



EL TIGRE

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



WINTER 2010

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162ND FIGHTER WING: FUTURE HOME OF THE F-35?

Photo courtesy Lockheed Martin

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EL TIGRE

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Commander Q&A: F-35 and the 162nd Fighter Wing

From the 162nd Fighter Wing
Office of Public Affairs



Colonel Stroud

Air Force officials announced Oct. 29 that the 162nd Fighter Wing is one of the top five locations under consideration for F-35 Joint Strike Fighter training. The El Tigre staff asks Col. Greg Stroud, the wing commander, the questions on everyone's minds.

Q: What does the recent announcement about F-35 mean for the 162nd?

First of all, it means we can all be very proud and excited that we are being considered as a possible location for F-35. The Air Force looked at 205 bases during its initial selection round, so for us to come out on a top five list for training locations speaks volumes about our work as a world-class fighter training unit. Granted, our great weather and proximity to the Barry Goldwater Range were major factors, but I truly believe our reputation as professionals and our track record with international training played a part in our selection. Should the F-35 come to

Tucson down the road, it would be a logical addition to our current F-16 training mission.

Q: What's the 'way ahead' for the wing, and how good are its chances for final selection?

I believe the wing's chances are very good for the new aircraft. As most people know, Senator John McCain visited the wing Nov. 24 to familiarize himself with the base. He too was very optimistic about the F-35 coming here in the future and he expressed his support for the wing as a candidate base. We also have support from Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup, many state and local government officials, and several business leaders; so we are in a good position.

But it's important to remind everyone that the initial selection is only the beginning of a long process that will lead to final decisions about where the F-35 will be based. Along with all of the candidates on the initial list, the 162nd will undergo an environmental impact study in close coordination with the local community to determine the wing's ultimate suitability for the F-35.

The formal environmental analysis scheduled to begin in January will include several site surveys and public meetings. Senior Air Force officials will then evaluate that and other data before announcing their preferred locations in late spring of 2010 and a record of decision by early 2011. Initial deployment of the F-35 may begin in 2013, with 250 to 300 aircraft projected for delivery by 2017.

In addition to environmental impact, the wing needs to look at its facilities. Tucson Airport Authority has always been a vital partner in our mission, and they will play a large part in helping us land the F-35 mission. We will work with TAA to

possibly acquire the currently vacant acreage on the northwest corner of the property. This will allow us to open a more suitable main gate off of Park Avenue, it will give us a more appropriate space for our munitions facilities and it will provide some flexibility on base for meeting specific requirements for the F-35. The way ahead will have many hurdles, but we're on the right track.



Photo courtesy Lockheed Martin

F-35 over the Grand Canyon.

Q: Are there any noise issues related to the new F-35?

The Environmental Impact Study that will be conducted here throughout 2010 will consider the noise generated from the F-35 as part of its site-specific data collection. Lockheed Martin, the manufacturer of the F-35, in conjunction with the Air Force Research Lab, conducted an aircraft acoustics study on the F-35 in October 2008 at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

The study found the takeoff and flyover noise generated from the F-35 comparable to the F-22 and F-18. It was less than 10 percent louder than the F-16s currently stationed at Tucson International Airport.



The study noted that acoustic levels experienced by the public depend on a number of conditions, including topography, weather (temperature, humidity and wind), time of day, observer location in relation to the aircraft, length of time the listener is exposed to aircraft, and so on.

The Air Force is in the process of validating the study results and I'm confident that should the F-35 come here we will have plans in place to mitigate any perceived differences.

Q: What are the benefits for Tucson if the airport becomes an F-35 training base?

The F-35 will enable Tucson to continue its critical role in our nation's defense long after 2025 when the Air Force projects it will retire its F-16 fleet. The new mission will mean our Guardsmen and their families will continue to spend money here and our student pilots will continue to live on the economy long after 2025.

In addition, the wing purchases a large amount of goods and services locally from private-sector companies throughout Tucson. In fact, the economic impact of the 162nd to the local economy is \$280 million annually. Thus, the F-35 mission will sustain that positive impact for decades to come.

As a more immediate benefit, if the wing makes the final selection list we can anticipate receiving a large investment, millions of dollars, from the federal government for construction-related projects for F-35 bed down. Those projects would translate to a direct impact on Tucson's economy through additional construction jobs.

Q: Luke Air Force Base is also on the list of possible training bases. Is the wing in competition with Luke Air Force Base for the new F-35?

No. There is no competition between us and Luke for the F-35.

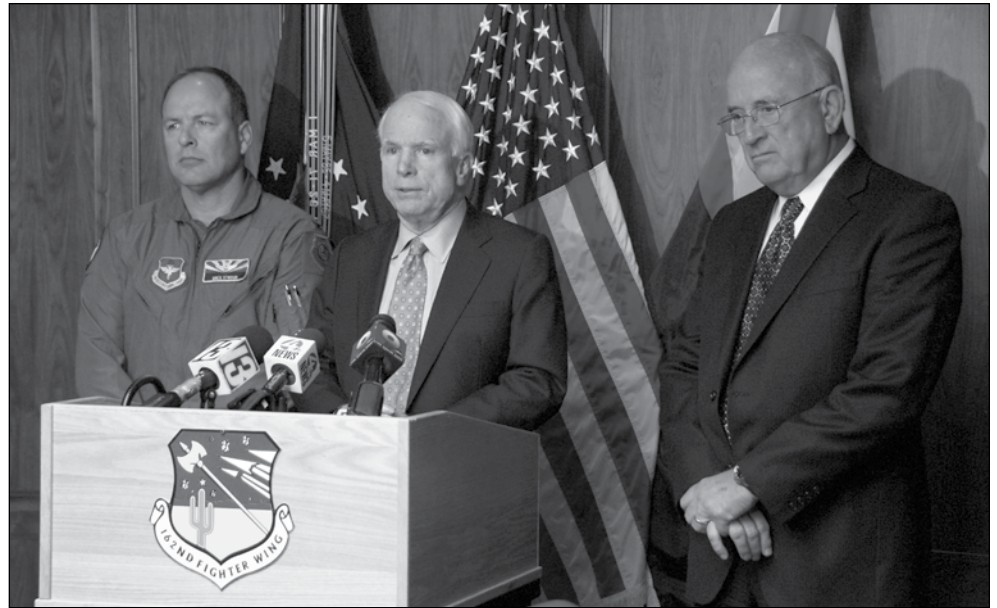


Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Col. Greg Stroud, 162nd Fighter Wing commander, U.S. Senator John McCain and Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup hold a news conference in the commander's conference room here Nov. 24 to discuss the wing's potential as a future F-35 Lightning II training base.

Luke and the 162nd Fighter Wing are both currently F-16 training units, yet there are differences in who we train. Luke, an active duty Air Force base, is the largest training wing in the world with more than 160 aircraft. Luke trains more than 50 percent of the Air Force's fighter pilots and 90 percent of its F-16 pilots. The 162nd is the largest Air National Guard fighter wing in the country with more than 60 aircraft for Air National Guard and international pilot training. Both Luke and the 162nd are viable candidates because of these differences.

Also, the Air National Guard's goal for the next fighter is to achieve a concurrent and proportional distribution between active component and Reserve component units. The idea is to find a balance in the allocation of F-35's among the active duty, Guard and Reserve that is in line with requirements to meet steady state operational commitments, to provide for a strategic reserve for war time needs, and to support the desired use of the Reserve component for operational missions.

Q: What can wing members do to help in the process?

Individuals and various shops will be called upon to help throughout the process. But in the meantime, just keep doing what you are doing. We have a great tradition of excellence here at the 162nd. I ask everyone to keep up the good work. Let's approach the compliance inspection this March with our best efforts. Let's continue to put safety and our people first. And let's continue the mission success that we have always enjoyed. Everyone plays an important role in the future of the wing.

Through the last six decades our unit has seen many changes and met many challenges, and I think this is quite possibly one of the most exciting times in our unit's history. The Guard is accustomed to flying old aircraft from the Air Force inventory. But in 2004, we brought the Block 60's to the base; essentially a brand new and different aircraft from our legacy F-16s. Now we stand a chance to bring in another new aircraft. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the future of the Guard.

Just the facts:

F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

Courtesy Lockheed Martin



The F-35 Lightning II is designed to replace aging fighter inventories including U.S. Air Force A-10s and F-16s, U.S. Navy F/A-18s, U.S. Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers and F/A-18s, and U.K. Harrier GR.7s and Sea Harriers. With stealth and a host of next-generation technologies, the F-35 will be far and away the world's most advanced multi-role fighter.

The F-35...

- Provides the United States and allied governments with an affordable, stealthy 5TH generation fighter for the 21st century
- Brings stealth capability that is integrated throughout the aircraft with embedded antennas, aligned edges and special coatings and materials
- Meets multiple service requirements with a single-engine supersonic multi-role fighter
- Conducts air-to-air and air-to-ground combat missions simultaneously with near impunity
- Carries a comprehensive sensor package that integrates vast amounts of battlespace information with allied forces in the air, on the ground, at sea or in space

The single-engine F-35 Lightning II will be manufactured in three variants:

1. Conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) for the U.S. Air Force
2. Carrier variant (CV) for the U.S. Navy
3. Short takeoff/vertical landing (STOVL) for the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.K. Royal Air Force and Royal Navy

With greatly increased reliability and ease of maintenance, the F-35 joins the world's only other 5TH generation fighter, the F-22 Raptor, in defining the ultimate in fighter performance.

The F-35 Lightning II's successful first flight occurred Dec. 15, 2006. Flight testing continues to advance full development of this 5TH generation fighter. Flight testing of the STOVL variant began in 2008. Deliveries to the armed services are scheduled to begin in 2013 and continue well beyond 2030.

The conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) F-35A - designed for the U.S. Air Force - is the primary export version of the Lightning II. The F-35A uses standard runways for takeoffs and landings.

Internal fuel capacity is nine tons, providing an unrefueled range of more than 1,200 miles without external tanks.

The F-35A carries a 25 mm GAU-22/A cannon internally. The standard internal weapons load is two AIM-120C air-to-air missiles and two 2,000-pound GBU-31 JDAM guided bombs. Optional internal loads include eight GBU-38 small-diameter bombs, as well as a wide variety of air-to-ground missiles, dispensers and guided weapons.

The internal weapons bay is reconfigurable for all air-to-ground ordnance, all air-to-air ordnance or a blend of both. When stealth is no longer required to execute a mission, the F-35A external pylons are loaded with ordnance, giving the aircraft a weapons payload of more than 18,000 pounds.

By the numbers...

- Length 51.5 ft
- Height 14.2 ft
- Wingspan 35 ft
- Horizontal tail span 23 ft
- Weight empty 29,300 lb
- Maximum weight 70,000 lb class
- Internal fuel 18,000 + lbs
- Speed Mach 1.6 (~1,200 mph)
- Range ~1,200 n. mi
- Power plant One P&W F135 or GE F136
- Engine thrust 40,000 lb (w/ AB)



TEST CENTER'S WEPTAC PUTS WARFIGHTER'S NEEDS IN FOCUS

by Master Sgt.
Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

Nearly 1,200 Air Force warfighters met here Oct. 19-23 in 30 working groups on Air Force weapons systems to decide on what's needed to succeed in future battles and missions.

This year's Air Guard and Reserve Weapons and Tactics Conference (WEPTAC) is the biggest ever, said Air Force Col. Jon K. Mott, commander of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command Test Center (AATC) in Tucson.

The AATC hosts the conference each year with support from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the Arizona Air Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing.

The growth of WEPTAC, said Mott, is from an expansion of integrated combat missions between the active duty Air Force, Air Guard and Air Force Reserve, including space and cyber-space missions and other developing missions.

"All of those warfighters have requirements, too," he said. "They are now involved in the fight."

He added that WEPTAC continues to provide experienced warfighters the platform to "voice their requirements" for the year and to get them prioritized and published. "It's a way to ensure the Air Guard and Reserve's weapons systems stay modernized and relevant," he said.

In the past, Mott remembers chairing an A-10 Warthog attack



aircraft working group as a weapons officer from the Massachusetts Air Guard.

"It's a great opportunity," he said.

WEPTAC is now so successful that the Air Guard developed a similar conference for its domestic operations, called the Domestic Operations 10 Essential Requirements (DOERS).

Mott said WEPTAC is also an opportunity for Guard, Reserve and active duty Airmen to coordinate a shared mission need, outside the "stove-pipe" of one weapons system.

For example, "the HH-60 [helicopter] Airmen, the A-10 [attack aircraft] Airmen and the PJs (pararescuemen) meet for their individual weapons systems and then for a mission area, where they all sit down and say 'hey, we as a community in this mission area need this type of modernization and this type of equipment,'" said Mott.

The byproducts of WEPTAC are a Tactics Improvement Proposal and a Research, Development and Acquisitions book, which is a critical list that's developed and prioritized here by the combat-experienced warfighters, as, Mott said, "the five most important, critical things that

they need." Mission area discussion and coordination is also considered a "valuable" byproduct.

As Air Force warfighters, busy with day-to-day operations, deployments and inspections, Mott said they rarely get to sit down and talk with their wingmen at different states and commands.

At the HC/MC-130 Hercules aircraft working group, Maj. Jeremy White from the Alaska Air Guard's 211th Rescue Squadron, chaired the discussions on those aircraft, which are specially equipped for refueling combat search-and-rescue missions and/or supporting special operations.

"We are basically talking about requirements we need to make us more capable," he said. "The biggest things that we are trying to do is determine what we need now to keep us operating in the war and what things we need in the future to keep moving forward."

For example, White said some of the older aircraft in their fleet are nearing the end of their useful life spans. So the newest J-model Hercules aircraft was "a big topic of discussion."

"I'm trying to get the right person, talking about the right subjects, that's my job," said White. "And I'm also trying to get the right people in the room to converse, so by the end of the week we come up with good solutions."

There were nearly 31 Guard and Reserve warfighters facilitating that working group, all having a lot of experience and knowledge on the HC/MC-130.

White's group then joined working groups from the HH-60 Pave Hawk combat search-and-rescue helicop-

ter and ground Airmen to confer, develop and integrate their solutions in shared missions.

A good example is in data links, said White. "If we all talk together on [shared] missions, then we have to ensure what we [ask for] here works across those platforms."

Defense industry representatives also hosted an "Industry Days" display of their weapons and wares nearby. A few of those representatives attended weapons system working groups.

"They (warfighters) all sit down with the defense industry to see what they have available and to take that and coalesce it into a useful product so that we can push forward in the next year," said Mott.

WEPTAC is often called the "voice of the war fighter," and Mott said that popular phrase means the voice of "iron" captains and majors and "iron" staff sergeants and technical sergeants or those Airmen involved in combat operations. "They say what they think is the most important here," he said.

"I certainly think so," White agreed. "Something must occur where we get all the users in the know out there, those who are using the equipment every day in touch with the higher-up's in our chain of command, as far as procuring the monies, the contracts and the equipment. They need to hear from us and know what we are seeing on a day-to-day basis."

These thousand warfighters have one, weeklong goal to prepare a polished "out-brief" for the Director of the Air Guard, Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt III, and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, Lt. Gen. Charles Stenner Jr. They, in turn, will use the information along with DoD and elected officials to make decisions that support and defend the nation and its allies.

"This is their one opportunity during the year to hear what warfighters have to say on what's needed for combat as part of the total force," said Mott.



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Col. Jon Mott assumes command of the Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Command Test Center with a symbolic passing of the AATC guidon from Maj. Gen. Rick Moisio, Air National Guard deputy director, Oct. 16.

Test center welcomes new commander

The Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Command Test Center (AATC) at Tucson International Airport welcomed a new commander Oct. 16.

Col. Jon Mott assumed command receiving the AATC guidon from Maj. Gen. Rick Moisio, the deputy director of the Air National Guard and former 162nd Fighter Wing commander.

Colonel Mott previously served as the director of Air National Guard Plans and Requirements at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. He is also the first career A-10 pilot to command the test center with more than 4,700 hours and 90 combat missions.

The AATC mission is to conduct operational tests on behalf of the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve Command.

As a tenant unit hosted by the Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing, the compact team composed of about 70 active duty, Reserve component, civilian and contractor members works to field low-cost, low-risk, off-the-shelf improvements for Guard and Reserve aircraft.

"It's a great honor to lead the test center mission," said Colonel Mott. "The work we do here to fulfill the needs of the warfighter is needed now more than ever. I look forward to working with our 162nd Fighter Wing team to improve combat, mobility and special operations weapon systems."

Col. Dan Bader, former AATC commander, now serves as deputy director for domestic operations at National Guard Bureau headquarters in Arlington, Va.



Compliance inspection prep: LCAP recognizes outstanding performers



Photo by 2nd Lt. Angela Walz

Staff Sgt. Walter Jacobs, Vehicle Operations dispatcher, conducts regular checks of all government vehicles. As part of the Logistics Readiness Squadron, personnel from the fuels and vehicle maintenance flights were given performance evaluations during the recent Logistics Compliance Assessment Program.

by 2nd Lt. Angela Walz
Public Affairs

The New Year is here, and the wing’s compliance inspection isn’t far behind. Set for March 8-16, there is much abuzz at Tucson International Airport in preparation for the 162nd’s upcoming inspection.

The Maintenance Group and Logistics Readiness Squadron underwent an Air National Guard Logistics Compliance Assessment Program (LCAP), a five-tier graded inspection, to prepare for the compliance inspection.

“The LCAP team was impressed with our overall programs and stated that they should be held as examples for the rest of the Air National Guard,” said Lt. Col. James Taylor, Maintenance Group commander.

The LCAP occurred here and at near-by Davis-

Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Nov. 5-9. The following ‘Outstanding Performers’ were briefed to commanders Nov. 10 during the unit outbrief:

Logistics

Master Sgt. Lionel Dixon
Tech. Sgt. Sadie Felix
Staff Sgt. Stephen Marsh

Maintenance

Senior Master Sgt. Charles Neal
Master Sgt. Joseph Duyck
Master Sgt. Jason Handa
Staff Sgt. Timothy Strauss

Recognized for ‘Best Practices’ were Senior Master Sgt. Tony Medrano for the HAZMAT Pharmacy Customer Training Program, Senior Master Sgt. David Valasco for the MAPTAMS Database, and the Quality Assurance section for the Top Performer and Elite Performer Award Program.

The ‘Top Shop’ award for the LRS went to the Logistics Readiness Vehicle Maintenance Flight, and the Quality Assurance section for the MXG.

The following individuals received ‘Honor Roll’ awards for their efforts during the LCAP: Senior Master Sgts. Alfred Aragon, Victor Lara, Thomas Wilson; Master Sgts. Frank Cole, Sandy Gilliland, Rick Hardman, Timothy Noon, Frances Parker, James Stenger, Jay Watkins; Tech. Sgts. Marcos Aguilar, Waylon Erb, Toni Fox, Matthew Nethery, Tracy Parrott, Frank Quinn, Danny Ramirez, Lesleigh Smith, Edgar Switzer, Oscar Torres; and Staff Sgts. Corey Ash, Michael Hobby, and Manuel Navarro.

“This was all about the Guard looking at the Guard for ways in which to improve,” said Col. Karen Bence, Mission Support Group commander.

“The LCAP layed out the roadmap for how we should prepare for the compliance inspection in March. I think we learned a lot and we certainly know where our strengths lie,” she said.

Lt. Col. Chris Alderdice, LCAP Team Chief, presents a Top Shop award to Chief Master Sgt. Ernie Cruce from the Maintenance Group’s Quality Assurance Office.





Getting ready for the next big inspection



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Elliott

Senior Airman Sarah Cook, a civil engineer, helps Master Sgt. Elizabeth Koller fit her gas mask during a mobility exercise. The wing's compliance inspection scheduled for March 8-16 will have a mobility component to test the wing's deployment readiness.

by Tech. Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Public Affairs

As the March 2010 compliance inspection approaches, 162nd Fighter Wing members are brushing up on inspection items, training and participating in exercises which simulate an inspection environment.

What is it?

A compliance inspection is an Air Force inspection conducted to assess areas mandated by law and mission areas identified by senior Air Force leadership as critical to the health of a unit. Major command inspectors general (IG) evaluate common core compliance areas and any failures to comply with directives could result in legal liabilities, penalties or significant mission impact.

"The purpose of the inspection is to measure compliance of an organization based on checklist criteria. It's an opportunity to see if the wing is doing what it should be doing. The ultimate goal is to pass by exceeding inspector expectations and checklist item requirements," said Master Sgt. Lionel Dixon, noncommissioned officer in charge of the logistics plans flight.

How the wing is preparing

Checklist compliance is regulation driven and there are no gray areas in how the IG assigns ratings. The wing self-inspection tracking program is a tool that the wing uses to assist functional areas with measuring their compliance.

"The actual Air Education and Training Command (AETC) checklists are located on the program. We began using it and preparing in October 2008. Functional areas continue to update their respective checklists and answer questions on compliance. It allows the different areas to tell how they are in compliance and provide 'get well' dates for non-compliant items. The program gives wing leadership a good snapshot at any given time of where the wing stands in its preparation for the inspection," said Maj. Steven Weatherford, installation deployment officer.

Located on the wing intranet site, the wing self-inspection tracking program is broken down into five groups: headquarters, operations, maintenance, mission support and medical. Once a respective section is selected, wing members can view the overall self-inspection progress.

In addition to using the database wing members participated in a mobility exercise in September. The exercise covered a number of inspection areas including personnel readiness folder reviews, performing self-aid and buddy care on simulated wounded Airmen, and donning protective equipment during chemical attacks.

"To prepare for the mobility scenario during the inspection, everyone should review the Airman's Manual and learn about treating yourself or a buddy. Like the physical fitness test everyone needs to practice in order to be efficient," said Master Sgt. Kenneth Gross, headquarters unit deployment manager.

Helpful reminders

The intent of an inspection can be misunderstood. According to wing leaders, it is a time to showcase the successes of the 162nd and highlight future improvement goals. Being professional and communicating an understanding of this with inspectors can go a long way.

"Remember customs and courtesies. The inspectors wear the same uniform we do. They are here to do their job and in reality are here to help. Be aware of your appearance and be the professional that you are," said Major Weatherford.

Another useful tip provided by the wing deployment center is to review the programs in your area that need improvement. Before the inspection, inform commanders and supervisors of inspection items that can't be fixed. Be honest about weaknesses and show your roadmap to improvement.

"Inspectors also want to see your strengths. It's important to not get caught up in aesthetics but put more emphasis on compliance. Be prepared as early as possible," said Sergeant Dixon.



Education benefits at a glance

by Capt. Dan Dodson
Public Affairs

There has been a lot of talk recently regarding education benefits, more specifically, the education benefit known as the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

“A lot of people think they qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, when they don’t,” said Master Sgt. Patricia Switzer-Monks, 162nd Fighter Wing retention office manager.

However, it is important to know the majority of unit members qualify for at least one or more educational benefit programs.

“Recently I have found people have been qualifying for up to four education programs,” Sergeant Switzer-Monks said.

Selected Reserve GI Bill

Most unit members qualify for the Selected Reserve GI Bill, Chapter 1606. Members are eligible if they have enlisted in the Guard or Reserve for at least six years. Members do not have to pay anything for this benefit.

They qualify because of their service commitment. It is good for 36 months and it pays \$333 per month for full-time students. The benefit expires when the member leaves the Selected Reserve.

Active Duty GI Bill

The Active Duty GI Bill, Chapter 30, is for military members that at one time were active duty.

“Being active duty made you eligible, whether the person enrolled in the program was their choice,” said Sergeant Switzer-Monks.

The member has to accept or decline coverage at their time of entrance into active duty status. This is the program in which the military person pays \$100 a month for 12 months, and then receives benefits of \$1,368 per month for up to 36 months for full-time students. This benefit expires 10 years after separation from the military.

Reserve Education Assistance Program

The Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP), Chapter 1607, is another education program available to members that have 90 consecutive days in support of a contingency.

“A lot of people have been confusing this program with the Post-9/11 GI Bill,” said Switzer-Monks.

This is a program that members must apply for through the Veterans Administration (VA). The REAP pays a Guard or Reserve member a percentage of the Chapter 30 GI bill based on time served in a contingency operation. The percentage could range anywhere from 40 percent to 100 percent of \$1,368.

It is important to stress the eligibility is 90 continuous days of Title 10 service, in support of a contingency.





Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is for military members that have performed active duty service (Title 10) for at least 90 days after Sept. 10, 2001. Unlike the REAP, the days do not have to be continuous, just aggregate. Certain stipulations do apply, such as military technical schools.

“The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a great program because it pays for your tuition and gives you a basic allowance for housing equivalent to an E-5 (currently \$1,333), plus a \$1,000 stipend for books and fees,” she said.

There are reductions in percentages based on active duty time completed. It’s a tier-based system. For example, if a military member has completed 90 days of Title 10 active duty service after Sept. 10, 2001, he or she is eligible for 40 percent of benefits.

“What’s great is they actually work right with the school to pay the tuition. The military member does not have to get reimbursed or wait for their money,” said Sergeant Switzer-Monks.

Once the military member reaches 36 months of active duty (Title 10) service, they qualify for the maximum amount of benefits. If the tuition is \$3,000 per year, the VA pays the school \$3,000 per year and the military member receives a housing allowance during the period.

Let’s do the math:
 $\$1,333 \text{ (BAH)} \times 36 \text{ (MONTHS)}$
 $= \$47,988,$
 $\$3,000 \text{ (TUITION)} \times 3 \text{ (YEARS)}$
 $= \$9,000.$
 $\$47,988 + \$9,000 =$
 Up to \$56,988

This example does not include if multiple family members are receiving BAH allowances, which is allowed in some circumstances.

This bill is good for 15 years after

the military person retires. The great thing about this bill is military members are able to transfer these benefits on to their spouse and children. However, they have to do this prior to retiring.

After the member applies on-line they will receive a letter stating what percentage they qualify for.

“I have noticed some of these percentages have been wrong, so it is up to the military members to provide the source documents to correct it,” said Switzer-Monks.

Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program

The Yellow Ribbon Program works in conjunction with the Post-9/11 GI Bill to subsidize the difference in tuition a military member would have to pay out of pocket - up to 50 percent. For example, if a military member qualifies for 50 percent of tuition payments, this program pays the complete difference.

The University of Arizona has 25 yellow ribbon slots available. Currently only four of these slots are being utilized. Any military member attending college should ask their school’s VA representative if they participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program and if they qualify.

Summary

There are many more education benefit programs than covered here. These are just a few common programs.

Every military member should visit with their Unit Career Advisor to examine what benefits they are entitled to. It is important to note that each person’s situation is unique.

The wing retention office is an excellent resource to find answers to questions. Office staff can be reached at (520) 295-6191.



Meet the new 162nd command chief

by Maj. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

As an Arizona Air National Guard firefighter, Senior Master Sgt. Shane Clark's career taught him to stay cool under pressure, lead from the front and take care of people – skills that earned him an appointment to the 162nd Fighter Wing's highest enlisted post.

Wing leadership announced Sergeant Clark as the next command chief master sergeant, Oct. 8. He assumed his new duties during a change of authority and promotion ceremony Nov. 7.

"I'm honored to be selected by the wing commander to represent the enlisted force," said Sergeant Clark. "It's a new chapter in my life, a very exciting chapter which, I know, comes with a great degree of responsibility."

The command chief advises the commander on all enlisted matters, including issues affecting the wing's mission and operations, and the readiness, training, utilization, morale, technical and professional development, and quality of life of all enlisted members in the unit. The command chief is also the functional manager for all first sergeants in the wing and serves as the senior member of the Chief's Council.

Sergeant Clark will not hang up his fire chief hat any time soon. He will remain as the wing's full-time fire department chief, effectively taking on two major roles on base.

Before applying for the position, Sergeant Clark consulted two groups of people; first his family, then his fellow firefighters.

"I needed to be sure that as a family and as a fire department we were ready for me to take on the



Command Chief Clark

command chief job. It's with their support that I'll be able to do both jobs."

According to Clark, the need for a command chief to establish a presence in the various units on base and develop relationships with Guardsmen at all levels isn't much different from his duties as a fire department chief.

"My years as a firefighter, helping units with fire prevention programs, have enabled me to meet so many people already and that will only help me in what I need to accomplish as command chief. I know the senior leaders, the shop supervisors and the young Airmen out there making the wing successful; and they know me," Sergeant Clark said.

"I love working with people, and this is the ultimate job to allow that to happen. My goal is to open more lines of communication and make the mission better by utilizing the input of the people."

Sergeant Clark, a Tucson native, joined the 162nd as a traditional Guardsman in June 1983 after graduating from Tombstone High

School. In 1984 he was hired as a full-time fire protection specialist in the base fire department where he's served ever since.

However, not all of his 26 years of service were in full-time positions.

Sergeant Clark said he understands the challenges facing drill status Guardsmen at the wing; an ability he attributes to a two-year stint as a Rural Metro Fire Department chief from 2006 to 2008. During that period he remained a member of the wing's part-time force.

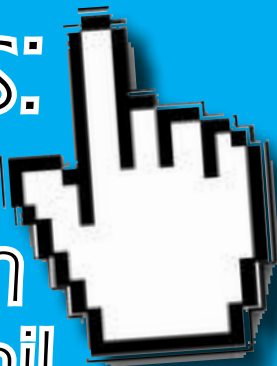
"In those two years I gained a perspective of what it's like to be a drill status Guardsman. Working here two days per month showed me that what happens between drills needs to be communicated to people to keep them informed and focused. That's what's going to allow our Airmen to be more productive while accomplishing the mission, and that's something I hope to share with base leaders as command chief."

In his spare time Sergeant Clark raises and rides horses, and is an avid golfer.

He also enjoys spending time with his family. He has two daughters, Sierra, 7, and Kendall, 6; and has been married to his wife Loraine for eight years.



Web News: Stories, photos, and more from 162fw.ang.af.mil



Steak Fry serves over 900 Airmen, retirees
Chief Master Sgt. David Burton, left, turns a steak while Chief Master Sgt. George Silvas monitors chicken on the grill during the annual Steak Fry at the 162nd Fighter Wing, Oct. 4.

Mass enlistment bolsters wing strength
Col. Greg Stroud, 162nd Fighter Wing commander, administers the oath of enlistment to nine new members in the wing auditorium here, Oct. 2.



Steak Fry
(From the left) Barb Gavre, 1st Lt. Gina Martin, Master Sgt. Holly Gwaltney and Master Sgt. Kerri Lane get ready for a tug-of-war match during the annual Steak Fry, Oct. 4.



CFC kicked off in October
Col. Greg Stroud, 162nd Fighter Wing commander, fills out a Combined Federal Campaign donation form Oct. 2. The wing's campaign started with the October unit training assembly and ran through Dec. 15.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Student musicians from Tucson's Cholla High School perform mariachi music for Guardsmen at the Steak Fry Oct. 4. Each year the students perform at the wing to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month which runs from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.





MOTORCYCLE MENTORSHIP CLUB
Visit www.162fw.af.mil/motorcycle to learn more about the wing's new motorcycle safety program designed to assist new riders to develop safe riding skills and the proper use of personal protective equipment while maintaining camaraderie within the ranks of our members. The program's aim is to educate and promote safe riding practices through mentorship by experienced riders.



Retirees Luncheon
162nd Fighter Wing retirees gather for their semi-annual luncheon at Hometown Buffet, Oct. 14. Retirees can find news and information about upcoming events and retirement benefits at 162fw.af.mil/retirees.

Haunted Hangar
Col. Ted Maxwell, 162nd Fighter Wing vice commander, waits to be dropped into a dunk tank during the 162nd Fighter Wing's Haunted Hangar, Oct. 25. Several wing leaders volunteered for the tank to raise funds for the Family Readiness Group.



Haunted Hangar
(From the left) Airman First Class Andrew Czarnowski, Staff Sgt. Robin Hinton, Brian Estes, Tech. Sgt. Heidi Estes, and Holly Thiel dress in Halloween costumes to man the Junior Enlisted Council's cake walk booth in the dining facility.



Services flight comes home
(Left) Tech. Sgt. Santos Flores, 162nd Force Support Squadron, is greeted by family in the Tucson Airport baggage claim after a four-month deployment to Southwest Asia, Oct. 22.

(Right) Guardsmen assigned to the 162nd Force Support Squadron ride an escalator to the baggage claim area after a long trip.



Maintenance Group recognizes Top Performers
Tech. Sgt. John Mahler, 148th Fighter Squadron, receives the Elite Performer award from Lt. Col. James Taylor, 162nd Maintenance Group Commander, Nov. 6. Sergeant Mahler was chosen for the award from 800 Guardsmen that serve in the maintenance group here. The award recognizes maintainers who consistently perform quality work, maintain safe work practices, follow technical data, and engage in quality initiatives.



Chuck's Adventures: The Need for Speed
Chuck George, KOLD Chief Meteorologist, flew here Nov. 3 with Col. Greg Stroud, 162nd commander, for the local news station's Nov. 15 broadcast.

Flight of the Minuteman
Sandi Eghtesadi gives a hug to fellow 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee member Bill Valenzuela at the committee's Fall banquet held here Nov. 13. Eghtesadi's name was randomly drawn for an F-16 orientation flight. One flight is awarded annually to the wing's community support organization as a token of gratitude for the committee's tremendous support of the wing's mission and its Guardsmen.





Chaplain's training, faith save an Arizona man's life

by Capt. Dan Dodson
Public Affairs

Military chaplains are often credited with saving lives, and most of the time it's a spiritual life that is saved. For one Air Guard Chaplain, a recent hunting trip turned into a different kind of rescue operation.

When a 162nd Fighter Wing Chaplain, Maj. Mike Martinez, went hunting in early November, he didn't take a deer's life, but instead was involved in helping save a human life. Chaplain Martinez, a Catholic priest, had his self aid and buddy care training and divine intervention, on his side.

Chaplain Martinez was mule deer hunting in the Gallero Mountains, just north of Wilcox, Ariz., and west of Safford, with his brother David Martinez and his father Ralph Martinez. They had an uneventful few days when – as American poet Robert Frost would have said – the chaplain took a road less traveled and made all the difference.

In the early morning of Nov. 2, Ralph Martinez found a man in distress.

"We were just about ready to go up this road and at the last second my dad decided that we should go down a different road," said Chaplain Martinez.

Ralph's decision more than likely saved Henry Alvarado's life. It was a Monday so the majority of hunters were already gone. Ralph spotted the fellow hunter under a juniper tree not doing well.

"This guy was kind of passed out and somewhat incoherent. My dad started talking to him and learned that his son, Leonard, was in the area hunting as well," said Martinez.

"I recall thinking there is something wrong with me, and I need to get back to camp. I just kept falling to my knees, blacking out," said Alvarado.

At this point Chaplain Martinez was approximately 400 yards away from his father Ralph, communicating via radio. Chaplain Martinez was instructed to find Leonard, which he quickly did.

Once all the men were together they realized they knew each other. "My brother David played sports with Leonard, and my dad and Henry knew each other



Courtesy photo

Chaplain Martinez pictured here with an all terrain vehicle moments before he and the four-wheeler were involved with saving a fellow deer hunter's life.

from Safford," said Chaplain Martinez.

Working together to help Henry, they tried to load him on an all terrain vehicle to return to camp. Leonard could then drive his dad to the local hospital. The situation quickly got worse.

"We had just started moving on the quads when Henry began feeling nauseous, we had to stop and the next thing I knew he was throwing up blood and some type of matter. He also had blood running out of his nose, and his eyes were rolling to the back of his head," said Chaplain Martinez.

"It felt like my insides were coming out," said Henry.

Chaplain Martinez's training took over as he provided life saving care. "I remember thinking back to all my self aid and buddy care training, just remembering let's make sure he has a good airway, get his breathing going," said the chaplain while doing what also comes natural to him – praying.

"The lord was definitely with me that day," said Henry.

At the same time his brother David was in contact with the Graham County Sheriff's Department ordering a medical evacuation helicopter. He had to climb to the top of a ridge to receive cell phone service, relaying via a radio, what was happening down below.

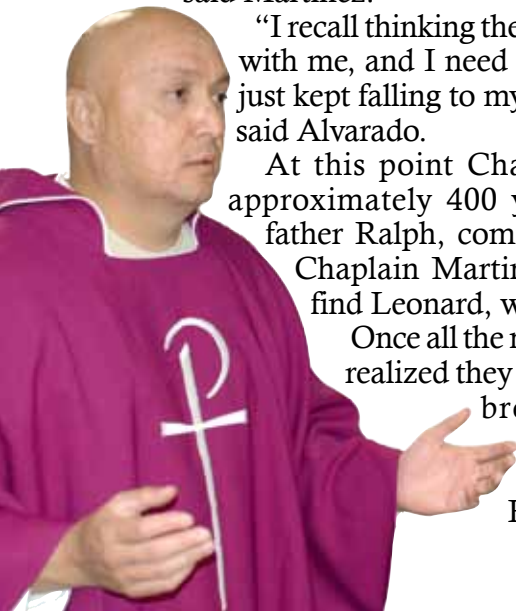
Less than 20 minutes later a helicopter landed on a ridge 50 yards away, to transport Henry Alvarado to Tucson Medical Center for life-saving care.

"Another 20 minutes and I would have bled out and died," said Henry.

It was later determined that Henry had lesions on his liver that ruptured causing internal bleeding.

"I owe my life to those guys. I am very fortunate," said Henry.

According Chaplain Martinez, taking the road less traveled just meant that he was exactly where he needed to be.





New gym an early Christmas gift for wing members

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Public Affairs

The cold December air was filled with excitement here as wing members received an early Christmas gift during a ribbon-cutting ceremony opening a new fitness center housing state-of-the-art equipment Dec. 5.

Col. Greg Stroud, 162nd Fighter Wing commander, officiated the event in PT gear. He said the occasion was one for celebrating the efforts of those involved in making the gym possible.

The new Air Force physical training standard is projected to start July 2010, requiring Air Force members to test twice a year. The commander encouraged wing members to find a "workout wingman" and embrace the coming change.



Col. Greg Stroud, 162nd Fighter Wing commander, cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the wing's new fitness center. The state-of-the-art center opened here Dec. 5. Funded by the wing, the fitness center project totaled more than \$265,000 dollars in upgrades.

"Fitness shouldn't be a big deal and it shouldn't be a big deal to do it right. We all have to start somewhere and should strive to be as fit as we can," said Colonel Stroud.

After the ribbon cutting, wing members toured the new center. Staff Sgt. Angel Santana an aerospace propulsion journeyman who works out regularly made immediate plans to use the new gym.

"I work out three times a week at the Dutch warehouse and this is a major improvement. The additional equipment available is enough motivation to work out even more," said Sergeant Santana.

The new gym located in building 9 room 104, replaces the Dutch warehouse gym in building 3. Funding for the new facility totaled more than \$265,000.

The new gym houses a free weight area, weightlifting and cardio equipment, and shower rooms for men and women. Lockers are available for daily use only, and PT or civilian fitness attire is required to use the gym.

"The new fitness center is available to all wing and test center members. Operating hours are 4 a.m. to midnight weekdays and UTA weekends," said Capt. Paul Jefferson, acting 162nd Force Support Squadron commander.



Staff Sgt. Angel Santana, an aerospace propulsion journeyman with the 162nd Maintenance Group, tests a piece of equipment in the new center during a grand opening ceremony Dec. 5. The new fitness center contains a cardio area, weightlifting area and locker rooms.



Minuteman Golf Tournament: A hole-in-one for worthy causes

From the 162nd Fighter Wing
Minuteman Committee

VAIL, Ariz. – The 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee, the unit’s community support organization, raised \$12,500 at its annual golf tournament fund raiser here, Oct. 30.

Approximately 100 golfers and 20 volunteers donned their best golfing attire at the Del Lago Golf Course to raise money for four different non-profit organizations; Project Challenge, Wright Flight, The Jimmy Jet Foundation and The Family Readiness Group.

“We could not have asked for a more perfect day. The weather was exceptional, the course was in great shape and the players were very generous,” said Matthew Brogen, golf committee chairman.

The tournament began with the Project Challenge Color Guard posting the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

According to Brogen, it was a great way to pay tribute to the country and also to serve as a reminder of the day’s purpose.

Project Challenge is a preventive “youth at risk” program organized by the Arizona National Guard designed around an intervention model built on eight core components needed for successful living; life coping skills, academic excellence, responsible citizenship, health and hygiene, job skills, physical fitness, leadership and followership, and community service.

The Challenge program provides a demanding, military-based educational program in residence for high school dropouts who desire to succeed. The intent of the program is to produce young adults who either pursue further education or a career after graduation.

As the golfers teed off, volunteers transformed the clubhouse patio into a proper dinner and awards ceremony setting.

Led by Bill Valenzuela, a long-time committee member, the volunteers set up banners, tables and arranged raffle prizes and awards to welcome golfers at the end of the day.

Raffle tickets were drawn for prizes that ranged from two roundtrip tickets anywhere American Airlines flies in the continental United States, to a two night stay at a resort in Rocky Point.

Meanwhile another volunteer, CeCe Perry, with Wright Flight, was enthusiastically taking pictures of the golfers as they came by the clubhouse.

Wright Flight, Inc. is a non-profit corporation which was founded in 1986 in Tucson, Ariz. Their incentive program graduates nearly 1,000 local youths each year and turns lives around, “Helping Kids Reach New Heights” both in educational endeavors and personal development. Wright Flight understands the profound effect that airplanes have on young men and women and utilizes aviation interest to motivate kids to excel in school.

Out on the course, the par three holes were set up as “Closest to the Pin” holes to generate more revenues for the non profits.

Hitting a ball closest to the pin earned a skilled or lucky golfer half of the money raised on three of the four holes. The fourth closest to the pin winner received an A2 Air Force leather jacket donated by Wright Flight.

The holes were staffed by volunteers from the 162nd Fighter Wing and Project Challenge Cadets.

“I was really pleased with the amount of energy I saw out on the course at the par three holes,” said Brogen. “The volunteers who have done this type of work in the past really understood their purpose and it showed.”

The par three holes alone raised more than \$600.

After taking on one of the most challenging golf courses in Southern Arizona the golfers returned to the clubhouse where emcee Robin Stoddard of Wright



Photo by CeCe Perry, Wright Flight

The Project Challenge Color Guard posts the colors at the 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee Golf Tournament at Del Lago Golf Course in Vail, Ariz., Oct. 30. Project Challenge was one of four non-profit organizations that benefited from the \$12,500 generated by the tournament.



Flight welcomed everyone, introduced presenters and handed out awards.

Col. Greg Stroud, 162nd Fighter Wing commander, spoke to the audience on behalf of The Family Readiness Group. The commander also thanked all of the volunteers for their hard work in preparing and organizing the day's event.

Family Readiness Group's mission is to plan, develop and execute the programs of Family Readiness such as, outreach, and youth and volunteer management that encourage partnerships and educate their Airmen, families and communities.

Four silent auction prizes were on display and Carrie Brogen, diligently volunteered her time to make sure that each item generated as much revenue as possible. The silent auction items also raised more than \$600.

Chief Master Sgt. Nikki Uremovich spoke on behalf of The Jimmy Jet Foundation. She talked about the numerous families the foundation has helped and expressed appreciation for the money donated from the golf tournament.

The Jimmy Jet Foundation (JJF) is a non-profit Arizona Corporation serving the 162nd Fighter Wing members, their families and the Tucson community. The foundation is named after an Arizona Air National Guard F-16 crew chief, Jimmy "Jet" Bracamonte. Jimmy suffered a paralyzing accident in 1993. As a result, his home needed several modifications.

Jimmy's friends at the 162nd held a series of fundraisers in the form of breakfasts and car washes to help defray the modification costs. Wing members soon realized that there were other members in the unit and in the community that also needed help.

As time went on, more people began to volunteer their time, money and other resources to help others. Eventually, the JJF became a registered, non-profit organization and also received Combined Federal Campaign recognition.

The JJF mission is to assist unit and community members in need, more specifically, those who suffer financial setbacks due to unforeseen events in their lives. Since the inception of the Jimmy Jet Foundation, more than 280 individuals and families from the Arizona Air National Guard and Tucson community have received financial assistance.

Awards were given out to the following winners:

Third place honors with a score of 53 were given plaques for their noble effort; Brian Karas, Billy Scogin, Tommy Riesgo and Bill Arnold.

Second Place honors with a score of 52 were given plaques for their brave attempt; Mark Cordova, Mike Arino, Aaron Cochran and Tom Arino.

First Place honors with a score of 51 were given metal



Photo by CeCe Perry, Wright Flight

Matthew Brogen, in his debut as the 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Golf Tournament Committee chairman, ensured a successful fundraiser.

Minuteman Silhouettes for their exceptionally sharp pencil; Marshall Brown, Tim Eggerman, Alan Scheurich and Phil Brewer.

A new award was added to this year's tournament. The Most Honest Award was handed out to the team who obviously did not buy any Mulligans and did not use their eraser. With a score of 73 the following "golfers" were given a Billiards trophy and a \$50 gift card; Kieth Devine, Rudy Ormsby, William Garcia and Pete Smith.

During his closing remarks Bill Valenzuela said, "The purpose was to raise money for all of the non-profit organizations and show support for the 162nd."

He thanked all of the volunteers for donating their time to make the tournament a success and he congratulated Matthew Brogen on a job well done as a first-time golf committee chairman.

Valenzuela said he would like to see other Minuteman members get more involved with the golf tournament and he would like the Minuteman Committee to plan more events for its members.

As the sun set over the golf course Project Challenge corpsmembers retired the colors, the banners were taken down, bills were paid and money counted.

"Through the hard work and dedication of all of the volunteers involved and the generous gifts from sponsors, golfers and local businesses, the Minuteman Committee and ESGR will be able to present a check to each non-profit organization for their portion of the \$12,500 raised," said Brogen.

"Though it is not a lot of money, it will help carry on the mission of each organization to assist families and individuals attain a better quality of life. This is why we have a golf tournament."



Air Guard selects Predator pilot to compete for Sijan Award



Photo by Maj. Gabe Johnson

Maj. Austin Moore from the 214th Reconnaissance Group, left, accepts the Air National Guard's nomination for the Air Force's Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award while Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, Arizona Air National Guard commander, applauds the achievement. Family and friends gathered in the Operation Snowbird theater at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to watch the MQ-1B Predator pilot accept a clock and certificate from the Air National Guard, Oct. 27.

by Maj. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. - An Arizona Air National Guard MQ-1B Predator pilot here recently received the Air National Guard's nomination for the Air Force's Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award.

Maj. Austin Moore of the 214th Reconnaissance Group is the first unmanned aerial vehicle pilot selected to represent the Guard in competition for the prestigious

honor.

The award is named for the first U.S. Air Force Academy graduate to receive the Medal of Honor. Capt. Lance Sijan, an F-4 Phantom pilot, was shot down over Vietnam on Nov. 9, 1967, and evaded capture for 45 days despite severe injuries. He later died while in a Vietnamese prisoner of war camp and was awarded the medal posthumously for heroism.

The Sijan Awards are presented annually to outstanding senior and junior officers and senior and junior enlisted Airmen who demonstrate the highest qualities of leadership in their jobs and in their lives. The Air Force is anticipated to name the 2009 finalists next summer.

Major Moore, who was a captain during the award period, will be considered in the junior officer category.

"I'm extremely grateful. I'm extremely honored. I think if anyone were to read 'Into the Mouth of the Cat: The Story of Lance Sijan' they'd know to compete for an award bearing his name is an incredible honor," said Major Moore who routinely flies combat missions over Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since its activation in July 2007, the 214th has maintained continuous flying operations over Southwest Asia via satellite from Tucson, Ariz. The group accepted the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Aug. 8 for flying more than 17,000 hours, supplying 14,000 hours of battlefield video footage, and firing 47 Hellfire missiles in defense of troops on the ground.

Job satisfaction at the unit is high, and Airmen here gladly work around the clock. The 120 Guardsmen assigned never take holidays off and have had only one down day in the past 28 months.

"It's a very different unit and mission. It's not just a command post working 24/7; it's the whole unit working 24/7," said Lt. Col. Randy Inman, 214th Reconnaissance Group commander.

"Austin's recognition by the Air National Guard, I think, helps to raise the credibility of what this system does for the Air Guard and the Air Force. It's helping change our culture. Someday it won't be about what kind of aircraft you fly or what mission you have, but rather what you do with that mission. Predators - UAVs - are in their infancy right now, but people like Austin are showing what they are capable of," Colonel Inman said.

In the past year Major Moore flew top cover for Afghan leaders, backed up special operations forces dur-



ing raids, spotted Taliban leadership for capture, stifled drug and weapons smugglers, and saved American lives by dispatching insurgents.

“He doesn’t feel that he’s doing anything different from any pilot out there, but when he joined as one of the first pilots in the group he really saw the vision of how this system could go,” said Inman.

Formerly a KC-135 Stratotanker pilot, Moore made the switch to Predators to have a direct impact on over-seas contingencies.

“It was absolutely, 100 percent, the opportunity to be more involved in the fight,” Major Moore said. “In the tanker we have a combat support role that’s vital to global reach. However, this platform allows us to do amazing things. That’s what excited me [in addition to] the opportunity to stand up this unit and put all of the pieces in place. Together we built the program from the ground up to include the buildings, our work stations and how we deal with 24/7 operations.”

Major Moore was even the first in his unit to launch a Hellfire missile at an enemy target.

While tracking a group of insurgents riding in a van near Basrah, Iraq, in August of 2007, he witnessed them stop to randomly fire mortar rounds at friendly forces. As they sped away Moore tracked them through the city.

Despite having the proper clearance to strike the attackers, the major held fire and patiently followed them out of the city to avoid collateral damage.

“There was a lot of pressure to do it right. While you’re in the moment you just want to get it right and be effective,” he said.

Once the enemy was out in the open Moore released his weapon and destroyed the targets. The successful operation was the first of many to come.

“I [chose this mission] because of the opportunity to support the person on the ground. Nothing gives me greater satisfaction than knowing I helped someone get safely back to their forward operating base, or knowing somebody is alive today because I was providing over watch for them. That, more than anything, is why I do this,” he said.

According to Colonel Inman, the major is more than a good pilot, he’s a well-rounded person.

“Not only do we have a warrior here in terms of the war effort and his qualifications, but he’s contributing to the community through his non-profit organization Trips for Kids,” he said.

Trips for Kids Southern Arizona is a Tucson-based, non-profit organization that uses mountain biking to impart values for healthy lifestyles and the need to protect and appreciate the environment while empowering disadvantaged youth, ages 10 to 17, to take personal responsibility for their lives and their communities.

Major Moore and his wife Heather share a goal as



Photo courtesy of Trips for Kids Southern Arizona

Maj. Austin Moore leads a group of underprivileged children on a bike ride through the Southern Arizona desert near Tucson. For his leadership as an Airman and as a community volunteer, Major Moore was selected to represent the Guard for the Air Force’s Lance P. Sijan Award for 2009.

organization co-founders to team up with local agencies to provide positive, fun outdoor experiences coupled with community service and educational opportunities.

“Through mountain biking we show kids a challenge that, initially, might be scary, might be tough, but by the end of the ride they see that they are able to do it. It teaches them courage, gives them a sense of accomplishment and gives them the confidence to move forward in life despite challenges,” he said.

Major Moore said he feels honored to be a Predator pilot and he recognizes that the platform allows him and his fellow Guardsmen to be home with family and serve their community.

“I couldn’t do this job or Trips for Kids without the support of my family. My wife, Heather, has been tremendous in that regard. It takes a very supportive wife to understand what it takes for me to fly combat missions one minute and be at home the next.”

To find more information about Trips for Kids Southern Arizona, or to be a Trips for Kids volunteer, visit www.tripsforkidsaz.org.



Retirees Remembered - 2009

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

In 2009 the 162nd Fighter Wing quietly celebrated its 53rd birthday. Fifty-three years of history that saw the original, small but efficient, 152nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, with its single squadron complement of F-86A Sabre Jet fighter aircraft, grow into the largest Air National Guard fighter wing in the United States.

These past 53 years have seen several thousand dedicated personnel pass through the unit sharing their knowledge and making the 162nd better by their presence. Many young Tucsonans joined the unit and made the 162nd their military career. Also, former active duty members of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, as well as former Air Force personnel, have come to the 162nd, each bringing a unique perspective and level of experience to the unit. Many served at the unit and then moved on. Some go to different jobs in the civilian community, while some transfer to other military units. Many also stay, making the 162nd their home unit and ultimately retire from the Tucson Air Guard.

Retirees Office personnel diligently document information on former unit members in an attempt to keep track of these personnel. Consequently, there is a database history of retired unit members, which serves a two-fold purpose. First, it

provides information as to the whereabouts of former unit members in case there is a need to contact them; and second, it allows the Retirees Office to forward current information about retiree and unit functions, and retirement benefits. Information is forwarded to unit retirees regularly through the *El Tigre*, periodic newsletters and e-mail.

The ranks of the retirees continue to grow. There are now more than 1,100 names in the retiree's database. Unfortunately, each year there is also a list of former unit members who have passed away. Retired members of the 162nd listed below were no longer with us as 2009 drew to a close. These former Guardsmen were coworkers, friends and family members. They were the forerunners who set the standards of excellence that continue at the 162nd today. Sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of these dedicated individuals who passed away last year. They will be missed by all who knew them. Their names are:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Tom Roberts | Jim Dewar |
| Dale Hansen | Rudy Lucero |
| Dale Smith | Bobby Crane |
| Carl Brown | |

The 162nd is fortunate to have its own memorial that pays homage to former members who are no longer with us. This memorial is unique to the 162nd in the Air National Guard. It is a fitting tribute to deceased unit members and ensures they will never be forgotten. As of Jan. 1 there are 190 names permanently engraved on the memorial granite stones.

Upcoming Retiree Events

The monthly retiree's breakfast is a long-standing tradition at the 162nd. Retired unit members are always invited to attend these events. It's a great time to see old friends, share stories about the good old days and catch up on the current status of former coworkers. These breakfasts are always held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Event dates for the 1st quarter of 2010 are as follows:

Wednesday, Jan. 13, Retirees Breakfast. HomeTown Buffet on Wilmot Rd., 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 10, Retirees Breakfast. HomeTown Buffet on Wilmot Rd., 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 10, Retirees Breakfast. HomeTown Buffet on Wilmot Rd., 7:30 a.m.



The 152nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron in 1957



All in the EL TIGRE Family

Military Promotions:

To Command Chief Master Sergeant
Shane Clark, 162nd FW

To Chief Master Sergeant
Gilbert Quiroz, Communications
David Vasquez, 214th RG

To Senior Master Sergeant
David Juergens, Maintenance
Max Moreau, Maintenance
Jennifer Becker, Maintenance
Anthony Medrano, Logistics Readiness

To Master Sergeant
Lionel Dixon, Maintenance
Teddy Tang, Logistics Readiness
Robbie Hunt, 214th RG
Richard Bain, Maintenance
Joseph Linehan, CE Squadron

To Tech. Sergeant
Francisco Estrada, Maintenance
Jasen Maybury, Maintenance
Christopher Dormer, Maintenance
Steven Anderson, Logistics Readiness
Campbell Ramon, Logistics Readiness
David Nichols, Maintenance
Mario Garcia, Maintenance

Zaira Doumerc, 214th RG
Peter Arnold, CE Squadron
Jorge Sosa, Logistics Readiness
David Berdeuax, Maintenance
Jason Osborn, Weather Flight
Kathleen Branch, FSS
Maria Breceda, FSS
Alex Yrigolla, Logistics Readiness
David Arneson, CE Squadron
Emmett Diangilo, Maintenance
David Fontagneres, Maintenance

To Staff Sergeant
Ryan Nastase, Maintenance
Alicia Walker, Medical Group
Lajuan Whitlow, Maintenance
Boradel Medrano, Security Forces
Stacey Morris, Maintenance
Ryan Crocker, Maintenance

To Senior Airman
Nicholas Schram, Security Forces

To Airman First Class
Erica Lockhart, Maintenance
Marie Camara, Maintenance

To Airman
Vanessa Ferreira, Operations

Births

Staff Sgt. Mark Kjolsrud, contracting office, and his wife Meghann welcomed their son Luke into their family Sept. 15; 18 inches long and 6 lbs 8 oz.

Ralph and Tricia Pacheco welcomed their daughter Angelina into their family May 26; 21.5 inches and 7.15 lbs.

Tech. Sgt. Wayne Cordon, Communications Flight, welcomed his daughter Chloe into his family June 18; 19.89 inches long and 7.5 lbs.

Staff Sgt. Freddy Alvarez, maintenance, and his wife Bernadette had a baby boy Aug. 24. Their son, Logan, weighed 5 lbs 12 oz.

Senior Airman John Johns, Phase Element, welcomed daughter Makayla Aug. 19

Wing Quarterly Award winners: 3rd Quarter 2009

Read about their accomplishments at 162fw.ang.af.mil/quarterlyawards.



Solar-powered lights harness Arizona sun for fighter wing

Tech. Sgt. Martin Buelow, a power support systems mechanic with the 162nd Fighter Wing's Aerospace Ground Equipment shop, sets up a mobile solar flood light near the flightline at Tucson International Airport, Sept. 24. Solar-powered lighting will reduce the wing's annual energy consumption saving money and the environment.

by Tech. Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Public Affairs

The 162nd Fighter Wing here is on its way to meeting federal goals in the reduction of energy consumption with the receipt of six new solar-powered flood lights.

The wing set up all six trailer-mounted solar lighting systems to replace fuel-burning generator flood lights around the base at Tucson International Airport, Sept. 24.

"This type of unit is fairly new to use on military bases. We now have two heavy-duty and four regular units. The two heavy-duty units are needed at FOD [Foreign Object Damage] stops on base so wing members can see clearly when checking vehicle tires at night for small rocks lodged in the treads," said Cheryl Settle, environmental program specialist and project manager.

"The other four lights will be more mobile and can be used by maintainers and security forces to light any other areas around the base and the flightline."

Mandated by federal Executive Order 13423, the Air Force and all federal agencies are required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through reduction of energy use by three percent annually through the end of fiscal year 2015, or by 30 percent by the end of fiscal year 2015, relative to the baseline of the agency's energy use in fiscal year 2003.

The 162nd's Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) maintainers agree that the lights are more cost and time efficient.

"These lights are great," said Tech. Sgt. Martin Buelow, a power support systems mechanic. "We don't have

to refuel them or replace filters. We just set them up once and let them go. We're excited about the switch to solar. It will cut costs on fuel and maintenance man-hours."

"The environmental benefits of switching to solar will enable the reduction in use of fossil fuels, conserve energy and minimize air pollution. Monetary benefits will be from the reduction of gas use. In fuel alone, the wing will see a savings of more than \$37,000 a year," said Settle.

According to estimates and cost analysis from the wing environmental office, fuel use for lighting will be reduced to zero dollars and the eco-friendly lights will have a projected six-year savings of more than \$200,000.

"The project will save enough fuel and labor to pay for itself in two years, which is an incredible payback," said Lt. Col. Mark Berge, 162nd environmental manager. "Reducing emissions by eliminating JP-8 [fuel]-powered lights and using a renewable energy source meets a lot of the goals set forth in the executive order."

Some of the additional benefits of using eco-friendly, trailer-mounted solar lights include silent operation, mobility for rapid deployment, automatic unattended operation and minimal maintenance to name a few.

"Moveable solar trailers have so much more flexibility. If we move a FOD stop we are not hindered by a permanently mounted light pole. If we have an emergency we can move these to any location," said Settle.

The environmental management office oversees the base recycling program which generates funds for the wing's Qualified Recycling Program (QRP). The solar light project was entirely funded by the QRP.



New JEC officers ready for year ahead

With 2010 quickly approaching, the new Junior Enlisted Council (JEC) team has been announced and is ready to start.

JEC enjoyed much success in 2008 and 2009 with fundraising events and introducing more people to JEC. There were many new faces at meetings and events. The outgoing JEC officers did an outstanding job getting the council back on its feet and getting the word out.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Carpenter, new JEC president, announced the following goals for JEC:

"First and foremost our goal as the newly appointed JEC board will be to continue the success established by previous administrations. We intend to build upon their legacy by creating and hosting at least one new fundraiser both for the wing and the community.

We also look forward to fostering an even better relationship with the TOP 3 by participating in additional teambuilding events that we believe will help not only bring the wing together as a whole, but also encourage increased participation of members belonging to both of these great organizations.

In order to facilitate the process, we will solicit past members of the council who have moved on to leadership roles



within the wing to express the importance of our organization.

We hope that this will reinforce to junior enlisted subordinates that even the smallest voice can make a difference in changes they want to see.

Additionally, focusing our attention on getting the junior enlisted members of the wing more involved within the wing mentorship program will be beneficial in providing other valuable tools to prepare the future leaders of the wing.

Lastly, and maybe most importantly, I would like the new council to set the goal of developing a legacy for all future council's to emulate and improve upon. We anticipate and eagerly await the challenges ahead and we are all honored to serve as your 2010 JEC officers. We encourage all junior enlisted members to join us on what should be a very exciting year for our wing."

Tig Bits

Winter Blood Drive

Give the "Gift of Life." The next 162nd Fighter Wing Blood Drive will be held here Saturday, Feb. 6, 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/>.

Straight Talk Line

The Straight Talk Line is a recorded message service for the Southern Arizona Community to call for the latest Arizona Air National Guard updates during public emergencies.

(520) 295-7878

Thank you

The Junior Enlisted Council would like to extend a BIG thank you to all members and their families who volunteered and/or graciously donated baked goods to this year's Haunted Hanger JEC Cake Walk!

Without your assistance and donations, the Cake Walk

would not have been such a huge success. Dozens of goodies were donated and all were gone by the end of the day!

Kids and adults alike had such a great time. We hope to see you again next year!

Lindsay Victor, 4, daughter of Staff Sgt. Sergio Victor, wins a batch of cupcakes at the JEC Cakewalk.





January

SATURDAY

Smoked Roast Beef
Baked Fish
O'Brien Potatoes
Steamed Rice
Brown Gravy
Mixed Vegetables
Augratin Cauliflower
Steamed Carrots
Peanut Butter Cookies
Chocolate Cake w/white Frosting
Vegetable Beef Soup

SUNDAY

Taste of the South

BBQ Chicken
Fried Catfish
Collard Greens
Southern Style Green Beans
Corn on Cobb
Mashed Potatoes
Cream Gravy
Hoppin Johns Rice
Coconut Cream Pie
Fruit Cobbler
Corn Chowder
Cornbread

February

SATURDAY

Fried Chicken
Swiss Steak w/mushroom gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Rice Pilaf
Brown Gravy
Succotach
Green Beans
Steamed Carrots
Beef Barley Soup
Chocolate Macaroon Cake
Banana Cream Pie

SUNDAY

A Taste of Italy

Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce or Mari-
nara Sauce
Veal Parmesan
Spinach Lasagna *
Oven Roasted Potatoes
Broccoli
Squash
Corn
Minestrone Soup
Garlic Bread
Carrot Cake

March

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

SHORT ORDER &
STANDARD ITEMS
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.

2010 UTA 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



IN PHOTOS



NEW AERIALS

The 162nd Fighter Wing public affairs office has new digital aerial photographs taken by James Haseltine, High-G Productions.

Contact the Base Visual Information Center at 295-6778 to get digital images for presentations, lithographs, mousepads, displays or any other official use. Photos in stock include Alert Det, Block 60, AATC and and more.

(Note: Prints must be unit funded and produced off base.)

AIR GUARD RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

In an effort to attract more prior active duty servicemembers to the Air Guard, the National Guard Bureau made the 162nd Fighter Wing a central focus of a campaign photo shoot here Nov. 30 – Dec. 3. In February 2010, NGB will begin shipment of 800,000 prior-service recruiting brochures featuring 162nd members to Air Guard recruiting offices across the country. The brochures will show prior servicemembers a glimpse of life in the Air Guard through testimonials from wing members and photos of them at home, at their civilian jobs and at work on base.

162ND FIGHTER WING
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TUCSON AZ 85706-6052
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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Look for the Spring 2010 Edition of El Tigre in April

El Tigre Since 1959

Proudly serving the men and
women of Arizona's Air National
Guard, retired members, families
and the Tucson community.

