



# EL TIGRE

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



SPRING 2010

VOL. 53, NO. 2



**In** *Inspection...*  
**In Compliance**

# CONTENTS



SPRING 2010

APRIL - MAY - JUNE



SERVING THE 162ND FIGHTER WING AND TUCSON'S AIR NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY SINCE 1979

## ON THE COVER...



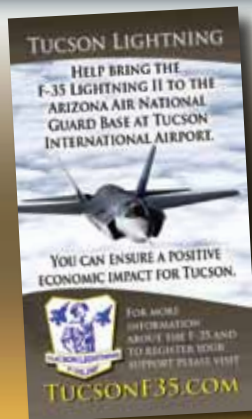
COMPLIANCE INSPECTION, DONE! **3**



WING COMMANDER: FLAG OFFICER **4**



ANG RECRUITING **14**



TUCSON LIGHTNING **16**

COMMAND SECTION	3
MDG CHANGE OF COMMAND	6
SECURITY FORCES NEWS	8
SAFETY VEST PROMOTION	10
CURBING F-35 COSTS	11
COMMENTARY	12
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH	18
WEAPONS SCHOOL GRAD	20
BEFORE GETTING LASIK...	21
RETIREE NEWS	22
ANNOUNCEMENTS	23
NEWS BRIEFS	25
UTA MENUS	26

## EL TIGRE

*El Tigre*, the official newsletter of the 162nd Fighter Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, is published quarterly for unit members, retirees, family members and civic military support groups in the community. Contents of *El Tigre* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the National Guard.

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# IG finds 162nd in compliance and that is outstanding

by Brig. Gen. Greg Stroud  
Commander

Congratulations! You, your shops and your programs are mission-ready and that's official from the Air Education and Training Command Inspector General.

The 162nd Fighter Wing's week-long compliance inspection ended March 16 with a grade of 'satisfactory' from the five-tier grading system; outstanding, excellent, satisfactory, marginal and unsatisfactory.

Were this inspection conducted under the usual three tier system, the grade would have been 'compliant with comments.' The difference is semantics, but it means this wing does everything 'by the book' while it carries out its day-to-day mission. It's not the intention of any compliance inspection to rate a unit's overall performance, which in our case is outstanding on a daily basis.

We accomplish our mission safely



General Stroud

and efficiently day in, day out with 30 percent less manpower than the average active duty fighter wing, and we do this while following all of the Air Force, AETC and Air National Guard instructions, policies and directives. Everyone here does such hard work every day, and everything the wing did to prepare

for the inspection did not go unnoticed.

The AETC Commander Gen. Stephen Lorenz sent his congratulations as did Maj. Gen. Gregory Feest, the 19th Air Force commander. General Feest attended the outbrief and was very complementary of the wing, our capabilities and our future.

I am extremely proud of what you have accomplished. Once again we have set the standard. There were zero unsatisfactory areas and that is **unheard of** in a compliance inspection. And the great news is that we had many outstanding and excellent areas.

The wing's long anticipated compliance inspection is now behind us and we have achieved a standard that reflects our ability to train the F-16 pilots of today, or the F-35 pilots of tomorrow. Congratulations to the many outstanding performers recognized during the inspection. This 'satisfactory' is another accomplishment that we can be proud of.

## Congratulations on a job well done!

### Outstanding Units

- 162nd Operations Group Standardization and Evaluation section
- 162nd Operations Support Flight's Training section
- 162nd Operations Support Flight's Weapons and Tactics section
- 148th Fighter Squadron's Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation section
- 162nd Civil Engineer Squadron's Asset Management Flight

### Excellent Units

- 162nd Operations Group
- 162nd Operations Support Flight
- 148th Fighter Squadron
- 152nd Fighter Squadron
- 195th Fighter Squadron
- 162nd Civil Engineer Squadron

- Major Accident Response Exercise
- Wing Scheduling
- Airspace Management
- Intelligence
- International Military Student Office
- Equal Opportunity
- Financial Management
- Quality Assurance

### Professional Performers

The IG coined the following Professional Performers

- Senior Airman Veronica Ornelas-Barbosa
- Staff Sgt. Abby Scott
- Senior Master Sgt. Vic Lara
- Lt. Col. Rex Carpenter

### Professional Team Performers

- Air Force Incident Management Implementation Team
- Reliability and Maintainability Improvement Team
- Pakistan Mobile Training Team

CI Photos on Page 27



# Wing commander promoted to one-

by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

The commander of the largest Air National Guard fighter wing in the country was promoted to the rank of brigadier general here March 4.

Brig. Gen. Greg Stroud, a full-time F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot with the 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport, pinned on the one-star general rank during a promotion ceremony in front of family, friends and fellow Guardsmen. He has served as the unit's top officer since March, 2009.

"It's quite humbling. When I joined the military I never thought I would achieve this rank," said the new general whose promotion was confirmed Feb. 2 by the United States Senate.

"There's no doubt that making the rank is special, but being the wing commander here means more to me. Nobody gets to this point without standing on the shoulders of many, many supporters – military members and family alike. I wouldn't be here without them."

Stroud, originally from Flagstaff, Ariz., graduated from Coconino High School in 1975. The aspiring teacher and high school football coach attended Duke University on a football scholarship where he started at free safety. He graduated from Duke in 1980 receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in history.

In 1981 he received a commission in the U.S. Navy. Instead of teaching and coaching at the high-school level, he would go on to teach and coach Navy and Air Force pilots to fly fighter jets.

Prior to joining the 162nd in September 1988, he served eight years in the active duty Navy flying



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Amie Neighbors

*Brig. Gen. Greg Stroud has his new rank pinned on by his brother Jake and his wife Pennie during his promotion ceremony on base March 4. A fighter Pilot by trade, General Stroud has more than 4,800 flight hours in U.S. Navy and Air Force aircraft.*

A-4s, F-5s and A-7 aircraft. The Tucson wing, which was flying A-7s at the time, offered Stroud the opportunity to return to Arizona.

"The Guard gave me a chance to continue flying after active duty, and it gave me a chance to settle down in Tucson where my wife was able to pursue her career," said the general.

Pennie Gillette-Stroud, also a Coconino High School graduate, and a graduate of Northern Arizona University, served 29 years with the Arizona Department of Public Safety and recently retired as the department's deputy director.

"Thanks to the Guard, we've had great careers," said General Stroud.

With the Navy, he said he "survived 100 night carrier landings on the U.S.S. Midway" making him a Night Centurion. He graduated from both Navy and Air Force Fighter Weapons Schools, and he later commanded at both squadron and group levels in Tucson. His most

recent command was with the 162nd Maintenance Group, a unit of about 800 aircraft mechanics and support personnel.

"Commanding the maintenance group here showed me that there was much more to my military universe than flying. It really opened my eyes," he said.

Today the general is in charge of roughly 1,450 Guardsmen who fly, maintain or support about 66 F-16s for a full-time training mission. He's responsible for producing capable pilots for the Air National Guard, Poland, Singapore, Norway, Pakistan, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates.

Over the last 20 years the Tucson wing has offered international training programs that range from an F-16 basic course to an advanced weapons course. The unit has produced nearly 2,000 graduates from 25 nations that fly the F-16.

In October 2009, the Air Force



# star general

named General Stroud's wing as one of five possible locations for future F-35 Lightning II training. He says his new rank is simply a tool to help the wing navigate to a bright future.

"It just means I have more responsibility to the men and women of this wing who I consider to be my family away from home," said the general. "I will work hard for them to keep the unit in tact just as they have historically worked hard to earn the great reputation that the wing enjoys today. The F-35 is an important key to the future of the wing and the economic prosperity of our state."

Though his breadth of responsibility reaches all aspects of the wing mission, he's still an instructor pilot at heart.

"The older I get, the more I appreciate the joy of flying and teaching others how to fly. When I walk on the flightline and I smell the jet fuel it gives me shivers. It's an incredible job."



*Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, commander of the Arizona Air National Guard, gives General Stroud the oath of office.*

## New commander set to lead Arizona Predator unit

by Tech. Sgt. Desiree Twombly  
Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. -- The 214th Reconnaissance Group welcomed a new commander during an assumption of command ceremony here Feb. 6.

Unit members, family and friends of Lt. Col. Michael McGuire attended the ceremony officiated by Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, commander of the Arizona Air National Guard.

Colonel McGuire last commanded the 148th Fighter Squadron at Tucson International Airport, a unit which is responsible for training pilots from the United Arab Emirates in the F-16E fighter aircraft.

General Colangelo said selection of a new commander for the 214th is a serious decision and one that considers the challenges that confront the Air Force and its people. Colonel McGuire has all the qualities of a great leader and is the perfect match for a great organization, he said.

"He's been successful in everything he's ever done. He's flown combat missions in Desert Storm, is a fighter weapons graduate and is now leading an organization that takes the fight to the enemy every minute of every day," said the general.

Colonel McGuire expressed his gratitude to the 162nd Fighter Wing, 12th Air Force and Davis-Monthan for their continued support of the 214th mission. He also addressed the men and women of



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

*Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, commander of the Arizona Air National Guard, left, passes the 214th Reconnaissance Group guidon to Lt. Col. Michael McGuire as a symbol of his assumption of command Feb. 6.*

the 214th and stated he was "honored and privileged to be selected as their new commander."

"This presentation is ultimately for the members of the 214th. It is my duty to serve you as your commander, and my promise to you is that I will do everything I can to support us taking care of Airmen and doing the mission. We will continue the important work of taking care of those with boots on the ground," said Colonel McGuire.

The 214th Reconnaissance Group is an MQ-1B predator unit that formally activated July 31, 2007, at Davis-Monthan. More than 100 assigned Guardsmen support or fly medium-altitude, long endurance, remotely piloted aircraft in combat missions over Iraq and Afghanistan via satellite from Tucson, Ariz.

The future of the 214th and its capabilities are expanding and a permanent facility to support that growth is projected to be completed at Davis-Monthan in early 2011.



# Change of command for Medical Group



Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

*Brig. Gen. Greg Stroud, 162nd Fighter Wing commander, presents Lt. Col. Eric Kendle, the new 162nd Medical Group commander, the medical group guidon during a change of command ceremony Feb. 7.*

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

Brig. Gen. Greg Stroud, 162nd Fighter Wing commander, officiated a change of command ceremony here where Lt. Col. Eric Kendle assumed command of the 162nd Medical Group from Col. James Balsarak, Feb. 7.

Lieutenant Colonel Kendle has served all 18 of his years in the Air National Guard here in Tucson, alongside Colonel Balsarak.

“In my years of service, this medical group has done satisfactorily, excellent and outstanding on health services inspections, but not twice in a row yet,” he said. He further challenged the men and women of the medical group to always conduct business with a professional

smile, to put others at ease, to continuously pursue excellence, and to consistently and persistently offer outstanding service.

Colonel Kendle thanked the wing

for its continued support of the medical group and expressed his gratefulness to Colonel Balsarak for his service and the achievements the medical group accomplished under his leadership.

“This team is more than the men and women of the medical group,” said Colonel Kendle. “It is the combined resources of all who serve and all who support the greatest medical group in the world. Thank you to each of you for allowing me to be your commander.”

Colonel Balsarak served five years as commander of the 162nd Medical Group and has 22 years of service. As commander, he was responsible for overseeing and implementing the successful peacetime and wartime Medical Group Force Health Management missions, and restored and restructured all program elements required for consistent Homeland Security and deployment achievement.

“I’ve always said the success of a commander is not based on what he or she has done, but on the accomplishments of his people,” said Colonel Balsarak. “You have excelled, and of that I am proud.”



*Members of the 162nd Fighter Wing join the medical group in the base auditorium to witness the group’s change of command ceremony.*



# Maintenance Group News



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Jessica and Kaitlin Taylor pin eagles on their father, Col. Jim Taylor. The maintenance group commander was promoted Feb. 19 in front of family, friends and unit members.



Photo by Maj. Gabe Johnson

(From left) Master Sgt. Jeffrey DeBuhr, Tech. Sgt. Fredrick Hernandez, Master Sgt. Fernando Cuevas, Staff Sgt. Saul Dojaquez, and Staff Sgt. Lena King were recognized by Col. Jim Taylor, right, as the 162nd Maintenance Group Top Performers for this quarter. From the five Top Performers, Colonel Taylor selected Master Sgt. Jeffrey DeBuhr, component maintenance flight, as the Elite Performer. The Top Performer awards recognize maintainers who consistently perform quality work, maintain safe work practices, follow technical data, and engage in quality initiatives. The ceremony took place Feb. 4.

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# Security forces back in Iraq

by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

After Arizona Air Guardsmen from the 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport rang in the New Year, they bid farewell to 31 Security Forces Airmen on their way to Iraq, Jan. 2.

The airbase security specialists spent two weeks at a regional training center in Dallas before heading out on a six-month tour – the squadron’s second Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment in 17 months.

“I feel great going back a second time,” said Tech. Sgt. Abraham Peña, a fire team leader in charge of four Airmen. He’s well-versed in deployed operations having spent six months at Baghdad International Airport in 2008.

“When they send Security Forces out to patrol a certain part of the base I take my team and we take care of it,” he said. “It’s something we’ve got to do, its part of our job – part of serving our country. Whatever is asked of us that’s what we’ll do.”

Sergeant Peña said his three young children remember the last time he deployed. “I just tell them that I’m going to do the ‘good guy’ work again and they understand.”

Peña’s family, and the 30 others left behind, will now rely partly on the unit’s family readiness group for information and assistance.

The group’s role is to support deployed members and their families. If they have concerns about pay, medical benefits or virtually any issue at home the group will find answers or volunteers to help.

“We’re here to help them with anything that may come up during the deployment from car trouble to a leaky sink,” said Barb Gavre, the wing’s family program coordinator.

“And thanks to generous donations from unit and community members we are able to mail care packages free of charge. All families have to do is bring in whatever they want to send their loved one and we will send it directly to them,” she said.

“Barb has been instrumental in building a contact list for herself and my wife,” said 1st Lt. Ben Swope, squadron commander. “They are going to be making calls to the families of the deployed troops to check on them while we’re gone. She’s also organized a few family readiness functions to familiarize our families with several support resources like Military OneSource.”

Lieutenant Swope, along with the majority of the



(Above) 1st Lt. Ben Swope, Staff Sgt. Andreas Lorenz and Master Sgt. Ricky Hunt participate in a ‘Mustache March’ Competition.

Courtesy photos



(Right) Senior Airman Nicholas Schram keeps a watchful eye in a tower.

deployed group, is a drill status Guardsman; serving part time with the Guard while working full time in the community. According to Swope, the diverse career backgrounds will serve the mission well.

“We have a Phoenix cop, a Tucson cop, some people who work for the Department of Corrections, and we have a few Border Patrol agents so we have a good team from various law enforcement agencies,” said the Lieutenant.

While their absence will be felt by families, civilian employers and fellow unit members, the local security mission will go on despite the void.

“There won’t be any lapses in security here,” said Lieutenant Swope. “The squadron members left here will cover for us while we’re gone. We’re also getting a lot of support from across the base. We will train up some folks from different career fields so they can support the squadron while we’re gone.”





# Wing members fill gaps overseas, at home

Story and photo  
by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones  
Public Affairs

It wasn't a typical Security Forces troop checking IDs at the gate that cold January morning – it was an augmentee.

When 31 members of the 162nd Security Forces Squadron (SFS) deployed to Iraq Jan. 2, members of the 162nd Fighter Wing and surrounding military installations stepped in to help the remaining security forces Airmen.

For Airman 1st Class David Cisneras, working the gate is a privilege. "They are putting their lives on the line, so the least I can do is help take care of things here while they are gone," he said.

Cisneras is a drill-status Guardsman (DSG), serving as a medical technician one weekend per month and two weeks per year. He's also a student at Pima Community College. He says augmenting the squadron is something that needs to be done and something he's proud to do.

"We can only hire 15 people to take the place of the 31 who deployed," said Senior Master Sgt. Mark Milbourn, SFS operations superintendent. "We are only authorized to backfill the positions that were held by full-time employees."

But filling even half of the vacant positions has been a challenge.

"Six of the positions had to be filled by DSG's in the security forces career field; the others were open for any



*Airman 1st Class Nichole Knight, security forces, instructs Staff Sgt. Virgil Bandy, augmentee, on the eight preconditions for use of deadly force.*

military member. We only had five individuals volunteer in December when the announcement was first made," said Sergeant Milbourn. "There are another five scheduled to start January 22."

The augmentees receive four days of training including handcuffing, team movements, vehicle inspections, use of force, blood-borne pathogens and weapons qualification for both the M-16 and M-9, said Master Sgt. Marvin Fox, SFS unit training manager.

Once trained, the augmentees will work 12 to 13 hours a day, four days a week until the deployed members return this summer, said Sergeant Milbourn. Most will man the front gate, checking IDs.

## Arizona Air Guard to train Moroccan F-16 pilots

by 2nd Lt. Angela Walz  
Public Affairs

A new destination was recently added to the mile marker post outside the Operations Group here. It reads: Marrakech 5,754 miles. The sign is indicative of the newest partner nation to train at the 162nd Fighter Wing here—the Kingdom of Morocco.

Maj. Steve "Scratch" Haase, 162nd operation's center chief, described an allied relationship with Morocco as an opportunity

to "build interoperability and the capacity to support military, civilian and peacekeeping operations in northern Africa."

Set to begin instructor pilot training in March, Morocco's four initial students are currently receiving specialized English training now. The list of students includes Ben Guerir Air Base's operation's group commander and three other high-ranking pilots. Located approximately 36 miles north of Marrakech, the base was once operated by the Strategic Air Command of the U.S. Air Force.

The four Moroccan students will train for a year and a half in the

F-16, Block 42 aircraft here as part of their conversion from the F-5 to the F-16. Six additional student pilots are expected to arrive for upgrade training, as well as a limited number of maintenance personnel in specialties ranging from air frame to crew chiefs, according to Major Haase.

Morocco is expected to receive the first of their 24 F-16s beginning in July, 2011, at which time they may require additional mobile training teams to instruct them on the use of equipment such as night vision goggles and joint helmet mounted cueing systems, said Major Haase.



# Safety promotion offers free reflective vests to base motorcyclists

by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

As part of a new traffic safety promotion the 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport is issuing high-visibility reflective vests to all assigned Air Guardsmen who ride motorcycles – free of charge.

Brig. Gen. Greg Stroud, the wing commander, ceremoniously issued the first of 150 vests currently in stock at the wing safety office to motorcycle rider Staff Sgt. Mike Bailey, Feb. 5.

“I think it’s a great promotion to give out a vest that meets on-base requirements,” said Sergeant Bailey, a 162nd Fighter Wing Motorcycle Mentorship program manager. “Not only that... it looks great. It’s a good quality, brand name vest that does nothing but add to my visibility so I don’t get run over.”

Traffic safety and preventable mishaps has been a long-standing issue of concern at all levels of Air Force leadership.

In an Oct. 8, 2009 memorandum to all Air Force personnel, Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz delivered the unfortunate news that 20 Airmen service wide lost their lives in motorcycle accidents during the previous fiscal year. The Air Force’s goal for 2010 is zero Airmen lost in preventable motorcycle mishaps.

According to Air Force Instruction 91-207, the Air Force Traffic Safety Program, motorcycle riders are required to wear a brightly colored outer upper garment during the day and a reflective upper garment during the night. Wing policy states that the



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

*Staff Sgt. Mike Bailey, left, and Tech. Sgt. Fabian Cosper ride motorcycles on base while wearing newly issued reflective vests, Feb. 5.*

prescribed upper garment must be a brightly colored vest that contains at least 24 inches of reflective material.

“Anything we can do for our motorcycle riders to increase their margin of safety is well worth it,” said General Stroud. “And I think people will like these particular vests.”

The vests retail at \$59.95 each, but were purchased by the wing for \$14.95. The wing’s Motorcycle Mentorship Club, a group of experienced riders who mentor new riders on base, informed the safety office that a motorcycle company had the vests on sale for \$19.95. The safety office called the company and worked out a deal to buy them at a greater discount.

“I’m quite pleased with their quality for the price that we were able to acquire them,” said General Stroud. “We’ll hand these out and when the promotion is done we’ll look at the possibility of similar promotions in

the future.”

To get a free vest, Airmen must add their names to their unit’s motorcycle riders’ roster through their supervisors; take an approved motorcycle safety foundation course; and receive a briefing on AFI 91-207. Then they may contact the safety office at 295-6307 to get a form to be signed by the rider and their supervisor.

“We bought 150 because that’s how many riders we have registered on base. We know that there are others who only ride off base and therefore are not on their unit’s motorcycle roster, so our hope is that this promotion will encourage more riders to register with us so they can get a free vest,” said Sergeant Karas.

Motorcycle riders are the least protected vehicle operators on the road, said Karas. “Giving them a vest may help save lives, and it’s a high-dollar vest so we hope people will wear them off base because they are so good looking.”



# Official announces plans to curb fighter program's cost

by Jordan Reimer

American Forces Press Service



Photo by R. D. Ward

*Ashton B. Carter, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, holds a Pentagon press conference, March 12, 2010, to talk about the acquisition reforms being instituted to keep the Joint Strike Fighter program on track and affordable.*

WASHINGTON -- Defense Department officials will require a shift to a fixed-price contract in their negotiations with Lockheed Martin for the initial production phase of the F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter, a defense official said here March 15 in a briefing at the Pentagon.

Department officials also will conduct an internal analysis of what the full production cost should be to better negotiate with the contractor, said Ashton B. Carter, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology, and logistics.

Taken together, Mr. Carter said, these measures will reduce costs of a program that has met with significant production delays and cost overruns since its inception in October 2001.

"It did not seem reasonable that the taxpayer should bear the entire cost of this failure of the program to meet expectations," Mr. Carter said.

The joint strike fighter, the most expensive acquisition in U.S. military history, will replace a wide range of aging fighter and strike aircraft for the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and eight international partners. The F-35 is the "the heart of the future of our tactical combat aviation," Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said in a visit to a Lockheed factory in August. "The importance of this aircraft cannot be overstated."

The U.S. military ordered a total of 2,443 jets, with an additional 730 purchased by the eight other countries. Initially projected to cost around \$50 million per aircraft, the

current estimate is about \$80 million to \$95 million each, in inflation-adjusted dollars.

These two new initiatives come on top of Secretary Gates' announcement last month that he was withholding \$614 million in performance fees from the contractor due to the program's setbacks.

With today's announcements, the department is moving away from a cost-plus arrangement, which reimburses companies for their expenses in addition to providing an extra payment to guarantee them a profit. Instead, in switching to a fixed-price structure, the department and the contractor will set the price beforehand, and the final payment will not depend on the total amount of time or resources expended to complete the project.

"(The secretary) directed that in order to ensure discipline in the transition from development to production," Mr. Carter said.

The director of defense procurement and acquisition policy will

conduct the "should-cost" analysis for the final production rollout of the F-35 aircraft. Mr. Carter stressed that it's important for the department to have its own estimate of what the program's cost should be to better determine a negotiated price, rather than relying solely on the contractor's figures.

"We will be looking at the cost structure of (the joint strike fighter) in all its aspects: assembly, parts supplies, staffing, overheads and indirect costs, cash flows, contract structures, fees, and lifecycle costs," Mr. Carter said in a prepared statement before the Senate Armed Services committee yesterday.

Taking immediate steps to save costs is particularly necessary, not only to benefit the taxpayer, but also because the program is in jeopardy of crossing the Nunn-McCurdy threshold, a law that requires that Congress be notified of a cost growth of more than 15 percent in a program. Nunn-McCurdy also calls for cancellation of programs for which total cost grew by more than 25 percent over the original estimate.

Rather than wait for the program to cross the Nunn-McCurdy line, the defense officials began to review and restructure it as though it was already in Nunn-McCurdy breach, Mr. Carter said.

Mr. Carter said he understands that these new initiatives will not be easy for Lockheed and its subcontractors to accommodate, but he underscored that these decisions are crucial to moving the program forward in a way that is acceptable to the military and the American public.

"The emphasis must be on restoring a key aspect of this airplane when the JSF program was first launched: affordability," he told Congress.



## Future leaders get the big picture at AETC Symposium

by **Command Chief Master Sgt. Shane Clark**

Four of your Airmen represented the 162nd Fighter Wing at the Air Education and Training Command Symposium in San Antonio, Jan. 13-16.

It was wonderful for us to send our leaders of tomorrow to this important event and watch them alongside Airmen from all ranks; airman basic to general officer, together for a common focus.

Airman First Class Rebecca Garcia and Master Sgt. Jason Handa from maintenance and Senior Airman Ernest Sabori from operations joined me for the week to learn how AETC, the First Command, is training our Airmen of today – our leaders of tomorrow.

It gave me great pride to see our wing's future leaders among fellow Airmen from across our major command, and an even greater pride to see them broaden their views on command-wide issues.

The theme of this year's event was "Connect, Discover, Experience." Hosted by AETC Commander, Gen.



*Command Chief Clark*

Stephen Lorenz, more than 3,000 officers and enlisted converged at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, and were shown the latest developments in recruiting, training, education, technology and innovation.

General Lorenz in his opening remarks commented that "everyone with an AFSC has been touched by AETC."

I thought about what a true statement that was and how we can all take pride in being a part of that

mission.

Over two days, Airmen heard from our top leaders; General Lorenz, Gen. (Ret.) Lloyd Newton and Gen. Raymond Hall. More than 90 breakout sessions offered interesting subjects for everyone. From "Personnel Issues for the Future" and breakouts on "Diversity and Recruiting" to "Remotely Piloted Aircraft" and "Our Journey into Space," there were subjects that caught everyone's attention.

I think it was best described by the most junior Airman in our travel party, Rebecca, who recognized the opportunity to network with other Airmen regarding education and training. She saw it as a chance of a lifetime to hear different perspectives from military leaders, civilians and veterans.

Airman Garcia seemed to shine with gratitude for the experience, and that's something I think as command chief we can all be inspired by.

Any time you have the opportunity to attend a symposium, a training course, or conference, take it. It will give you a look at the big picture, it will energize you, and it will help you understand how what we do impacts the Air Force and the world.

## Unit meets CFC fundraising goal, thanks for a job well done!

by **2nd Lt. Angela Walz**  
Wing CFC Coordinator

We did it! The 162nd surpassed its 2009 Combined Federal Campaign goal to raise \$65,000. The total amount included one-time cash donations from unit members as well as monthly automatic deductions from eligible full-time military and civilian employees.

For those who donated, thank you. For those who didn't, I hope you will take the time to research the

CFC and make an attempt to give—even a very small amount—during next year's campaign.

Spearheading the fundraising campaign was an eye-opening experience for me. As the unit's CFC coordinator this year, I was able to view the campaign in a whole new light.

Military members are generous, and we have some highly motivated individuals in this unit.

Most of our larger work sections have volunteers who act as keyworkers to solicit donations

within their area. Although all of the keyworkers gave the campaign a valiant effort, two Guardsmen really challenged themselves to make significant increases in their sections, and they are Technical Sergeants Matt Nethery of the Maintenance Squadron and Cally Handa of the Medical Group.

All of the keyworkers did a fabulous job, and are deserving of a 'thank you' when you see them next:

Airman Vanessa Ferreira; Airman 1st Class Linda Lewis and John

(Continued next page)



# Celebrate the end of the Compliance Inspection!

**2010**  
**162nd Fighter Wing**  
**Annual Picnic**

**Sunday, April 11, 2010**  
**Udall Park 12 to 6 p.m.**  
**Ramadas 4-9 reserved**

## Fun Stuff For All Ages!

- Rock Climbing Wall
- Tug-O-War
- Wacky Shis
- Hula Hoops
- Horseshoes
- Volleyball
- Homerun Derby
- Sno-Cones
- Jumping Castles
- 24-foot Slides
- Obstacle Course
- Bungee Run
- QB Blitz
- Basketball Challenge
- Kiddy Train
- Clowns, Balloons, & Face Painting
- Cotton Candy Machine

**Must present Admittance coupon for lunch**  
**\$4 Per Person**

**Lunch served from 12 to 3 p.m.**  
**Beer stamp \$3 for the day (Served 12 to 5 p.m.)**

**\$4 tickets on sale until 12:00 on Saturday, 10 April**  
**Tickets will be \$5 at the park**

**No pets allowed!**  
**No Individual Alcoholic Beverages allowed!**

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

## Picnic Lunch!

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

**New Caterer  
 This Year**



(CFC Continued)

Johns; Staff Sergeants Douglas Catlin, Hector Aguirre, Bernie Dominguez, Jessica Anderson, Troy Beeman, Bernie Dominguez, Eugene Sanders, Orland Worcester, Michael Hobby, Paula Dietrich, and Lindsay Bustamante; Technical Sergeants Drew Eckert, Joe Ferreira, Don Morgan, and Ollie Burr; Master Sergeants Joe Duyck, Amy Brownell, Sam Rogers, Danny Grijalva, and Don Morgan; and Senior Master Sgt. Brian Karas.

Please contact me (angela.walz@ang.af.mil or 520-295-6192) if you're interested in becoming a CFC keyworker. I'd be happy to pass your name on to the unit's most junior lieutenant who will surely be offered the opportunity to spearhead next year's campaign.

## Wing gears up for Recognition Weekend

The wing's Annual Awards Ceremony will be held here Saturday, April 10.

The event is an opportunity for wing leadership and members to come together and celebrate the accomplishments of all those who support the 162nd Fighter Wing.

Preparations for the event will begin Thursday and continue through Saturday. The award ceremony will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. in Hangar 10.

Wing members, friends, families and visitors should be in place by 12:30 p.m.

The uniform of the day for wing members is BDUs, ABUs or flight suits; no hats or sunglasses. Award recipients must wear short sleeve blues; ribbons optional.

### Awards Schedule

#### Saturday, April 10

- 7:00 a.m.
- Ceremony setup
- 8 a.m.
- Ceremony practice
- 12:30 p.m.
- Wing members, family, friends and visitors seated in bleachers
- 12:40 p.m.
- Award recipients and distinguished visitors seated
- 1 p.m.
- Ceremony commences
- 2:30 p.m.
- Ceremony concludes

# Wing members recruit servicemembers for

PARA-TIME BLUE. FULL-TIME YOU.

In February, National Guard Bureau began shipment of 800,000 prior-service recruiting brochures featuring members of the 162nd Fighter Wing to Air Guard recruiting offices across the country. The brochures show prior servicemembers a glimpse of life in the Air Guard through these testimonials from wing members and photos of them at home, at their civilian jobs and at work on base.



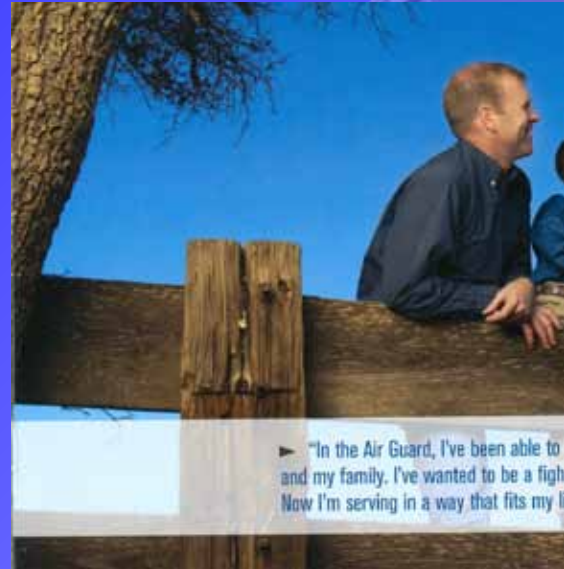
CALLY HANDA

“I spent 7 years in the Air Force, where I participated in the Honor Guard. I love the military, and serving in the Air Guard is a great fit with my lifestyle.”

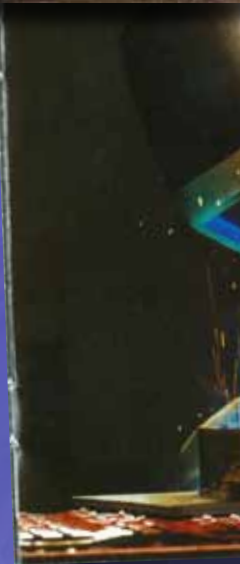


TSgt CALLY HANDA

“The Air Guard gives me the chance to experience the military lifestyle – including the retirement benefits. It really is like a second family.”



► “In the Air Guard, I’ve been able to and my family. I’ve wanted to be a fight Now I’m serving in a way that fits my li



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# Prior ANG



Fulfill my dreams – those for my career, as a pilot for as long as I can remember, and those for my life.” —1st Lt. Wendy Hendrick



GoANG.com ▶ 1-800-TO-GO-ANG



In the Air Guard, you can:

- ▶ Pursue a full-time civilian career
- ▶ Re-train into a new career field
- ▶ Live life your way, close to home and family

LT JASON GUTIERREZ

“In the Air Guard you meet people from all branches of the service. I’ve been able to develop my civilian career, get excellent benefits and work with a great team.”

JASON GUTIERREZ

“I started my military career in the Marine Corps, where I coordinated training for the reserve unit. I discovered the Air Guard when I was assigned to work with an Air Guard unit to receive training.”



### CHOOSE YOUR CAREER

As a member of the Air Guard, you can continue in your area of military specialty, or re-train in a new career field. In the Air Guard, you'll gain the valuable cutting-edge abilities essential for competing in today's job market. Plus, you can choose from nearly 200 career specialties that will give you the high-tech skills you need to launch or accelerate your civilian career. The results? An extraordinary career – and an extraordinary future.

“The training I received in the Air Force helped me pursue my civilian career as a firefighter. As a member of the Air Guard, I am continuing to serve my country, but I do it in a way that lets me be a regular civilian, close to family and friends.”

—1st Sgt. David Amerson





# Tucson is a great fit for F-35

by Jim Click

162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee

When the United States Air Force announced last October that Tucson International Airport was one of the top five locations under consideration for F-35 Lightning II training it came as excellent news for our community.

The Air Force initially selected our great city for all it has to offer its newest aircraft. In addition to year-round flying weather and Arizona's plentiful training ranges, Tucson residents are proud Americans that wish to continue their support for our troops who deserve the best tools and equipment to carry out their important work defending our way of life.

In other parts of the state, communities surrounding Luke Air Force Base and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma are rallying in support of F-35 joint strike fighter missions. The 162nd Fighter Wing is under consideration for F-35 training independent from, and not in competition with, Luke and Yuma. We must join our neighbors to the north in a collective show of support for the F-35 in Arizona before the Air Force makes its final decision in early 2011.

In these difficult economic times we should secure the future of one of our city's largest income generators by letting decision makers know that we welcome the F-35 with open arms. Your voice will give our city the backing it needs as we move to secure a prosperous future for Tucson and our nation's defense.

As a member of the 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee I invite you to join our public support campaign for the F-35. It's called *Tucson Lightning* and you can learn all about it at **TucsonF35.com**. From this new site you can learn about the benefits the F-35 would bring to our city. You can also register your support on the site and be counted as someone who supports the city and our military.

The F-16s at Tucson International Airport won't last forever. As they age they are quickly being retired from the inventory. 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 finally retire its F-16 fleet.

The 162nd Fighter Wing brings \$280 million annually to the local economy and employs about 1,450 Tucsonans; more local workers than employed by Home Depot stores, U.S. Customs and Border Protection or American Airlines.

- BRING THE F-35 TO SOUTHERN ARIZONA -

## TUCSON LIGHTNING

YOU CAN HELP BRING THE F-35 LIGHTNING II, THE AIR FORCE'S NEXT FIGHTER, TO THE ARIZONA AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE AT TUCSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

### YOU CAN...

- ENSURE AN ECONOMIC IMPACT THAT SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESSES AND JOB CREATION IN TUCSON.
- SHOW TUCSON'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF AMERICA'S SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN.
- HELP MAKE CERTAIN TOMORROW'S FIGHTER PILOTS ARE WELL TRAINED AND EQUIPPED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE F-35 AND TO REGISTER YOUR SUPPORT

**VISIT TUCSONF35.COM**

TUCSON LIGHTNING SPONSORED BY THE 162ND FIGHTER WING MINUTEMAN COMMITTEE

The new mission will keep those jobs and defense dollars here for decades to come, flowing directly to the continued purchase of goods and services from private-sector companies throughout Tucson.

Through an environmental impact study, the Air Force will work to minimize or eliminate possible impacts of the F-35 on our community. During this process you will read about upcoming public meetings and I encourage you to offer your support.

In the meantime, consider that the Arizona Air National Guard has safely flown six different single-seat, single-engine fighters from Tucson International Airport since 1956 with little-to-no impact on residents. This is a source of pride for the Guard and it's a tradition that they are prepared to continue.





# Community effort to bring F-35 to Tucson in full swing

**Raytheon**

February 23, 2010

The Honorable Mayor Bob Walkup  
Care of Tucson Lightning  
162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee  
P.O. Box 22343  
Tucson, AZ 85724

Dear Mayor Walkup:

On behalf of Raytheon Missile Systems I strongly support the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee and their efforts to champion Southern Arizona and the Tucson International Airport as the future pilot training site for the next generation U.S. Air Force Fighter, the F-35.

As a key supplier in the U.S. Air Force, we look forward to the addition of the F-35 to the Air Force inventory. The F-35 will carry many of the weapon systems we produce - such as the AIM-9X Sidewinder, the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile and the Joint Standoff Weapon, all of which are produced in Tucson.

We have enjoyed a long partnership with the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, which is located just to our west in Tucson. We regularly engage in activities with the pilots who have flown with our products and who train NATO and other Coalition Air Force F-16 pilots. The addition of the F-35 will ensure the continuation of the partnership while at the same time confirming our commitment to maintaining the performance and protection of our armed forces.

From an economic standpoint the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing adds \$280 million to the local economy and employs about 1,450 Tucsonans. This positive impact cannot be overstated. The advantages of pilot training in Arizona, its consistent weather, its unique and its existing military aviation infrastructure, are clear. If we continue all of this with the community support for the continued role of the Guard and its mission, supporting the F-35 just makes sense. This addition will guarantee the base's prosperity for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for this very important and effective partnership.

Sincerely,  
*Taylor W. Lawrence*  
Dr. Taylor W. Lawrence

(Left) Raytheon, the University of Arizona, the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, Governor Jan Brewer, and the DM50 are just a few to write letters of support. See the rest at TucsonF35.com.

The University of Arizona  
Office of the President

January 26, 2010

The Honorable Robert Walkup  
Mayor  
City of Tucson  
C/O 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee  
P.O. Box 22343  
Tucson, AZ 85724

Dear Mayor Walkup:

I write to lend my support to the effort by the Arizona Air National Guard to bring the training base for the F-35 Lightning II, Joint Strike Fighter, to Tucson.

This would be an important economic plus for our region. Given our outstanding weather and the proximity to nearby training ranges, Tucson should be a natural choice.

The University of Arizona enjoys a very positive relationship with both Dave Morman and the Arizona Air National Guard. Bringing the F-35 fighter to Tucson makes great sense, and the University of Arizona is proud to lend its support to this important effort.

Sincerely,  
*Robert H. Kinnison*  
RHK/ghj



(Above) Anyone can register their support for Tucson as a future home for the F-35 at TucsonF35.com. In the first two months more than 4,000 Southern Arizonans registered. The more people who register, the louder the message: "Tucson wants the F-35!" The Web site is the focal point for the Minuteman Committee's F-35 support campaign, Tucson Lightning. The site is also an information resource. Find out about F-35 noise, the basing process and more.

(Below) Public scoping meetings for the environmental impact statement (EIS), held March 1-5, were attended by 416 Southern Arizona residents and covered by every newspaper, TV station, and radio news program in the region. Hundreds of supporters showed up to get their input on the record. Later this year, if the draft EIS names Tucson as a finalist for the F-35, the Air Force will announce public hearings for comments on the draft.

Sincerely,  
*Jan Brewer*

February 17, 2010

The Honorable Mayor Bob Walkup  
Care of Tucson Lightning  
162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee  
P.O. Box 22343  
Tucson, Arizona 85724

Dear Mayor Walkup:

The Southern Arizona Leadership Council (SALC) and its nearly 100 CEO and community leaders fully support the basing of the next generation of U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft, the F-35, at the 162nd Fighter Wing, Tucson International Airport.

The 162nd Fighter Wing has long served this nation by providing unmatched U.S. and international pilot training in fighter aircraft. The importance of the base's \$300 million aviation program, support of our community served by training, the advantages of pilot training in our region include great weather, a highly experienced base of professional military aviation infrastructure.

Equally important is community support for the continued National Guard and its mission. The business leaders lobby in support of administering to U.S. Air Force officials community is proud to renew our order by holding this SALC in support of joining the 162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee P.O. Box 22343 at the 162nd Fighter Wing. Basing the F-35 in defense and the wing's approximately 1,500 associated military personnel, support of our community served by training, the advantages of pilot training in our region include great weather, a highly experienced base of professional military aviation infrastructure.

We urge you and others to enthusiastically support this.

Sincerely,  
*Jan Brewer*  
Jan Brewer  
Chairman  
Southern Arizona Leadership Council

STATE OF ARIZONA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

January 3, 2010

JANICE K. BREWER  
Governor

Michael B. Donley  
Secretary of the U.S. Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Donley:

Because I am dedicated to securing the long-term future of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Tucson Air National Guard Base, I urge the Department of Defense to select Tucson as a training site for the F-35 Lightning II, Joint Strike Fighter.

I know you are aware of the vital role the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing serves. It is the "back of the USAF to the world," providing the best trained and most capable fighter pilots for the United States Air Force. The wing has trained pilots from 24 countries while developing strategic partnerships and building strong international relationships based on performance, friendship and trust. They have over 40 years experience in fighter training, and more than 20 years experience in international military training.

Tucson's unique assets include its proximity to the 2.7 million acre Barry M. Goldwater Range, key to air-to-ground combat training, along with 57,000 cubic miles of airspace overhead where pilots practice air-to-air maneuvers and engage targets on the ground. Additionally, the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing is responsible for several large Military Operating Areas providing significant airspace for both air-to-air and air-to-ground training. Frankly, no other area in the country can compare in size, scope and tactical training ability.

The 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport, with its established training capability and modern infrastructure, provides the Department with a site that is extremely well-suited to support 8th-generation fighter tactics and training as required by the F-35. When you add Tucson's excellent weather, and extraordinary community support from civic organizations, I am confident you will determine there is no finer place to train U.S. and international pilots than the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing.

Sincerely,  
*Janice K. Brewer*  
Janice K. Brewer  
Governor

1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
602-548-4338 • Fax 602-548-7100



Lt. Col. Al Kinnison discusses the F-35 with members of the Tucson community during an environmental impact statement scoping meeting March 1 at Sunnyside High School.

The Honorable Mayor Bob Walkup  
Care of Tucson Lightning  
162nd Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee  
PO Box 22343  
Tucson AZ 85724

Dear Mayor Walkup:

The DM50 wholeheartedly supports the efforts of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing Minuteman Committee in its mission of championing Tucson International Airport as one of this nation's premier fighter pilot training installations and as a pilot training site for the next generation of U.S. Air Force fighter, the F-35.

The Arizona Air National Guard has long served this nation as a pilot training center and this community as a powerful economic force. The base's \$280 million positive economic impact on the local community cannot be overstated. The advantages of pilot training in Arizona, its consistent weather, its unique and its existing military aviation infrastructure, are clear. Equally important is the community support for the continued role of the Guard and its mission. We look forward to the base's future prosperity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input for this very important and effective partnership.

Sincerely,  
*Clay W. Kinnison*  
Clay W. Kinnison  
DM50 President

4807 East Grant Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712  
Watch for our new website: [www.AntWar.org](http://www.AntWar.org)

# From the 'WAF' to the Guard: A woman reflects on her Air Force career

By 2nd Lt. Angela Walz  
Public Affairs

March is Women's History Month and a perfect time to honor the women who carved a path for today's female Airmen. Although her military uniform never included a prairie dress or apron, Senior Master Sgt. Brenda West began paving the way more than 36 years ago and is, nonetheless, a pioneer in every respect.

Originally enlisted into the Women's Air Force (WAF) in 1974 at the age of 18, Sergeant West still remembers the day when women weren't allowed to have pierced ears, but attended "charm school" – where they were taught to adeptly apply make-up, pluck their eyebrows, and walk and talk properly.

"We didn't wear hats either, except with our Class A uniforms, and a wrap-around skirt was part of our field uniform," Sergeant West said of her initial enlistment period that ended in 1978. She joined the Air Force Reserves, but moved from Youngstown, Ohio, to Tucson in 1980 when the steel mills shut down in her hometown.

Sergeant West started in the base supply warehouse as a traditional Guardsman in November of 1980 and eventually was hired on full time into supply by April of 1981. The unit was much smaller back then, and Sergeant West emotionally recalled the day when the unit pitched in to fly her back home to Youngstown when her mother was dying of cancer. "They bought me a microwave oven one year, too," she laughed.

"My mother taught me, 'Where there's a will, there's a

way,' and that's how I have found the answers to so many questions along the way," she said.

Sometimes answers came at a price, like waiting on hold for an hour or more to track down parts for an aircraft. Sergeant West also recalled the days of pedaling 300 pounds of parts from the supply building to the hydraulics section on a 3-wheeled bicycle. Although computer technology and e-mail have greatly expedited the supply system, West claims the system itself remains efficient and the same as it was in the '70s.

The women's Air Force uniform, however, has undergone dramatic changes during her tenure. Long gone are the days of wrap-around skirts. "It has to be a challenge for the people who design the uniforms to maintain a professional look and still enhance who we are as women. The uniforms should be professional, yet enhancing," Sergeant West said.

One of the biggest changes is with the Air Force's physical training program, which recently underwent more stringent requirements for women. "I was never taught how to do men's pushups, but they changed the requirements when I was 48 and I had to learn to do them," West said.

"Our flight at basic training was the second set of women to do the obstacle course in the history of the United States Air Force. We did the course in our low quarter shoes without any physical training. Things have definitely changed since then." Despite elbow surgery for an injury she incurred while training, Sergeant West persevered and has taken a more active role in helping other women overcome challenges in their lives, particularly from a psychological standpoint.

Now active in The Navigators, a ministry that focuses on meeting the spiritual needs of military personnel and their families, Sergeant West anticipates working with young female Airmen upon retiring next year. "I hope and pray others can use my life experiences to give them hope and to make it through hard times," she said.

"The dorms today are better, the food is better, the BX is



Courtesy photo

*Brenda West, a staff sergeant in 1985, receives the Air Force Association Tucson Chapter Air National Guard Member of the Year award from Maj. Gen. Glen Van Dyke, then a colonel and commander of the unit.*

*Airman Basic Brenda West sits for her official photo upon graduating from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in November 1974. At 18 West joined the Women's Air Force, or WAF, which was abolished in 1976 and women were accepted into the military on much the same basis as men. 1976 was the same year in which the United States Air Force Academy began accepting female cadets.*





**Left:**

*Fellow unit members present a microwave oven to then Staff Sgt. Brenda West in 1983. West's coworkers, trying to lift her spirits after her mother passed away, gathered money for flowers and raised enough to purchase the new oven instead.*

Courtesy photos

**Right:**

*Master Sgt. John "Smitty" Smith, the first enlistee of the 162nd Fighter Wing, helps then Staff Sgt. Brenda West load a fork lift with barrels of methyl ethyl keytone circa 1983.*



better, but the situations in life for these Airmen are still the same," West explained. "Sometimes they just need a friend."

Time has made many things better for women in the Air Force, yet Sergeant West is still concerned with those issues that remain in both civilian and military environments—such as career equality and sexual assault prevention.

"There are more opportunities for women to progress in their careers, and also their voices are now being heard through the SAPR [Sexual Assault Prevention and Response] program," Sergeant West said. The SAPR program reinforces the Air Force's commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual assault through awareness and prevention training, education, victim advocacy, response, reporting and accountability.

Statistically women are still underrepresented in many careers; however these numbers continue to increase. The Air Force Personnel Center reports that 19.4 percent of the force is women, while the current population of women in the Air Force is 64,079. Currently, there are 631 (4.3 percent) female pilots, 280 (6.2 percent) female navigators and 175 (12.2 percent) air battle managers. This is a vast improvement over the single female dorm located at Sergeant West's first duty station at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey.

"When I first got to McGuire, more women were coming in and there was no room in the only WAF Squadron dorm. So the base gave us a men's dorm to help with all the women. They at least put sinks in our rooms, which was great," West said.

Those were the days when vending machines were stocked with beer at tech schools. They were also the days of leaving the dorm rooms in inspection order and 'shake downs,' recalled West. "All

the first sergeants would surround the dorms to see if anyone would throw contraband out the windows as the security police brought in the dogs," she said.

"We also had an individual who enjoyed seeing the women run out of the dorms at night by calling in bomb threats. It would happen every Tuesday during the summer months. So we slept out in the grass while they looked for bombs," she said.

Her memories are many and vivid, but—like all good things—her military career will come to an end. "I look back at when I joined and it seemed like such a long road ahead of me. I can't believe I'm at the end of that 37-year journey," said Sergeant West.

When asked what she will do in retirement, Senior Master Sgt. Brenda West replied, "Adjust to a slower pace and learn to quilt."



*Senior Master Sgt. Brenda West teaches a supply management course to fellow members of the 162nd Fighter Wing here Feb. 26. After 36 years of service Sergeant West has a unique perspective on what it means to be a woman in the military.*

Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve



# Weapons School grad marks a first

by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – An Air Guard Predator pilot marked the beginning of a new era as the first Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) pilot from the Reserve Component to graduate from the Air Force's prestigious Weapons Instructor Course, Dec. 12.

Maj. Tammy Barlette, from the Arizona Air National Guard's 214th Reconnaissance Group based at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, completed the five-and-a-half month course along with three active duty RPA pilots. They were the first to attend the school in its 60-year history.

The Weapons School, regarded as the U.S. Air Force's premier weapons and tactics training program, provides graduate-level instructor academic and flying courses. Its graduates are regarded as top authorities in their respective fields.

"I've been through a lot of training but nothing as difficult as this," said Major Barlette, a former A-10 pilot who left active duty to fly MQ-1 Predators over Iraq and Afghanistan full time with the Guard.

"The course is intended to make you the best instructor you can be for your squadron, weapon system and the Air Force. They teach you how to get to the root of a problem and find solutions," she said. "It's constant studying, briefing and flying."

Within the first month she had to get qualified to fly the MQ-9 Reaper. The course requires RPA pilots to have dual qualification in both the Predator and Reaper so that they can routinely fly training missions with various platforms to include A-10s, F-15s and F-16s.

The school, initially created for fighter pilots, now integrates Airmen from 22 different aircraft and specialties. The addition of RPAs is an indication of their value in current conflicts, and the need for their inclusion in the broader Air Force mission.

"Our training was focused on preparation for the next conflict," said the major. "The course taught us to keep a focus on the future so that, when required, a vast array of weapon systems can integrate in any number of situations. I feel like I have a better grasp of how all of these capabilities compliment each other, and I think officers from other Air Force communities got a better understanding of what RPAs bring to the fight."

Back at her unit, Major Barlette will be her com-

*Maj. Tammy Barlette gets familiar with an MQ-9 Reaper at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. She is the first and only Air National Guard Predator pilot to graduate from the Air Force's Weapons Instructor Course. She and three active duty Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) operators were the first to attend the rigorous weapons and tactics training program.*



Courtesy photo

mander's resident expert and will be relied upon to teach fellow Predator pilots how to improve operations.

"Everyone else in the unit will be marching behind her so we can learn how to better serve our customers; the troops on the ground," said Lt. Col. Randy Inman, 214th Reconnaissance Squadron commander.

"We're very proud to have Tammy represent our unit, the state and the Air National Guard," said Colonel Inman. "We recognize the historic significance of her accomplishment, and I know it was one that did not come without personal sacrifice."

One year ago Barlette was five-months pregnant with her second child when she learned of her selection to attend the school. Accepting the appointment meant she would have to leave her 1-year-old daughter and newborn son in the following July.

"I talked it over with my husband and he said, 'You have to go. We'll figure out the rest.' He was very supportive, and my parents, who live in Tucson, helped us out tremendously," said Barlette.

Though Major Barlette admits the family separation was difficult, she says her new qualification as a weapons instructor will serve her and the RPA community well.

"I just wanted to go to the school to get answers. I wanted to get better and I wanted to help my squadron get better," she said.

According to the major, Weapons School patch wearers from RPA units across the country will enjoy the added benefit of being able to cross check ideas with each other.

"It's starting to connect us all," she said.



# THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE CONSIDERING LASIK

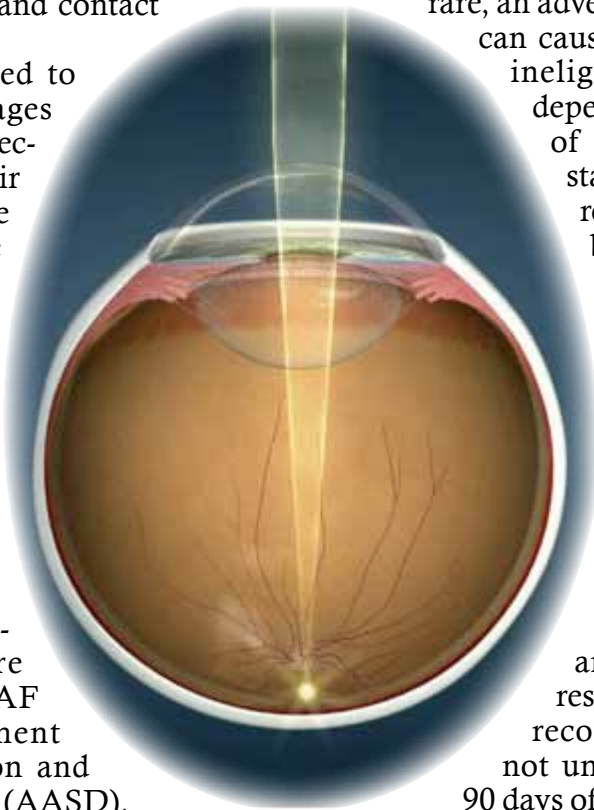
by Lt. Col. John Murphy  
162nd Medical Group

Advancements in refractive surgery, commonly known as LASIK or PRK, have made it possible for those who require vision correction to reduce or eliminate their need for glasses and contact lenses.

Refractive surgery is intended to reduce operational disadvantages related to the wear and care of spectacles and contact lenses by Air Force personnel. Some of those treated will still require corrective lenses to meet required military or civilian vision standards or to obtain the best possible vision under all lighting conditions.

Any individual considering or planning to have refractive surgery must adhere to AFI48-123, Chapter 12, USAF Refractive Surgery (USAF-RS) Program.

To ensure specific requirements are met, personnel are assigned to one of three USAF Refractive Surgery Management Groups: Applicants to Aviation and Aviation Related Special Duty (AASD), trained AASD, and Warfighter (all other AF personnel). Warfighter applications are managed by the Warfighter Program Manager (WPM) and AASD applications are managed by the Aviation Program Manager (APM). Required forms, applications and instructions may be found at [airforcemedicine.afms.mil/USAF-RS](http://airforcemedicine.afms.mil/USAF-RS).



Effective Sept. 24, 2009, ANG Warfighters are exempt from the requirement to obtain permission to proceed with refractive surgery from the WPM. However, the member will not schedule surgery at a time where surgery or recovery would interfere with an anticipated deployment cycle. The member is still responsible for promptly reporting any operative procedure or hospitalization to his or her commander, supervisor and supporting medical facility personnel.

ANG AASD and applicants to AASD are still required to obtain permission to proceed with refractive surgery from the APM. ANG personnel who are not eligible for AD elective surgery benefits may undergo refractive surgery at their own expense with a civilian provider. However it is important to note that they must still adhere to all program requirements and obtain permission to proceed before surgery is authorized.

Though refractive surgery may be operationally beneficial for some personnel, it is an elective procedure. There is no requirement for any member or applicant to obtain any form of refractive surgery. Although it's

rare, an adverse outcome to refractive surgery can cause a military member to become ineligible to continue their service, depending on their job and the level of vision loss. If applicable vision standards cannot be met following refractive surgery, the member may be disqualified from continued military service.

Since it is so prevalent and has an outstanding success rate, people sometimes don't think of it as a surgery. It hasn't occurred often, but there have been cases where people have gotten refractive surgery and it impacted their ability to be deployed.

Because an adverse outcome or an extended recovery time could result in being non-deployable, it is recommended that ANG members not undergo refractive surgery within 90 days of deployment. In accordance with AFI48-123 personnel may not deploy for a minimum of 30 days following refractive surgery and they have discontinued all ocular steroid medications and all applicable vision standards are met.

For additional questions about refractive surgery, ANG members may contact the optometry clinic at 295-7300 on drill weekends.



# 162nd Memorial – A unique tribute to excellence

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

The memorial on base at the 162nd Fighter Wing is a unique fixture for the unit and the Air National Guard. It evolved because retired Master Sgt. John Salazar, a former aircraft crew chief, recognized that current and retired members were passing on. The numbers were growing and John thought there should be a place where unit members could go to remember deceased former coworkers and reflect on past experiences. The year was 1988.

John shared his idea with other retirees during a luncheon at TAGRA and the memorial was conceived. A committee was formed consisting of retired Maj. Gen. Don Morris, retired Chief Master Sgts. Don Ainley, Ed Gillooly and Ferd Groh, and Sergeant Salazar. Also on the committee was Col. Ron Kurth, the 162nd vice commander at the time.

The committee's first order of business was to plan funding for the project. They decided to build the memorial with money donated by unit members themselves. To formalize the memorial, articles of incorporation were drawn up, non-profit status was acquired from the Internal Revenue Service and the committee submitted the articles to the Arizona Corporation Commission. Final approval was granted June 20, 1989. The Tucson Air Guard Memorial Fund was created and unit members started giving. To this day, the memorial is supported solely by tax-deductible contributions from unit members, retirees and a few generous, dedi-



Courtesy photos

*(From the Left) Col. Ron Kurth, vice commander, retired Master Sgt. John Salazar, Chief Master Sgt. Jim McDorman and Col. Glen W. "Bill" Van Dyke, commander, at the memorial dedication in 1989. The memorial's original location was where the flag poles now stand.*

cated organizations that recognize its importance and unique nature.

The original memorial location was on the south side of the perimeter road inside the north fence, midway between Building 1 and the main gate. The memorial was built with donated materials and labor provided by unit members. A concrete block structure was created to showcase the memorial and a finished granite slab was purchased, appropriately engraved, and installed. The memorial was completed in the fall of 1989.

On Dec. 2, 1989, the memorial was dedicated in a ceremony attended by unit members, the Memorial Committee and honored guests that included Maj. Gen. Donald Owens, the Adjutant General of Arizona; Col. Glen W. "Bill" Van Dyke, 162nd Commander; Colonel Kurth, and unit chaplains Maj. Brian Bell and Capt. Robert Norton. At the

time of the dedication ceremony there were 59 names engraved on the memorial.

The monument would remain at that location for eight years; however, base expansion and modernization necessitated changes. The original fuel storage area was scheduled to move to a new location and the aircraft static display area was evolving. Also, foreign pilot training was expanding, creating a need for additional flag poles to fly the flags of other countries in honor of visitors to the unit. To provide space for the additional poles it became apparent the memorial would need to be moved.

A new memorial location, south of the main gate, was selected. The location was a perfect spot, centrally located and in an area where unit members and visitors pass by every day. Once again, dedicated 162nd members donated materials and



labor and a new, expanded memorial became a reality.

Concrete was poured and professionally finished, block structures were carefully built and frames were constructed to house and protect the granite slabs. The original engraved slab was gently relocated to the new area and an additional slab was installed to accommodate the expanding list of names being engraved in the stones. The finished memorial, with a new look and a new location, was rededicated in a ceremony Nov. 2, 1997. Maj. Gen. Van Dyke, the Adjutant General of Arizona and former 162nd Commander, was the guest speaker at the ceremony. At this dedication there were 96 names engraved on the memorial.

Eligibility for names inscribed on the memorial is limited to deceased retired unit members, those who died while assigned to the unit, or

other deceased individuals who should be remembered because of their service to the unit.

The 162nd Memorial, which started with an idea discussed over lunch, evolved into a monumental tribute to the Tucson Air Guard and its members. For more than 50 years many dedicated individuals have passed through the Valencia gate, contributing to an organization that has excelled in everything it has done. Members of the 162nd have always had a "can-do" attitude that has led to many awards that confirm recognition of excellence in all areas.

The Tucson Air Guard Memorial is a fitting display of appreciation for the accomplishments of former unit members. This memorial ensures that 162nd Fighter Wing members will never be forgotten.

As of Jan. 1, 2010, there were 190 names engraved on the memorial.



*Eight years after he first dedicated the memorial, Maj. Gen. Glen W. "Bill" Van Dyke returned to base in 1997 as the Arizona Adjutant General to rededicate the memorial in the location where it resides today, at the main intersection on base between the dining facility and building 9.*

## Retiree Events scheduled for the Spring of 2010:

April 14, Semi-Annual Retirees Luncheon. HomeTown Buffet on Wilmot Rd. in Tucson. 11 a.m. (This event is held in lieu of the breakfast on this date.)

May 12, Monthly Breakfast. HomeTown Buffet on Wilmot Rd. in Tucson. 7:30 a.m.

May 12, First Seasonal Summer Monthly White Mountain Breakfast. Hon-Dah Casino, at intersection of highways 260 & 73, south of Pinetop, Ariz. 7:30 a.m.

June 9, Monthly Breakfast. HomeTown Buffet on Wilmot Rd. in Tucson. 7:30 a.m.

June 9, Monthly White Mountain Breakfast. Hon-Dah Casino, at intersection of highways 260 & 73, south of Pinetop, Ariz. 7:30 a.m.

June 17. The 2010 Annual White Mountain Retirees Picnic is scheduled for Thursday, June 17 at Fool Hollow Lake State Park west of Show Low, Ariz. Meal cost will be \$12.50 per person. Reservations required. Start time is 3 p.m. More detailed information will be available in the May Retirees Newsletter. If you have questions call Hugh Kennedy on his cell phone at (520) 405-6891.



# All in the EL TIGRE Family

### Military Promotions:

#### To Senior Master Sergeant

Miguel Islas, Maintenance  
Michael Hauri, 214th RG  
Alex Leyvas, Maintenance Squadron  
Michael Weisbrod, Civil Engineering

#### To Master Sergeant

Oscar Torres, Logistics Readiness  
Teresa Concolino, Headquarters  
Alfredo Oroz, Logistics Readiness  
David Hollis, Det 1 Snowbird  
Kelly Fremming, Maintenance  
Donald Morgan, Maintenance  
Daniel Ramirez, Logistics Readiness  
Gregory Osullivan, Maintenance  
Dion Hawkins, Security Forces

#### To Tech. Sergeant

Christopher Dormer, Maintenance  
David Pazak, Maintenance  
Anthony Felix, Maintenance  
Peter Smith, Maintenance  
Travis Davis, Maintenance  
Travis Bott, Maintenance  
Douglas Catlin, Maintenance  
Saul Dojaquez, Maintenance  
Alicia Archie, Mission Support Group  
Michael Rosenberry, Maintenance  
Freddy Alvarez, Maintenance  
Thaddeus Sorensen, Comm Flight  
David Balch, Comm Flight

Murriel Champion, Comm Flight  
Robin Hinton, 152 Fighter Squadron  
Christopher Garcia, Maintenance  
Troy Beeman, Maintenance  
Elvira Burruel, Maintenance  
James Rollins, 214th RG  
Gladyz Wunderle, Medical Group  
Veronica Norzagaray, Maintenance  
Erin Peters, 195 Fighter Squadron  
Nerissa Rodriguez, OSF

#### To Staff Sergeant

Eirc Larson, Maintenance  
Margarita Chavez, Mission Support  
Steven Lovell, 214th RG  
Matthew Robey, Civil Engineering  
Samuel Warren, Civil Engineering  
Jimmy Burruel, Logistics Readiness  
Clarence Forster, Maintenance  
Jonathan Grim, 214th RG  
Jeffery Morton, Maintenance  
Patricia Pacheco, Security Forces  
Joseph Devos, Security Forces  
Christopher Dobyna, 214th RG  
Stephen Myers, Headquarters

#### To Senior Airman

Lewis Linda, Maintenance  
Stephen Scrugg, Maintenance  
Brandon Urena, 214th RG  
Dennis Skraparis, Maintenance  
Matthew Martinez, 214th RG  
Leticia Torres, Security Forces

Leslie Ramirez, Mission Support  
Benjamin Findlay, Maintenance  
Joseph Apalategui, Maintenance  
Mary Connell, Maintenance

#### To Airman First Class

Moore Siiri, Maintenance  
Vanessa Ferreira, 152 Fighter Squadron

#### Births

Congratulations to new parents, Staff Sgt. Ana Bojorquez and her husband Staff Sgt. Sergio Acedo. They are the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl, Aleana Pauline Bojorquez Acedo, 7lbs 10oz, born March 5.

Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Charlie and Amy Salgado on the birth of their daughter, Bella Renee Salgado, 7 lbs 2 oz., Feb. 25.

Congratulations to Tech. Sgt. Chris Strange on the birth of his newest grandson, Donetello, born Feb. 15, 7 lbs 1.1 oz.

Tech. Sgt. David and Sharon Fontagneres welcomed son Levi Daniel into the world at Feb. 24. Levi broke the scale at 8lbs. 5 oz and measured 21.5 inches.

## Wing Quarterly Award winners: 4th Quarter 2009

Read about their accomplishments at [162fw.ang.af.mil/quarterlyawards](http://162fw.ang.af.mil/quarterlyawards).



**A1C Andrew Czarnowski**  
162FW Airman of the Quarter  
Oct - Dec 2009



**TSgt Veronica Norzagaray**  
162FW NCO of the Quarter  
Oct - Dec 2009



**MSgt Jeffrey Deters**  
162FW SNCO of the Quarter  
Oct - Dec 2009



**Lt Col Wally Bleyl**  
162FW Officer of the Quarter  
Oct - Dec 2009





## H1N1 vaccine now available at 162nd

By 2nd Lt. Angela Walz  
Public Affairs



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Desiree Twombly

*Tech. Sgt. Travis Davis, 162nd Medical Group, administers an H1N1 vaccine to a fellow Guardsman March 13.*

In a Jan. 10 letter to the Adjutants General of all states and territories, Gen. Craig R. McKinley, National Guard Bureau chief, stated that all uniformed National Guard members must be vaccinated for the H1N1 virus before Apr. 30.

The 162nd Medical Group recently received a shipment of 700 vaccines, and gave out 450 of those immunizations by Saturday of the March unit training assembly.

With blistered and bandaged fingers from prepping so many vaccination needles, Lt. Col. Jackie Federico-Lopez, the 162MDG Officer in Charge of Immunizations, is confident there will be enough vaccines for the unit to comply. "We have shipments on the way, and will

administer the vaccinations during all UTAs," she said.

Schedules will be posted for full-time Guardsmen to receive the vaccine during the month, and drill status members can receive the vaccination during the April unit training assembly if they have not done so already.

## 'Court leave' defined for Air Technicians

As hometown heroes, federal employees of the Air National Guard are often called to court. Air technicians may be eligible for non-chargeable leave status if they are subpoenaed to serve as a juror or non-official witness in a local, state, or federal court.

It is the employee's responsibility, however, to ensure that they are authorized court leave pay and complete the document necessary to receive that pay. Technicians are not authorized pay if they are either the plaintiff or respondent in a civil action (such as a divorce or personal injury suit), are serving as a witness

on behalf of a private individual in a civil action, or are the defendant in a criminal action.

For those eligible to receive court leave, a certificate of attendance must be submitted to the civilian pay office, and all daily payments to the member, excluding mileage, must be surrendered to the government.

For more information, clarification or guidance, contact a civilian pay office employee: Master Sgt. Diana Aragon at 295-6445; Senior Airman Stephen Myers or Tech. Sgt. Tammy Antunez at 295-6862; or Tech. Sgt. Rose Robles at 295-6882.

## Guardsmen, veterans eligible for local scholarship

The deadline for the Rich Wade Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the Arizona Veterans Program Association (AVPA), is May 31.

Applications for the are available under the "Resources" tab on the 162nd Fighter Wing's Web site at 162fw.ang.mil/resources.

## Tig Bits Spring Blood Drive

Give the "Gift of Life." The next 162nd Fighter Wing Blood Drive will be held here Saturday, April 10, 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/>.

### Freeware is not free

Only authorized software may be used in government computers. Licensed, registered software including shareware acquired through government procurement is the only commercial software authorized to be installed on government computer systems. Freeware, shareware, or public domain software cannot be installed on government systems without prior approval. This approval may be granted after the software has been certified by a software testing facility. Address any questions to Tech. Sgt. Heidi Estes at 295-6173.

### 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



April

SATURDAY

Breakfast Hours: 6:30 until 8:45 a.m.

- Scrambled Eggs
- Bacon
- Ham
- Hashbrown Potatoes
- French Toast w/Syrup
- Biscuits
- Creamed Beef
- Cherry Coffee Cake
- Apple Coffee Cake
- Fresh Fruit
- Assorted Cereals
- Assorted Yogurts

SUNDAY



See page 13 for details.

Mission essential members that must remain on base can request meals by section thru services flight at least one week prior to the UTA.

May

SATURDAY

- Chicken Fajitas\*
- Shredded Beef
- Mexican Rice
- Pinto Beans
- Mexi-Corn
- Peas
- Simmered Squash
- Flour Tortilla
- Carrot Cake w/ Cream Cheese Frosting
- Blueberry Crisp

SUNDAY

- Meatloaf
- Herb Baked Chicken
- Mashed Potatoes
- Rice Pilaf
- Brown Gravy
- Mixed Vegetables
- Fried Cabbage
- Steamed Carrots
- Coconut Cream Pie
- Chocolate Chip Oatmeal cookies
- Chocolate Chip Cookies

June

SATURDAY

- Smoked Pork Roast
- Spinach Baked Fish
- Pork Fried Rice
- Mac n Cheese
- Carrots
- Vegetable Medley
- Green Beans
- Chocolate Brownies
- Pineapple Upside down cake

SUNDAY

- Fried Chicken
- Pepper Steak
- Steamed Rice
- Oven Browned Potatoes
- Chicken Gravy
- Peas n Carrots
- Steamed Cauliflower
- Green Beans
- Strawberry Cake w/Cream Cheese Frosting
- Cherry 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



# THE CI

## IN PHOTOS



## PROFESSIONAL PERFORMERS



## PROFESSIONAL TEAM PERFORMERS

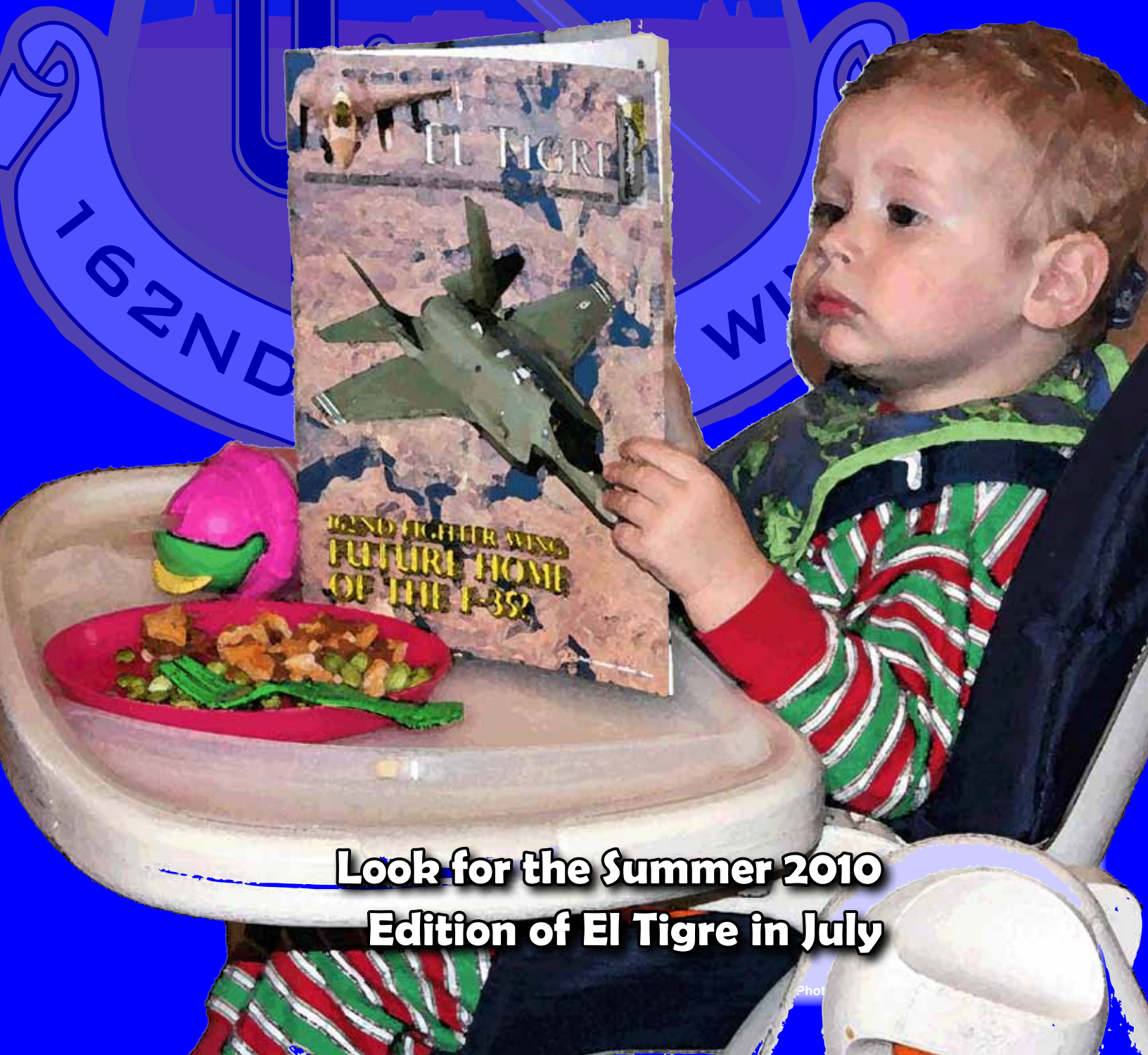


*(All award recipients photographed with Col. Monty Brock, AETC Inspector General, All photos by Public Affairs)*

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

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**Look for the Summer 2010  
Edition of El Tigre in July**

Photo