ON BASE CAN REQUEST MEALS BY SECTION THRU SERVICES FLIGHT AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE UTA.

SHORT ORDER & STANDARD ITEMS

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

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

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

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

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

A.S.P.I.R.E. Wellness Fare teaches wing members several ways to stay healthy



(Left to right) Master Sgt. Steven Monks, Master Sgt. Tricia Switzer-Monks and Senior Master Sgt. Sandra Ahern learn yoga meditation during the fare. A.S.P.I.R.E. creator, Maj. Windy Hendrick (far right), monitors the class progress.



Guardsmen learn to relax and relieve stress with a chair massage.



Capt. Israel Camacho practices front kicks during the self-defense portion of the Wellness Fare held on base Feb. 20.



Master Sgt. Holly Gwaltney learns how to repel a knife attack from Krav Maga instructor Albert Garcia.

Photos by Capt. Gabe Johnson

