



# EL TIGRE

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



FALL 2009

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## EL TIGRE

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# Pass on what you know, find out the things you don't

by Col. Greg Stroud  
Commander

Who is your mentor? Who is your protégé?

I would like all wing members to be able to answer those questions and be able to say in all honesty that they foster those relationships. The future growth and leadership of this wing depends on it.

Our next generation of supervisors, chiefs and commanders is already here. They're out there maintaining aircraft, securing the base, managing programs and making the mission happen. Through mentorship we can ensure they are ready for the tasks that lie ahead.

Long before "developing Airmen" became an Air Force core competency, the 162nd Fighter Wing had a great tradition of leadership. It happens here every day. Commanders are communicating a vision for their units, supervisors are teaching new skills to their juniors and young people are speaking up and asking good questions to better themselves and the unit.

But I am talking about mentorship; deliberate and voluntary relationships that are broad in scope and not narrowly focused on a new skill or a means to get promoted.

Mentorship provides leadership, career and personal development for our Airmen, and it gives leaders an opportunity to pass on principles, traditions, shared values and lessons learned.

Every member of the 162nd Fighter Wing is encouraged to participate in the wing's mentor program, whether formally or informally, and take advantage of any and all resources available.

Recently the program has been revived; and, after receiving input



Colonel Stroud

from commanders, the command chief, first sergeants and participants, changes were made to improve access to program information and resources.

First, each squadron now has an assigned mentor coordinator. The mentor coordinator is available to advise and guide fellow unit members through the mentor program.

Second, a "Mentor Program Resources" corner is now located on the wing's public Web site, on the bottom left side of the "Resources" page. There you can find links to information, articles and forms including the *Mentor 101* pamphlet, the *Mentor Program Participation Request* form and a listing of squadron mentor coordinators.

Lastly, quarterly mentor "Meet and Greet" luncheons are being organized by squadron mentor coordinators. These luncheons will give the coordinators an opportunity to share ideas, training information and resources for the benefit of squadron leadership, mentors and protégés.

Initial feedback from program participants has been emphatically positive. I promise you that being a mentor or a protégé will not feel like an additional duty. You'll feel rewarded by the experience of investing in yourself and in others.

It can be so simple.

For potential mentors – listen carefully and ask questions. Reach out to junior officers and Airmen.

Determine what your protégé's goals and objectives are. Utilize the Individual Development Plan available on the 162nd Web site.

More importantly, spend quality time with your protégé to guide them and share your experience and knowledge.

You'll be surprised at how they will come back to you for guidance when they know you are approachable and that you care.

For potential protégés – be clear about your goals. Utilize the Individual Development Plan and evaluate your strengths and weaknesses. Establish goals for improvement and be open to honest and constructive feedback. Have a desire to improve yourself and genuinely consider the advice you're given.

You too will be surprised at how much you can learn and what a mentor can offer.

Keep in mind that your mentor or protégé does not have to be your supervisor or subordinate. As long as you respect the chain of command, it could be someone from outside your shop – from outside your career field. And you don't have to be limited to just one.

I truly believe in mentoring as a leadership strategy. It will help us develop our future leaders, it will help us retain the best people, and it will give people a sense of where they fit in the wing and how what they do makes a difference.



# UAE air force participates in first Red Flag

by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

United Arab Emirates air force pilots and maintainers participated in a Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., for the first time Aug. 22 through Sept. 5.

The UAE airmen spent the previous two weeks at the Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport preparing for the advanced training exercise that exposes U.S. and partner nation air force units to challenging and realistic aerial combat scenarios.

For the Emirati pilots, the preparation in Tucson was a chance to get familiar with U.S. airspace and

reunite with their former instructors. Arizona Guardsmen have trained UAE fighter pilots for the last eight years, five years in UAE aircraft. Currently, the wing's 148th Fighter Squadron is the only squadron of UAE-owned F-16E Desert Falcons, or block 60s, in the United States.

"It was great to welcome back our friends from the UAE, some of whom we haven't seen for a while," said Col. Greg Stroud, the 162nd wing commander. "It's really rewarding for us to see how they've developed as pilots and we're proud to see them participate in their first Red Flag. It's historic for the Emiratis to go to Red Flag for the first time, and our wing gets to share the importance of this milestone since we've been training them from the beginning. They're ready."

The Emiratis took on Red Flag flying their Tucson-based fighters.

"The block 60 is similar to earlier versions of the F-16 in that it flies the same, but in terms of capabilities it's more advanced," said Lt. Col. Mick McGuire, the 148th Fighter Squadron commander.

The F-16E's most notable characteristics include conformal fuel tanks mounted on the top of its fuselage, digital color screens in the cockpit and a powerful engine to compensate for the jet's increase in weight.

"It's typically called a generation 4.5 fighter, not quite at the level of the 5th generation F-22 (Raptor) or F-35 (Joint Strike Fighter), but its avionics, thrust and fuel capacity make it a very formidable fighter," Colonel McGuire said. "They should do very well at Red Flag and return to the UAE having learned many good lessons from the experience."

Red Flag, designed to push the limits of a pilot's skill regardless of aircraft capability, will further build upon the military-to-military relationship originally fostered in Arizona.

According to Colonel Stroud, Red Flag and the basic F-16 course taught at the 162nd play important roles in making the United Arab Emirates air force as capable as it can be.

The Tucson wing currently has nine Emirati student pilots in its basic course. They will graduate after nine months as mission qualified F-16 pilots and could be among future cadres of UAE pilots to visit Red Flag in years to come.

"They're getting world-class training and, for us, it gives us the opportunity to fly a generation 4.5 F-16 and see what the future may hold for the next U.S. fighter," Colonel Stroud said.

*A United Arab Emirates F-16E Desert Falcon, block 60, takes off from Tucson International Airport while a documentary film crew captures the moment Aug. 12. Recognizing the historic significance of their first Red Flag, the UAE government commissioned a production company to follow pilots and maintainers through the experience.*

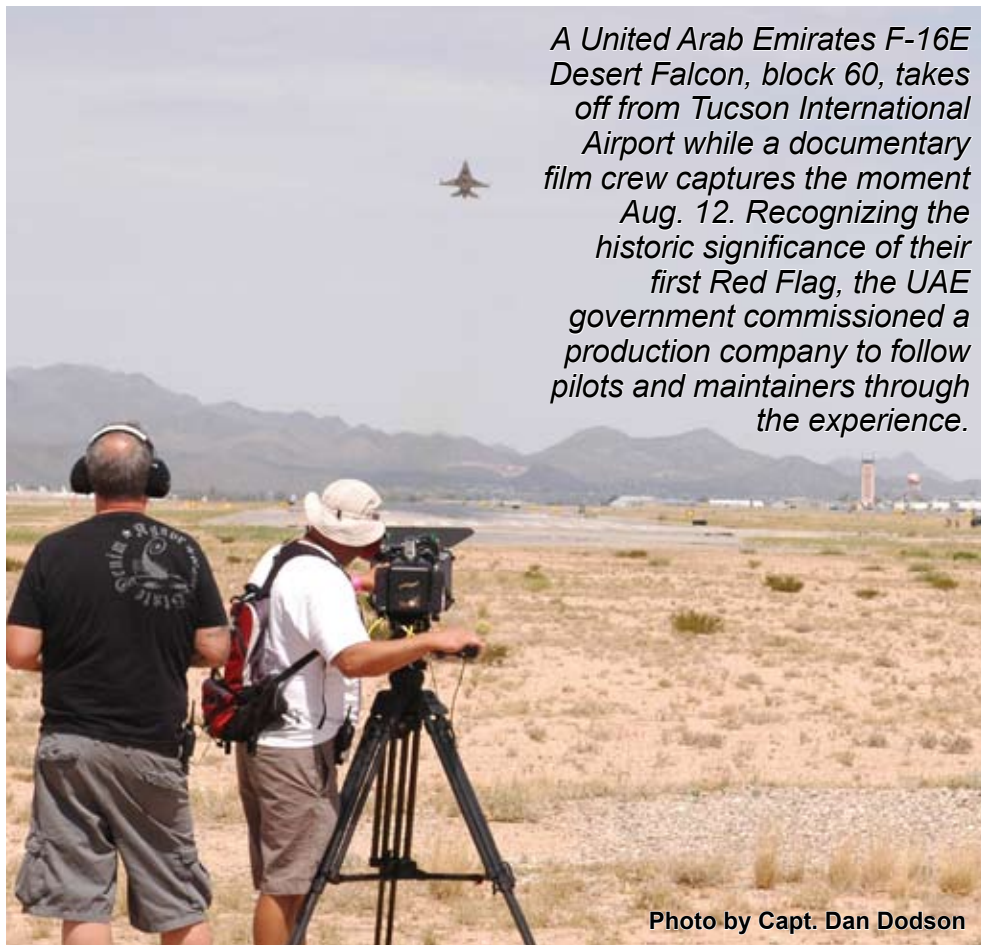


Photo by Capt. Dan Dodson





# Arizona Predator unit receives Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

by **Capt. Dan Dodson**  
Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – The Arizona Air National Guard's 214th Reconnaissance Group, an MQ-1B Predator unit that flies combat missions over Iraq and Afghanistan via satellite from Tucson, Ariz., was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award here Aug. 8.

Army Maj. Gen. Hugo E. Salazar, the Adjutant General and commanding general of the Arizona National Guard, presented the award ribbon and citation to Col. Gregg Davies, the group commander, during a ceremony before unit members and community leaders at the Mirage Club.

"When I talk to people about what this unit does, most of the time they are very surprised and amazed that we are flying combat orbits in Afghanistan and Iraq from the Tucson area. It is very impressive," said General Salazar.

U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.) also addressed the unit members in light of their achievement.

"This award will serve as a symbol of your resolve as a unit, and your contributions to victory in both Iraq and Afghanistan. This award will also serve as a reminder to those who question the need for continued air dominance that we must have in controlling the airspace over a battlefield," said Congresswoman Giffords.

More than 100 Guardsmen assigned to the 214th support or fly the medium-altitude, long-endurance, remotely-piloted aircraft to perform interdiction and conduct armed reconnaissance against critical, enemy targets.

*Army Maj. Gen. Hugo E. Salazar (left), the Adjutant General and commanding general of the Arizona National Guard, presents the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award citation to Col. Gregg Davies, 214th Reconnaissance Group commander.*

*Airman First Class Samantha Field, the most junior member of the unit, served as the guideon bearer.*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Elliott

"We are here to serve, and we are absolutely honored to help defend our troops over there in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Colonel Davies.

The unit, which formally activated July 31, 2007, earned the award for flying more than 17,000 hours to support Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. During continuous flying operations, the group supplied over 14,000 hours of video footage to commanders and troops on the ground and fired 47 Hellfire missiles to protect American servicemembers from improvised explosive devices and other insurgent activity.

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award is awarded by the Secretary of the Air Force to units which have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly

sets it apart from similar units. The award criteria includes performance of exceptionally meritorious service, accomplishment of a specific outstanding achievement of national or international significance, combat operations against an armed enemy of the U.S., or military operations involving conflict with or exposure to hostile actions by an opposing foreign force.

"We are the only Predator Guard unit that started from scratch," said Colonel Davies. "And we've had tremendous support from our host, the 355th Fighter Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, and our sister unit, the 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport. We thank them for all they've done and we wouldn't be here without them."



# UCI preparation is everyone's business

by Lt. Col. John Bobroski  
Air Force Advisor

It's time to "step it up" in preparation for the Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) coming in March 2010.

The wing deliberately started off with only higher level leadership, group commanders, taking a look at programs to identify any limiting factors or shortfalls we would have for the UCI. This started about one year out from the UCI.

About nine months out, we started to involve squadron commanders in programs.

Now at five months prior to the UCI, we expect to have flight commanders and section chiefs involved in all programs.

Self inspection checklists completed in June are only a start to ensuring we are compliant with all regulations and directives.

Some sections in the wing are still showing areas where they are not in

compliance or have not answered certain questions. We need to have responses in all checklist items in the self inspection database.

Each response should describe how you are in compliance and where the documentation is kept.

This will make it very easy for an inspector to determine if you are in compliance.

If you can easily show the inspector where documents are kept or how you do your job, the less they will dig. If you have many areas that are not in compliance or do not have answers, the inspector will dig and dig to find out how bad it is.

The self inspection database also creates continuity for anyone to do your job.

Program management (PM) will be a high emphasis item in the UCI.

We have identified wing PM points of contact. These folks will start to perform staff assistance visits on their subordinate sections to determine if the wing as a whole is compliant.

It is still the main responsibility of each subordinate section to ensure that their part is up to standards.

Everyone realizes that people have several additional duties, but it is time to bear down and ensure compliance.

Being a Guard family we tend to call each other by first names or call-signs, but we still conduct ourselves in a professional matter.

Starting now, we need to get in the habit of calling each other by rank and last name.

This is not to offend anyone, but practicing the prescribed customs and courtesies now, before the AETC IG team arrives, we can eliminate any perceptions that we do not have professional working relationships.

I have no doubt that we will earn no less than an Excellent rating in the UCI. Remember the last couple of inspection results? Our wing earned "Outstanding" ratings in both the HSI and the ESOHCAMP. Let's continue the trend and earn the first ever UCI overall "Outstanding" because we are an outstanding unit.

## Hispanic Heritage Month - a brief education

by Maj. Sandy Wilson  
Wing Equal Opportunity Office

National Hispanic Heritage Month is a time for Americans to educate themselves about the influence Hispanic culture has had on our society.

On September 17, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson designated a week in mid-September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988, President Ronald Regan extended that week to a month-long observance.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, the anniversary

of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16 and Chile on September 18. This year's theme is "Embrace the fierce urgency of now!"

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. On the 2000 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino" but many national origins make up our U.S. Hispanics/Latinos.

Hispanic and Latino Americans have made many distinguished contributions to the United States in all major fields. They have participated in the US military and in every major military conflict from the American Revolution onward, being the first to die, in some cases. As of July 2007, 43 Hispanics and Latinos had been awarded the nation's highest military distinction, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Hispanics and Latinos have not only distinguished themselves in the battlefields, but are also reaching the highest echelons of the military, serving their country in sensitive leadership positions on domestic and foreign shores.





# Preventive Health Assessment process moves online

by Master Sgt. Tracey Jorgensen  
Medical Group

The Air Force is once again leveraging technology as a means of ensuring a medically ready fighting force.

An important part of medical readiness is the Preventive Health Assessment (PHA), which every Airman must complete once a year. In the past this has involved a visit to the Medical Group (MDG) and an interview with a medical technician.

While critically important, this process has always been costly in terms of the man-hours required for both the medical technician and the Airman, especially since most interviews did not result in the need for a visit with a provider. Advances in technology are now allowing the 162nd to accomplish the same goals, but without a visit to the MDG.

Starting in November the interview will be accomplished through a secure Web site known as the Web Based Health Assessment (WebHA), which every Guardsman will be able to access from any computer with internet access - at work, at home, or even when deployed.

Medical technicians will review the web-based interview results; and if problems are identified which require medical attention, the technician will contact the member to schedule an appointment with a medical provider. This will also allow the clinic to more efficiently tailor care to the specific needs of the patient.

WebHA will replace the SF 507, Interval Medical History Form; a list of health assessment questions that all Airmen answer each year. The WebHA will be more effective than the "Yes or No" responses currently required. WebHA will measure health responses with a severity that will enable the MDG to process information more effectively. These types of measures will provide invaluable information as time progresses. In the future the MDG will be able to see how many people have had a problem in a given year that may

need to be addressed more aggressively.

The WebHA will identify areas of risk that a provider may decide requires further information or assessment. This information can be used as a population health tool to identify systemic health patterns and trends that members might have manifested.

WebHA meets the Defense Information Technology Security Certification and Accreditation Process Requirements. This means that members will need to access the Air Force Portal and fill out their WebHA from that mechanism.

Wing members will be contacted two months prior to their birth month, by the Force Health Management Office, to log onto the Air Force Portal and fill out the WebHA.

After completing the questionnaire, the patient will be notified by letter from the MDG of the requirements that need to be completed for that year.

Annual requirements will be dental and WebHA. Unit members on the Occupational Health Program will still need to complete a hearing test and, if needed, see a doctor.

HIV tests will be completed every two years.

Vision examinations will be given every two years for those who wear glasses and every five years for those who do not.

Blood pressure will be measured every five years if the member is not on any medications. The test may be administered as required by doctors if patients are on any type of blood pressure medications.

Lately, the MDG has been inundated with requests for AF 422a's, Notification of Air Force Member's Qualification Status. The MDG is requesting at least 24-48 hours after a request to get the form back. The MDG will pull records and review the last PHA and dental information. The group needs to ensure that members are not currently on an AF 469, Duty Limiting Condition Report (4T Profile) prior to completing the AF 422a.

Any questions regarding the processes at the MDG may be referred to the Force Health Management Office at 295-6300 or the front desk at 295-6172.





# Top F-16 maintainers reap **big** rewards



Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

*Tech. Sgt. Lesleigh Smith, the 162nd Maintenance Group's first-ever "Elite Performer," shows his award to his co-workers while Lt. Col. James Taylor, the group commander, applauds the achievement. Smith was picked by Colonel Taylor to receive the award from a field of six "Top Performers" recognized at the event. The plaque awarded was designed by Staff Sgt. Veronica Norzagaray of the maintenance quality assurance office.*

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**by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
and Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones**  
Public Affairs

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When a group of 800 Guardsmen maintain a fleet of 66 F-16 Fighting Falcons with an unparalleled safety record for an international training mission, there's bound to be amazing talent among the ranks.

At the latest 162nd Maintenance Group commander's call held

here July 12, Group Commander Lt. Col. James Taylor recognized this talent when he announced six maintainers as "Top Performer Award" recipients; a new quarterly award designed specifically for those who improve maintenance quality and safety.

"These people take pride in getting those sorties in the air," said Colonel Taylor, during the award ceremony. "[The Quality Assurance Office] has set up some shop visits – people are excited about what they are doing, and are

looking for ways to improve."

Each recipient represented one of the six organizations that make up the maintenance group and was nominated by their supervisors and commanders. The crowd erupted with applause and whistles as the Top Performers received their awards.

They were:

Staff Sgt. Antelmo Morales from the 148th Aircraft Maintenance Flight,

Tech. Sgt. Lesleigh Smith from





the 152nd Aircraft Maintenance Flight,

Master Sgt. Ruben Perez from the 195th Aircraft Maintenance Flight,

Staff Sgt. Eugene Sanders from the Equipment Maintenance Flight,

Staff Sgt. David Pazak from the Component Maintenance Flight and

Staff Sgt. Tim Strauss from the Alert Detachment.

Each award recipient was given a certificate of recognition and a cash award.

“This award is intended to get awareness out there and increase attentiveness to doing quality work – leaner, more efficient, and with a continuous improvement process in mind,” said 2nd Lt. James Barnett, a maintenance officer and award program manager from the maintenance Quality Assurance office.

“All maintenance personnel can qualify for this award – but the individual has to go above and beyond,” he said. “We want to increase the quality of products and morale within the maintenance group – to recognize people for taking the extra step to produce top quality work in everything they do.”

Of the six Top Performers, Colonel Taylor named Tech. Sgt. Lesleigh Smith as the “Elite Performer,” an award that carries with it an additional cash award, a plaque of recognition, eight hours time off, a personal parking space for the duration of the quarter and an invitation to be a special guest at the wing commander’s staff meeting.

The Elite Performer is hand picked by Colonel Taylor who weighs each nomination package for one that stands out among the six; quite a challenge when

so many criterions are considered for the award which is completely separate from the wing’s quarterly award program.

According to Lieutenant Barnett, the criteria for the wing’s quarterly awards program is geared toward job performance, community involvement and self improvement, whereas the “Top Performer” focuses on quality maintenance practices.

“Top Performers go above and beyond to make sure what they’re working on is looking really well, they are doing everything within the regulations, they’re not getting safety violations or tech data violations and they’re engaging with quality initiatives,” he said.

The program also challenges Airmen to avoid disqualification from award eligibility. An individual can be out of contention for an unsatisfactory condition report, technical data violation, direct safety violation, or for a single failed inspection.

“We measure everything within Quality Assurance on a quarterly basis,” Lieutenant Barnett said. “So even if a person is disqualified this quarter, they can still be selected the next quarter. We want to recognize maintainers who have a spotless, continuous improvement record – those that think outside of the box and go above and beyond.”

As a group, 162nd maintainers generate 17,000 flying hours per year; four times the amount flown at a typical Air National Guard fighter wing.

“This is about the maintainers, the folks out there on the flightline and in the shops,” said Colonel Taylor. “They have a really tough time out there in the heat and in the elements, generating the aircraft and making certain the mission is successful. This is a way to recognize those folks for their efforts.”

## Top Performers



*Staff Sgt. Antelmo Morales, 148th Aircraft Maintenance Flight*



*Staff Sgt. Eugene Sanders, Equipment Maintenance Flight*



*Staff Sgt. David Pazak from the Component Maintenance Flight*



*Staff Sgt. Tim Strauss, Alert Detachment*

*Master Sgt. Ruben Perez from the 195th Aircraft Maintenance Flight is not pictured due to a temporary duty assignment.*



## 2009 CFC kicks off October UTA

by **Capt. Dan Dodson**  
Public Affairs

The 2009 Combined Federal Campaign is scheduled to kick off here Oct. 3.

This year's theme will be "I Can," said 2nd Lt. Angela Walz, wing CFC coordinator.

The kick-off breakfast was Sept. 16 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base for the group coordinators, key workers and all involved in driving this year's campaign.

Lieutenant Walz said the goal for this year is 100 percent contact and increased participation. Last year's campaign totaled \$59,125. The average individual contribution was \$408.

Members will have a choice of hundreds of charities from which to choose, including the Jimmy Jet Foundation, the Tuskegee Airmen and Wright Flight, said Lieutenant Walz.

This year, the CFC is providing an easy to use alphabetized brochure of charities which can also be found



on the CFC Web site at [www.cfcaz.org](http://www.cfcaz.org).

There will be posters and a base-wide e-mail to remind people of the opportunity to donate to charities of their choice via the CFC. For more information, please contact Lieutenant Walz at 295-6192 or 2nd Lt. Jim Barnett at [james.barnett@aztucs.ang.af.mil](mailto:james.barnett@aztucs.ang.af.mil).

## A CCAF degree — the key to career progression

by **2nd Lt. Angela Walz**  
Public Affairs

### Community College of the Air Force

*The Commander, Air Education and Training Command,  
by virtue of the authority vested by law  
and on the recommendation of the College does hereby confer on*

With so much competition in the military and the civilian sectors for jobs and promotions, more and more Guardsmen are looking to secure their job with an Associate's degree from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF).

While a CCAF degree adds sparkle to an Enlisted Performance Report, it also enhances any resume and opens doors into both military and civilian careers.

'Career progression' sounds military in nature, but it takes place in the civilian sector as well. A CCAF degree has the benefit of the potential for securing a career in either arena.

"An individual's education and experience are something they will carry with them forever and these sorts of things are often considered for promotion interviews," said Lt. Col. Denise Cullen, 162nd Fighter Wing executive officer. "A CCAF degree looks good on an application, but points are also given for non-written questions for promotions or

for full-time positions that become available within the wing."

Airmen become CCAF students as soon as they report for basic military training and begin earning semester hours that go toward their CCAF degree. Technical schools and other military training courses also count toward CCAF degree programs.

However, many Airmen may fail themselves by not taking an active role in their own educational endeavors. CCAF degrees are not automatic, but can easily be attained if the required coursework has been met.

CCAF Commandant Lt. Col. Timothy W. Albrecht said, "We strive to meet the demands of the Air Force's increasingly expeditionary environment and at the same time help Airmen achieve their educational goals by capitalizing on job-related training and education as part of flexible degree completion programs."

Where supervisors may fail their troops is by not being informed about the programs, not having answers to common questions about the CCAF, and not leading by example.

According to the CCAF Web site, CCAF academic programs are designed to provide students with knowledge, skills and theoretical background for enhanced performance as technicians and non-commissioned officers. It is the only college system solely for enlisted members.

For questions or assistance, contact Senior Master Sgt. Edisa Salcido at 295-6568. To add civilian courseware to a CCAF degree, transcripts must be sent directly from your school to the following address: CCAF/DESS, 100 South Turner Blvd., Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala., 36114-3011. Transcript requests can be made online at <http://au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp>.





## Wing member finds a new sport, rises to top ranks

by Capt. Dan Dodson  
Public Affairs

**M**ilitary members are finding unique ways to stay active and relieve stress. One member of the 162nd Fighter Wing has found a fresh spin on an old stand by – golf.

Senior Master Sgt. Stephanie Huether, wing intelligence office superintendent, can often be found mastering her newfound craft – disc golf. She recently placed 2nd in her division at the 2009 Disc Golf World Championships held in Kansas City, Mo.

“I was extremely pleased with my result, having played for such a short time,” said Sergeant Huether. She exceeded her goal of just wanting to perform well. In fact, she led the field for most of the tournament.

Sergeant Huether advanced quickly, having just taken up the sport a year ago. “It is incredibly



Courtesy photo

*Senior Master Sgt. Stephanie Huether practices her short game. The Arizona Guardsman has become an accomplished disc golfer in her spare time and is an advocate of the sport as a fun way to stay active and relieve stress.*

addicting, and I play tournaments every weekend if I can. It is a great stress reliever,” said Sergeant Huether. She would putt, or throw discs in a straight line to the basket, 150 times a day preparing for the world championships.

Disc golf, also known as Frisbee golf, has been around since the 1960’s, having gained popularity over the last 10 years. It is the fastest growing sport in America, increasing at a rate of 12 to 15 percent annually, with nearly 3,000 courses in the United States. There are even disc golf courses on military installations.

The disc golf concept, similar to ball golf, challenges players to get the disc into a basket in the least amount of attempts as possible.

Similar to ball golf where players must hit ball left, right or over course obstacles, disc golfers must master techniques to do the same. “It can be difficult having to go around trees and things, not to mention climbing up and down hills all day,” said Sergeant Huether.

Disc golf is a professional sport in which both professional and amateurs can compete. More information can be obtained by researching the Professional Disc Golf Association Web site at [www.pdga.com](http://www.pdga.com).

## Citizen Airman helps Air Force claim top volleyball honors

by Tech. Sgt. Desiree Twombly  
Public Affairs

**A**n Arizona Air National Guardsman joined forces with active duty Air Force athletes to win the Armed Forces Men’s Volleyball Championship recently.

Staff Sgt. Ray Valles, a drill status Guardsman in the 162nd Fighter Wing’s communications flight here, won a gold medal with the Air Force Volleyball Team at the conclusion of tournament play at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., June 6-10.

The Air Force’s 10-man team went undefeated in the championship with

a standing of six wins and zero losses. They competed against the Marine Corps, Navy, and Army teams to win first place.

“In the competition we played each branch of service twice. The Marines were our toughest competitors. They won the gold last year. It was hard, but it was fun,” said Sergeant Valles.

“We all knew how important this team was to Ray,” said Tech. Sgt. Mike Coleman, one of Valles’ coworkers. “He’s always talking about the team, his training or his local volleyball leagues. He’s worked so hard and we’re all so glad to see him reach his goal.”

“We were all happy for Ray when we found out the team won it all,” said Sergeant Coleman.



Courtesy photo

*Arizona Air National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Ray Valles sets the ball for Staff Sgt. Clarence Hucks from Yakota Air Base, Japan.*

## DECORATED SOLDIER KEEPS A WATCHFUL EYE ON FIGHTER WING

by Tech. Sgt. Desiree Twombly  
Public Affairs

**H**undreds of Guardsmen, visitors and contractors are welcomed daily at the 162nd Fighter Wing's main gate at Tucson International Airport, and little do they know of the heroic tales of the security forces members that greet them there.

One soldier with a special history, Spc. Jesse Ryan, serves along side Airmen in the 162nd Security Forces Squadron here. He is a highly-decorated Iraq war veteran, and has inconspicuously worked full time as a security specialist with the wing since 2004.

Only a hand full of his coworkers know he's a Bronze Star with valor recipient and has two Purple Hearts for combat action stemming from his first and only deployment to Iraq in 2004.

While deployed with the Army's 101st Airborne Division as a military policeman, Ryan and his team were on a convoy outside of Mosul that came under attack causing them to take defensive action on the battlefield.

"I was driving in a convoy of trucks and we were struck by an [improvised explosive device] and then came under fire. The explosion blew the helmet off of my head and blew out the windshield of the humvee. Two soldiers sitting in the back seat didn't make it," said Ryan.

As he exited the vehicle, Ryan was shot three times in the chest by an



Photo by Maj. Gabe Johnson

*Army Spc. Jesse Ryan, a decorated Iraq war veteran, is one of four military policemen performing base security along side security forces Airmen at the Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing. Ryan earned a Purple Heart in 2004 for wounds to his leg after a grenade attack in Mosul. That same year he earned a second Purple Heart and a Bronze Star with valor after combating insurgents who attacked a convoy he was escorting.*

insurgent. One of the bullets shattered his body armor chest plate and lodged in his chest.

"The only thing that saved me was the Humvee because the shots pushed me into it giving me a chance to raise my weapon and fire back. If I had fallen on the ground I wouldn't have been able to shoot back. I returned fire and ended up shooting the insurgent who shot me."

Although he was injured, Ryan rescued another soldier by pulling him from a burning humvee.

"After that, I collapsed. All I remember is waking up in a hospital in Germany," said Ryan.

He was hospitalized for more than a month, after which he returned to his unit in Mosul refusing an offer to go home.

"I wasn't ready to leave my guys so I went back and finished my tour with them," said Ryan.

He returned to Tucson, his home town, shortly after leaving Iraq,

transferring from active duty into the Arizona Army Guard's 860th Military Police Company where he serves as a drill status Guardsman. He was later hired to serve full time with the 162nd.

"Specialist Ryan's primary duties as a security forces member include entry control, protecting personnel and property, preventing pilferage, supervising road traffic, enforcing traffic laws and regulations, maintaining good order and furnishing information – and he does it exceptionally well," said Master Sgt. Vincent Muskiet, Ryan's supervisor.

"He inspires his fellow co-workers by setting the standard through his training and experience. He always displays a positive attitude regardless of circumstances, he's a true leader,"

"I really like it here," said Ryan. "It's just a very friendly place to work."





# Guardisman coaches pro ball

by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

Members of the Air National Guard wear many hats; the hat of a member of the United States Air Force, the hat of a civilian at work in the community, and sometimes their hobbies lead them to wear hats of another kind.

Col. (Dr.) James Balserak, flight surgeon and 162nd Medical Group commander, wears the hat of a first base coach for the Tucson Toros, the city's minor league baseball team.

In 2004 Colonel Balserak started out as a team physician for Tucson's former minor league team, the Sidewinders, and Arizona's major league team, the Diamondbacks. This year, when the Sidewinders moved to Reno, Nev., and the Toros came to Tucson, he became their physician and took on the additional role of first base coach.

"I have a rudimentary understanding of baseball but I've learned a lot about the game by working with the coaching staff; when to keep players on base, when to send them to second, and looking out for pick offs," said Colonel Balserak.

Before coaching the Toros, he coached several seasons for his son Kevin's Sabino Canyon little league team. Kevin, 11, serves as a bat boy for the Toros.



Col. (Dr.) James Balserak with Tuffy, the Toros mascot.

"I really got involved with baseball playing in the Men's Senior Baseball League in town with [Senior Master Sgt.] Dave Crocker. There are a lot of former pro ball players in that league from triple A to the majors," said Balserak.

"Professional athletes are a lot like fighter pilots. They're 'type A' personalities, they are driven and they expect perfection out of themselves," he said.

Six Toros players have major league experience, two have already been picked up by the Chicago White Sox and the Milwaukee Brewers this year, and some pitchers for the team throw more than 90 miles per hour.

Fan attendance at Toros games has improved over the Sidewinders' attendance, partially due to Hi Corbett Field's central location and also due to the Toros' performance. The team comfortably holds first place in the Golden League and is close to a playoff birth.

"We're having a great season and Doc Balserak is definitely part of it. He understands baseball and he's done a great job. He's never made a mistake at first base," said Pete LaCock, Toros hitting and third base coach. "He's like one of the guys. It's like the camaraderie you have in the military. It's his team and we feel like he's one of us."

The colonel makes time for baseball despite a hectic schedule. He's deployed to Iraq twice in the last five years and recently completed a tour in Afghanistan.

"It's a lot to take on. I'm getting my masters in public health at night and I've had to adjust my private practice hours to be able to be a part of the team. I get the home game schedule and make sure I'm able to leave work early on those days. Since I'm a volunteer, I lose income to coach, but that's just how much I love to do it."



Courtesy photos

Col. (Dr.) James Balserak, right, coaches a Tucson Toros runner at first base during a game at Hi Corbett Field.

"My only goal as a coach is to be invited back," said Balserak whose sacrifices have not gone unnoticed by the team.

"There are a lot of patriotic guys on the team and they love the idea that he spent three tours going over there defending our country and helping guys who got hurt. It's unbelievable to me. The respect that the players have for him goes above and beyond what you can imagine," said LaCock.

In mid July, he was put in the batting line up during a game against the San Diego Surf Dogs and came away with his first pro ball hit.

"I was kind of joking around with the coaches and I said, 'You should put me in.' The manager put me in batting cleanup and I was terrified. The first at bat the pitcher walked me. The second at bat I struck out. And the third at bat I got a hit into left field. They paid me a buck to make it professional," said Balserak with a laugh.

# THE 162ND AT NIGHT...

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by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

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Pilots brief, crew chiefs launch, airplanes fly, Security Forces protect, aircraft get painted, components are repaired, and firefighters respond – all in a night's work.

For the majority of wing members who work day shift it may come as a surprise that the 162nd is often as active at night as it is during the day.

While maintenance, fire and security work around the clock all year, the wing supports night flying weeks about once or twice per month for resident instructor and student pilots who are either staying current with, or are honing, their skills flying with night vision goggles.

Each instructor flies with night vision goggles once every 120 days at a minimum.

As for students, the United Arab Emirates is the only partner nation currently training in Tucson that purchased night vision goggles for use in fighters.

By the time their students fly at night, they are about one fourth of their way through the basic course and they've completed the requisite academics and simulator training.

“We don't introduce any new aviation skill set at night that they haven't seen in the day. So they don't go out and do their







first simulated laser guided bomb delivery at night, they do it first in daylight. It's the same with formation flying and intercept skill sets," said Lt. Col. Mick McGuire, 148th Fighter Squadron commander.

Instructors from the 148th ensure each student gets seven night vision sorties before graduation.

Of the seven night sorties, they fly at least one in low lunar illumination, less than a quarter moon, and one in high illumination, a quarter moon or more.

After which, they are fully-qualified to

fly a two-ship night mission.

Pilots are not allowed to take off or land while wearing goggles. Students readily admit, putting them on and taking them off during flight are some of the more difficult tasks to manage.

"Everything is more difficult at night because you don't have the peripheral vision to give you good picture of the horizon; you just have a 40 degree field of view.

It's like looking through a big telescope," said Colonel McGuire. "All the while you have to look under the goggles to read all the instruments in the cockpit."



*With afterburner blazing, an F-16E, Block 60, takes off from Tucson International Airport into the night sky.*

# WE ALL SERVE



*Kathy Prather, director of career and technical education for Tucson Unified School District, accepts an ESGR Patriot Award from Arizona ESGR Chairman Scott Essex and TUSD employee Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Daniel Kester, a full-time teacher and Citizen Airman.*

**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ★ ARMY RESERVE ★ NAVY RESERVE ★ MARINE RESERVE  
COAST GUARD RESERVE ★ AIR NATIONAL GUARD ★ AIR FORCE RESERVE**

**We all serve.** Whether serving our communities or our country, members of the National Guard and Reserve depend on their military units, families, and employers for support. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency that seeks to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflict through mediation.



1555 WILSON BOULEVARD, STE 319, ARLINGTON, VA 22209 ★ 1-800-336-4590 ★ WWW.ESGR.MIL





## ESGR tips for Arizona Air National Guard members

from the Arizona Committee  
for Employer Support of the  
Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

The Arizona Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is part of a Department of Defense agency that recognizes outstanding employer support for Guard and Reserve employees, increases awareness of employment laws and resolves conflict through mediation.

Most employment conflicts can be avoided by being candid with your employer about your obligations as a member of the Arizona Air National Guard.

Don't take your employer's support for granted. Keep your boss informed about what you do in the military and when you do it. Let your boss know the vital mission that is supported by your participation in the National Guard. Let your boss know how your military experience and training will make you a more capable civilian employee.

Take time to recognize the sacrifice your boss and co-workers make when they support you. Here's a summary of advice from ESGR on how to keep the boss on your side:

### **Talk to your boss.**

No matter what your military assignment or specialty, tell your employer about it.

Many people hold down military jobs that relate directly to their civilian careers. If yours is one of them, your boss would be pleased to know that you are learning and practicing military skills that can pay off on the job.

Even if what you do in the military is different from your civilian job, sharing the details can impress your boss. You are using your spare time to participate in a second career



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ed Stramler

*Master Sgt. (ret.) Robert Sommerfeld, 162nd Security Forces Squadron, right, presents ESGR's Seven Seals award to his civilian employer Anthony Daykin, Chief of Police, University of Arizona, for outstanding support for Sommerfeld's military commitments.*

that is of great importance to your community and the nation.

### **Federal law.**

Experience has shown that members of the National Guard and Reserve, as well as their employers, do not always have a clear understanding about employment and reemployment rights for Reserve component members.

Federal law guarantees the right to take time off from work to attend to your military responsibilities. The more that you, your boss, and your personnel office know about the federal laws and legal precedents that spell out Reserve reemployment rights, rules and obligations protected by the laws, the less chance there is for misunderstand-

ing. Basically, USERRA provides that an employer must give you time off to perform military service and reemploy you following the service with status, seniority and rate of pay as though you never left.

### **Drill schedules.**

Don't make your boss guess about your Guard duties. The more you share with the boss - and the earlier you share it the better - about drill schedules, annual training plans, reemployment rights and rules, and any extra time-off requirements, the easier things will go. Remember, you must give your employer advance notice of any military service, including drills.

### **Reward the boss for supporting your service.**

The Department of Defense will send your boss a personally prepared certificate of appreciation if you just apply for it. The certificate comes mounted in a handsome folder, bearing the DoD seal embossed in gold. Take time to do your best to "brag" about your boss. The stronger your boss's support, the greater the likelihood that he or she will also receive a higher award. The Arizona ESGR Committee presents plaques to the most supportive employers each year.

The ESGR National Headquarters sponsors the prestigious PRO PATRIA award, presented each year by each ESGR Committee to their single most supportive employer.

The Secretary of Defense presents the highest awards, the Employer Support Freedom Award, to the most outstanding employers for the year-one national winner and four regional semifinalists. Applications can be obtained from the 162nd Fighter Wing public affairs office, any member of your ESGR Committee, our Web site, [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org) or by calling ESGR directly, 1-800-336-4590.

# WEB NEWS: 162FW.ANG.AF.MIL

For *El Tigre* readers who don't follow the official 162nd Fighter Wing public Web site for up-to-date news and information, here are some of the stories you may have missed. (An unabashed attempt to recruit more Web site users.)

## New look for the Web site



In August, 162fw.ang.af.mil got a new look. The site also got a shorter address. From off base, try 162fw.com and you'll be redirected to the site. The new address makes it easier to tell people where to find the 162nd online.



## Solar plans on the horizon for 162nd

The 162nd Fighter Wing is on its way to meeting federal goals in the reduction of energy consumption with plans to use solar-powered lights. The wing recently approved the purchase of six trailer-mounted solar lighting systems to replace the current flood lights around the base.



## Adjutant General gets fighter wing introduction at Mach 1

The commanding general of the Arizona National Guard flew in the back seat of an F-16D Fighting Falcon here July 7 to experience first hand the 162nd Fighter Wing's pilot training mission at Tucson International Airport. Army Maj. Gen. Hugo E. Salazar, Arizona's Adjutant General, assumed duties as the state's top officer Dec. 16, 2008. A field artillery officer by trade, he had never flown in a tactical fighter.

## Coveralls allow maintainers to get dirty in the line of duty



## Wing services flight deploys



Staff Sgt. Santos Flores bids farewell to his wife Yvette and his son Andres at Tucson International Airport on his way to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, June 8.

While keeping F-16 Fighting Falcons mission ready, aircraft maintainers at the 162nd Fighter Wing can confidently get elbow-deep in grease without concern for ruining their uniforms thanks to new dark blue coveralls issued here recently.



## Vice wing commander promoted to colonel



The vice commander of the largest Air National Guard fighter wing in the country was promoted to the rank of colonel here July 9. Col. Ted Maxwell pinned on his new rank during a promotion ceremony in front of family, friends and fellow Guardsmen.

## Arizona chaplain ensures religious freedom for deployed servicemembers



SOUTHWEST ASIA – Chaplain (Maj.) Laura Adelia, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, speaks during a sermon at the Seven Sands Chapel July 19. Chaplain Adelia is deployed from the 162nd Fighter Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, Tucson, Ariz.

## Circulating Currency



SOUTHWEST ASIA -Staff Sgt. Keri Watson, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing Finance Office, provides customers with financial assistance Aug. 17. Sergeant Watson is deployed from the 162nd Fighter Wing.

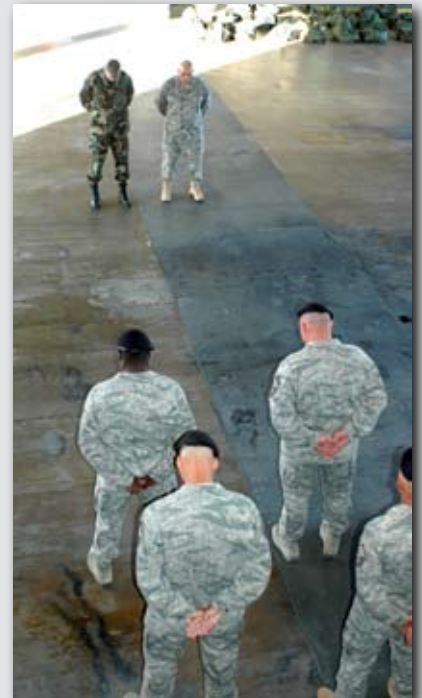
## Red Flag trains combat air forces



NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFNS) -- Units from the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marines Corps participate in training missions for Red Flag 09-5 along with allied forces from Italy and the United Arab Emirates Aug. 26, 2009 here. This is the first time the United Arab Emirates has participated in Red Flag, a realistic two-week air combat training exercise conducted over the 15,000-square-mile Nevada Test and Training Range north of Las Vegas.

## Arizona Air Guard remembers Sept. 11

Members of the 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport share a moment of silence in the base fire station to remember the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States exactly eight years after the fateful day. Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Martinez, upper right, and Senior Master Sgt. Shane Clark, base fire chief, led the wing in a prayer for all the lives lost and the families affected by the attacks.





# Kazakhstan shares deployment experiences with Arizona-Mississippi logistics team

Story and photo  
by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

A delegation from the Republic of Kazakhstan joined Air National Guardsmen from Arizona and Mississippi to discuss deployment planning and preparation for global peacekeeping operations, July 27-30.

Representatives from Kazakhstan's peacekeeping force, the Kazakhstan Battalion, or KAZBAT, and their parent Brigade, KAZBRIG, traveled from the Central Asian country to the 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport to discuss their recent deployment experiences in Iraq and their desire to become more self-sufficient in preparing their equipment and people for airlift.

"Kazakhstan is a land-locked nation. Their military is very good at using rail and truck convoy to move equipment. However, they don't own enough strategic airlift capacity to get them to where the action is in an emergency," said Lt. Col. Greg Bliss, 162nd Logistics Readiness Squadron commander.

Colonel Bliss proposed the plan for the exchange during a 2008 visit to the U.S. Embassy's Office of Military Cooperation in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. The premise was to include airlift control flight experts from the 172nd Airlift Wing, a C-17 Air Guard unit out of Jackson, Miss.

"They provide Air Mobility Command affiliation training," said Bliss. "Since they train us, we thought their expertise would be helpful to our state's partnership with Kazakhstan."

The delegates observed how U.S. Airmen determine axle weights and find center balance for vehicles such as Humvees and five-ton Medium Tactical Vehicles.

They were shown examples of how to palletize gear, and models of innovative mobility items such as a mobile kitchen and Internal Slingable Units, air cargo boxes that can be hoisted by helicopter.

Demonstrations and briefings on aircraft load plan-



*Tech. Sgt. Frank Quinn, 162nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, shows officers from Kazakhstan's peacekeeping force how to calculate the center balance of a Humvee for airlift, July 28. The delegation's visit to the 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport was organized through the Arizona National Guard's state partnership with the Central Asian country.*

ning, hazardous materials identification, the joint inspection process and in-transit visibility were well received by the Kazakhs.

"We're learning a lot from them and they are learning from us," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Owens, an airfield manager and former loadmaster for the 172nd. "They are asking very good questions about pallets, weights, measurements and how to find the center of balance. Without this process, a load cannot be balanced correctly in our aircraft; the cargo gets 'frustrated' and the planes won't fly."

"And from our side, we are learning just how creative they are in finding ways to get the job done with their resources."

Arizona and Mississippi hope to join forces again as a mission support team in Kazakhstan within the next few months to expand the exchange and see how big the peacekeeping force is in terms of material; how many vehicles, how much equipment and how many people.

"We can create an airlift logistics concept that guides them on how to mobilize a company- or battalion-size peacekeeping unit for future operational missions," said Colonel Bliss.





## WEPTAC conference October 19-23

The Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Command Test Center (AATC) will host the annual Weapons and Tactics Conference (WEPTAC) here, Oct. 19-23. This year's theme is "Transforming Technology to the Warfighter" as the Air Reserve Component (ARC) looks to the future force structure and new mission areas.

WEPTAC is an important event involving the 162nd Fighter Wing's direct support of the rest of the Air Reserve Component convening on base. This year's WEPTAC is of vital importance as Guardsmen and Reservists continue operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the topics set for discussion are strongly affected by feedback from warfighters in theater.

During the week-long conference, more than 1,000 Reserve component and active duty members will assemble for the event to attend briefings and discussions throughout the base and working groups will discuss the tactical development and modernization planning for the future of their respective airframes.

"Through this conference AATC gathers experts from all weapon systems at one time to discuss and prioritize modernization requirements and testing of equipment and tactics for the current war and to prepare for future conflicts," said AATC Commander Col. Dan Bader. "The conference helps the test center focus on the warfighter's needs so we can get them what they need quickly and efficiently," he said.

On a local level, WEPTAC gives the 162nd a chance to interact with Airmen from around the world said Col. Ted Maxwell, wing vice commander.

"WEPTAC is a great opportunity for the Guard and for our Wing. It provides everyone some time to exchange ideas and reestablish relationships," he said. "Each year we're given a chance to show our fellow Guardsmen and Reservists what a great unit we are. I ask everyone to welcome our guests and help out in any way you can to make it another success."

AATC has reserved meeting rooms and facilities throughout the base, with some scheduled at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Everyone on base is reminded of the following:

- Parking will be limited during WEPTAC and everyone should plan accordingly.
- Be aware of customs and courtesies as numerous senior leaders will attend the conference.
- Most attendees will be in constant contact with their units via cell phone, however be prepared to assist guests with finding and using base telephones.
- Should someone need a pen, paper, a fax machine, printer or driving directions, be prepared to help.

For more information about WEPTAC please visit [www.aatc.ang.af.mil/weptac](http://www.aatc.ang.af.mil/weptac).

Photo by James Haseltine, HIGH-G Productions



# Many ways to get 162nd retiree news and information

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

We in the Retirees Office are aware that our target audience is comprised of many folks who spent most of their working lives without need of a computer keyboard to communicate.

We are also aware that many of you have no interest in learning computer skills at this point in your lives. However, the world has changed and the primary way to communicate has rapidly become electronic.

Consequently, we endeavor to upgrade our skills to keep up with technology while still embracing the old ways of communication so everyone will still receive necessary information.

An example of the changing world is our monthly *El Tigre News*, which has been around for more than 50 years and is now changing from a monthly to a quarterly publication to allow public affairs to focus on the unit Web site. Many of you have depended on the monthly *El Tigre* to keep up with unit news and also to get information from the Retirees Office. To fill the gap for those who do not use the Internet, we will attempt to produce the Retirees Newsletter more often to keep you up to date between the quarterly *El Tigre* publications.

To ensure everyone receives the latest information, we communicate with our retirees in the following ways:

**First, the El Tigre.** The new quarterly *El Tigre*, as you can see, has been reformatted to adapt to a four-times-a-year schedule. One thing will not change; there will still be articles of interest to retirees and information on retiree's events and

unit functions.

**Second, the Retirees Newsletter.** Timely newsletters will be sent out by regular U.S. Mail to ensure retirees get information that is current and relevant. This mailed-out version will be sent to all on our retirees list with a valid mailing address who do not have e-mail. An electronic version of the newsletter will be sent out to those on our e-mail list.

**Third, the 162nd Web site.** If you have a computer, there is a wealth of information available on this web site. In addition to unit information, there is now a special section that is directed specifically toward retirees. Go on-line to [www.162FW.af.mil/retirees](http://www.162FW.af.mil/retirees) and check it out.

**Fourth, the e-mail system.** About one-third of our retirees are on our e-mail network. The advantage of this system is that it sends out information in real time and everyone is kept up to date as things happen. The Ainleys maintain the system and send out only information that pertains to retired unit members and relevant information about retirees in general and retirement benefits.

Note: If you have an e-mail account and are not receiving retiree information, it is easy to get on the list. Simply send an e-mail to [162.retirees@aztucs.af.mil](mailto:162.retirees@aztucs.af.mil) and request to be added. We will need your full name, so we know who you are, along with your e-mail address. Also, if you are already in our retiree database but not receiving our e-mails, and would like to add your e-mail address to the database, just let us know.

There is one more avenue of communication. It's the avenue that you initiate! If you, or your spouse, need any information relevant to retirement, all you have to do is contact us. The Retirees Office phone number is (520) 295-6663. The office is manned on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you

## Upcoming Retiree Events

**UTA – Oct. 4** (Sunday), 10 a.m.  
On base. Retirees briefing by the Base Commander, Operations Building – Classroom E. Followed by the Steak Fry.

**Oct. 14** (Wednesday), 11 a.m.  
Retirees Luncheon at HomeTown Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle, Guest speaker will brief the ANG Predator mission.

**Nov. 11** (Wednesday), 7:30 a.m.  
Monthly Retirees Breakfast at HomeTown Buffet, 330 S. Wilmot.

**Dec. 9** (Wednesday), 7:30 a.m.  
Monthly Retirees Breakfast at HomeTown Buffet, 330 S. Wilmot.

can't catch us, just leave a message and we will get back to you. Also, you can always send an e-mail request to the office address listed above.

As an alternative source of information, the Retired Activities Office (RAO) at Davis-Monthan AFB is open for business Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are located at 3500 S. Craycroft Rd, about ¼ mile inside the main gate on the west side of the road. This office is staffed with dedicated, knowledgeable people (military retirees themselves) who will answer questions from any military retiree. You can visit the office, or call them at (520) 228-5100, if you have a question.

When it comes to your retirement benefits, and knowing what's going on, you should never be in the dark. There is a system available that will help you with any questions you may have. Your military retirement benefits package, and the network to provide information, is one of the best available anywhere. If you need help, it's only a telephone call, a Web site, or an e-mail away!





### Military Promotions:

#### To Chief Master Sergeant

Douglas Pepiot, Maintenance  
David Wolslagel, Maintenance  
Karen Henry, Maintenance  
Andrew Trueblood, Operations

#### To Senior Master Sergeant

Armando Gonzalez, Maintenance

#### To Master Sergeant

Marc Polanco, Logistics Readiness  
Jeffrey Kohn, Maintenance  
Gerald Thitchener, Maintenance  
Raul Ortega, Mission Support  
Jay Watkins, Maintenance  
Celina Rodriguez, Mission Support  
Michael Hawkins, Mission Support

#### To Tech. Sergeant

Abran Bedoy, Maintenance  
Holly Strength, Medical  
Isreal Montoya, Mission Support  
David Luscumb, Maintenance  
Timothy Culbertson, 214th  
Rodney Calkins, Civil Engineering  
Heidi Thiel, Communications

## All in the EL TIGRE Family



Brent Thompson, Safety  
Frank Zaueta, Maintenance  
Ronald Jacobi, Maintenance  
Steven Hayes, 214th  
Sean Pierce, Maintenance  
Ralph Brewer, Maintenance  
Armando Valencia, Maintenance  
Mario Reynoso, Maintenance  
Laura Rodriguez, 214th  
Martin Acosta, Maintenance  
James McChristian, Security Forces  
Eugene Sanders, Maintenance

#### To Staff Sergeant

Robert Johnson, 214th  
Charmaine Pozo, Mission Support  
Darren Winegardner, Maintenance  
Justin Phillips, 148th FS  
Christopher Coenen, 148th FS  
Kyle Hoagland, Maintenance  
Justin Reidman, 214th  
Caleb Maxiner, 214th  
Jeffrey Case, 214th  
Ruben Acedo, Maintenance  
Bryon Garcia, Maintenance  
Ryan Sandford, 214th  
Michael Aragon, Maintenance  
Christopher Dietrich, Security Forces  
Marcel Delavara, Logistics Readiness  
Michael Beller, Civil Engineering  
Ryan Ramos, Maintenance  
Quinn Simmons, 214th

Paul Martin, Maintenance  
Ash Corey, Maintenance  
Brian Garcia, Mission Support  
Svetlana Sevciuc, Mission Support  
Tiffany Cleveland, Maintenance  
Tiffany Hoeck, Fighter Wing  
John Torres, Services Flight

#### To Senior Airman

Glen Sneddon, Security Forces  
Matthew Applegate, Logistics  
Readiness  
John Greer, Maintenance  
Johnny Evans, Logistics Readiness

#### To Airman First Class

Elliot Smith, Student Flight  
Michael Ament, Civil Engineering  
Tony Pena, 152nd FS  
Nichola Knight, Security Forces

#### Births

Staff Sgt. Carlos Cabrera and his wife Jovanna welcomed their son Anthony into their family, 21 inches long and 8 lbs, AGE Element.



## Jimmy Jet announces scholarship winners

The Jimmy Jet Foundation announced recently the three winners of the 2009 scholarships

Ashley Claggett won the Brig. Gen. Ronald L. Kurth for general studies, Tyler Streeter won the Col. James V. Fiorelli for aviation related studies, and Kelly LaFrance won the Lt. Col. Pamela J. Long

for volunteer work and community involvement.

For each scholarship, \$500 will be awarded per semester (maximum of \$1,000).

Unit members and their immediate family were eligible to apply. Retired unit members and their immediate family were also eligible.



# Events this Fall

**Oct. 4 - Steak Fry**  
Noon, Dining Facility

**Oct. 9 - AATC Change  
of Command**

**Oct. 19-23 - WEPTAC**

**Oct. 25 - Haunted  
Hangar**

1 to 5 p.m. around  
Tagra (building 15) and  
the Dining Facility.

**Oct. 30 - 162FW  
Minuteman Committee  
Golf Tournament**

**Nov. 13 - 162nd Fighter  
Wing Minuteman  
Committee Annual  
Banquet**

**Dec. 6 - Annual  
Awards Ceremony**

**Check  
162fw.ang.af.mil  
for updates and  
details on these and  
other wing events.**

## Minuteman Committee to sponsor golf tournament

The 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee, the unit's community advocacy and support group, will host its annual golf tournament at Del Lago Golf Course in Vail, Ariz., Oct. 30.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

The annual tournament raises funds to benefit Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, the Jimmy Jet Foundation, Wright Flight, Project Challenge, and the 162nd Family Readiness Group.

Committee members, wing members, family and friends are invited to participate; however, golfers should sign up early since the tournament is limited to 100 people.

Entry fees are \$125 per person

which includes green fees, a cart, food, prizes and a charitable donation.

Raffle tickets will also be sold for \$5 each, or \$100 for 25. Prizes range from a pre-paid gas card, to two round trip airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States.

To sign up, download the form located on the 162nd Fighter Wing public Web site at 162fw.ang.af.mil.

Sponsorship forms to sponsor a tee box or a foursome may also be downloaded from the site.

Questions may be referred to the committee golf tournament organizers, Matthew Brogen at 576-8827, John Del Frari at 665-1633 or Tom Jones at 886-5495.

## Financial Management office customer service information

### Why signing in is important.

Signing in when visiting the Financial Management office is important to customer service because it assists office personnel with tracking accountability of how many customers are helped, the squadron to which they are assigned and the purpose of their visit.

The office develops statistics based on the sign in data to determine the wing's finance trends.

It's also a requirement for the office and will be an inspectable item during the 2010 Unit Compliance Inspection.

### Drop boxes coming to squadrons.

To make service more efficient for customers, the finance office will be installing drop boxes in every squadron on base where members can turn in travel vouchers, orders and all

finance-related documents.

Upon pick up, FM staff will date stamp all documents deposited in the drop boxes. Incomplete or incorrect forms found in the drop boxes will be left in unit orderly rooms for return to the member.

Examples of forms will be located on the Community of Practice link effective October UTA.

Here's a direct link: <https://afkm.wpafb.af.mil/ASPs/CoP/ClosedCoP.asp?Filter=AN-FM-XF-15>

Link via AF Portal: <https://wwwd.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/ClosedCoP.asp?Filter=AN-FM-XF-15>

Also, FM asks full-time wing members to conduct FM business during the work week so that DSGs may get prompt service on drill weekends.





## Retiree remembered - original unit member

Rudy Lucero, who joined the unit as a member of the original 152nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, recently passed away.

Rudy served as a hydraulics technician and had a long and rewarding career with the

Arizona Air National Guard in Tucson.

The 162nd Fighter Wing expresses sincere condolences to Rudy's family and friends. He will be missed by all who knew him.

## Personnel Flight's new hours of operation

Effective Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	6:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	6:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	6:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Issuing CACs/Dependent/Retiree/Contractor ID's and Pin Resets

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.	6:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.	CLOSED	6:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.	6:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### \*Drill/UTA Weekends\*

- 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- CAC/Dependent ID's will be limited to DSG's and their family or full-time members who have expired / lost IDs

### \*Night-Shift Personnel\*

- May call for an appointment if not available during established hours

### \*Dedicated Phone Line\*

- 520-295-7299/(DSN) 844-7299
- Provides general information to include CAC details, hours, location, forms of ID, etc.

# Tig Bits

## Fall Blood Drives

Give the "Gift of Life." The next two 162nd Fighter Wing Blood Drives will be held here Saturday, Oct. 3, and Saturday, Dec. 5, 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/>.

## Drinking Water

The 162nd Fighter Wing Bioenvironmental Engineering office, in conjunction with Tucson Water, is proud to report that all of the drinking water monitored on base in 2008 met every standard for safe drinking water. To view the Annual Drinking Water Report visit <http://www.162fw.af.mil/resources/newsnotes.asp>.

## JEC Cake-Walk

The Junior Enlisted Council will host a cake-walk booth at the Haunted Hangar Sunday, Oct. 25. Cake-walk success depends on donations of "baked goods" from members of the 162nd and their families. JEC asks that donated baked goods, homemade or store bought, be brought to the Network Control Center in Building 1 on Friday, Oct. 23. They may also be brought to the dining facility on Saturday morning, Oct. 24. Contact Tech. Sgt. Heidi Estes at 295-6173 for additional information.

# Thank you

On behalf of our family, we want to thank everyone for their overwhelming support and generosity after we lost our home and our possessions to a house fire the evening of August 3rd.

Not a day has gone by that someone hasn't stopped in with food, personal care items, clothing, school supplies, shoulders to lean on, offers to watch the girls and the pets as well as so many other types of donations.

We are overwhelmed and truly humbled by the amount of generosity you have all shown us. It is because of this wonderful and generous group of people, that we were able to pull ourselves and our family together in time for our girls to return to school with minimal impact.

We are fortunate and so blessed not only because no one was injured but also to have each of you in our lives.

Thank you!

*Dave and Tara Davis*



## October

### SATURDAY

Cost for AGRs & Officers \$4.25

- Grilled Bratwurst w/Sauerkraut
- Jagerschnitzel (veal with mushroom sauce)
- German Potato Salad
- Buttered Noodles
- Broccoli Au gratin
- Carrots Amandine
- Green Beans
- German Chocolate Cake
- Apple Crisp

### SUNDAY STEAK FRY

Cost for officers \$20, SNCOs \$15  
Junior members FREE

- Grilled Steaks
- Chicken
- Pinto Beans
- Salsa
- Tortillas
- Potato Salad
- Macaroni Salad
- Assorted Cookies
- Assorted Beverages

## November

### SATURDAY

Holiday Meal Cost for AGRs & Officers \$7

- Roast Turkey \*
- Honey Baked Ham
- Steamship Round
- Turkey Gravy
- Savory Bread Dressing
- Mashed Potatoes
- Glazed Yams
- Steamed Corn
- Green Beans w/Mushrooms
- Glazed Carrots
- Pecan Pie
- Dutch Apple Pie

### SUNDAY

Cost for AGRs & Officers \$4.25

- Spaghetti w/meat or marinara sauce
- Baked Chicken
- Steamed Rice
- Mashed Potatoes
- Gravy
- Peas n Carrots
- Broccoli
- Cauliflower Au gratin
- Chocolate Chip Cookies
- Yellow Cake w/ Chocolate Frosting
- Vegetable Beef Soup

## December

### SATURDAY

Cost for AGRs & Officers \$4.25

- Meatloaf
- Baked Chicken
- O'Brien Potatoes
- Rice Pilaf
- Brown Gravy
- Succotach
- Mixed Vegetables
- Green Beans
- Chocolate Cake W/Chocolate Frosting
- Fruit Crisp
- Chicken Rice Soup

### SUNDAY

Holiday Meal Cost for AGRs & Officers \$7

- Roast Turkey \*
- Honey Baked Ham
- Steamship Round
- Turkey Gravy
- Savory Bread Dressing
- Mashed Potatoes
- Glazed Yams
- Steamed Corn
- Green Beans w/Mushrooms
- Glazed Carrots
- Pecan Pie
- Cherry Pie
- Pumpkin Pie

### SHORT ORDER & STANDARD ITEMS EACH MONTH

- Grilled Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers
- Hot Dogs
- Grilled Chicken sandwich
- Chicken Strips
- Special ITEM TBD
- 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
- Assorted Beverages

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

\* "CHECK IT OUT PROGRAM" is an Air Force wide nutrition education program implemented in Air Force-operated food facilities. This nutrition education program will consist of providing healthier food choice items for our patrons.

The menu is based on availability and is subject to change without notice. Try our recorded menu at 295-6460

## Jimmy Jet Breakfast

### October Drill

6 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3  
6 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 4

Breakfast Burritos  
Coffee & Juice  
At Buiding 15 (TAGRA)





# 162ND FIGHTER WING 2010 UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE



JANUARY 9-10

FEBRUARY 6-7

MARCH 13-14

APRIL 10-11

MAY 1-2

JUNE 5-6

JULY 10-11

AUGUST 7-8

SEPTEMBER 11-12

OCTOBER 2-3

NOVEMBER 6-7

DECEMBER 4-5

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

# AATC AT WORK



The Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Command Test Center (AATC) tests munitions on the the Goldwater Range, Aug. 10-14. The Test Center will host the 2009 Weapons and Tactics Conference (WEPTAC) here Oct. 19-23. See page 21 inside for details.



Photos by James Haseltine, HIGH-G Productions