



EL TIGRE

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



THE MAINTENANCE MISSION



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EL TIGRE

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Communication... always difficult yet required

by Col. Mick McGuire
Commander

Who understands a BLUF? I do... now. I used to think it was a poker term, so imagine my surprise when a peer looked at me during a meeting at the National Guard Bureau and said, "It is a little non-standard to start a power point brief with a bottom line up front (BLUF) statement," and the light went on!

Not unlike a fellow wing commander asking me recently, "Do you know why they call the B-1 the Bone?" I paused and replied "B - O N E." I added, "Don't feel bad, until recently I had no idea what the acronym BLUF stood for. Whatever happened to just BL?"

In the military we constantly speak in acronyms, our own unique language. Our language is an overt indicator of our unique military culture and helps us form a bond as brothers in arms.

Our military culture is based on integrity, trust, respect, discipline, professionalism and yes, communication. Any group with a unique language has the responsibility to teach everyone how to speak the language so we can effectively communicate. Literally getting everyone on the "same sheet of music." Military leaders who effectively communicate are most likely to succeed.

This is my first attempt to communicate with all of you in a written format. The topic is the recently completed climate survey. The finished report was 324 written pages, with contributions from 508 unit members therefore consuming approximately 508 man-hours to produce. To all of you, thank you for the candid and honest feedback.

Here's the BLUF: 40 percent of the unit is generally happy with the wing's climate and morale, 60 percent want changes to the status quo. But 100 percent dislike surveys, feel nothing substantive will result from them, and resent change for the sake of change.

Based on your feedback, I met with the group commanders to begin identifying specific areas for improvement; they include process changes, manpower, policy, infrastructure and facilities.

Changes made in these areas are targeted at increasing the unit's overall climate, morale and, most importantly, mission effectiveness. It's too early to roll out any specifics in these areas.



Colonel McGuire

It's not too early to address the topics 100 percent of you agree on. The nexus for all three topics is effective communication.

First, surveys take time and deprive you of time you could dedicate to other mission tasks. However, in an institution as large as a fighter wing it may be the only way for you to communicate with your command.

I think the dislike of surveys may stem more from the second point you all agreed on. The feeling no one is going to take the time to read or consider what you have to say. If that were true, I would join the ranks of those who did not complete the survey.

Here is reality; I read all 324 pages... twice. The vice commander read all 324 pages. We refuse to let the 508 man-hours spent go to waste.

Though annoyed, you participated in the survey for a reason – the idea that you'd be heard and would be treated fairly; that you would all run in the race with the same opportunities. Fair treatment of all is something we will never waiver on.

(Continued on page 4)



“You participated in the survey for a reason – the idea that you’d be heard and would be treated fairly.”

The final, universally accepted, premise is you resist change because change, by its very definition, is seen as a threat. This is a challenge for all leaders.

I read responses from overwhelming numbers of you who think there needs to be changes to the status quo, but in the summary sections a common caveat prevails, “whatever corrections or changes required are fine with me, just make sure it does not affect my section.”

So let me get this straight, we all want change, just not the kind that affects our personal status quo?

I get it; there have been a lot of changes in recent times. Here are the changes which moved the meter in your surveys: rapid leadership turnover, the new fitness test, new uniforms, shrinking budgets, reduced manpower, aircraft maintenance units, multiple different self-service websites, stricter security measures, and changes to personnel policies – all departures from the way we have

done business in the past.

I think we need to look at institutional change differently by asking ourselves this question. “This is a solution to what problem?” Each of us might have a different answer to the question, but we would begin to look at change not as a threat but as improvement.

Since each of us might have a different answer it is the duty of the commanders to clearly communicate the reason for change and the problem we seek to remedy. This clear communication provides a flight path for the entire unit and builds a sense of team, unity, trust and cohesion required for all successful military units.

My promise as I serve as your commander - I will do my best to provide clear communication about how I would answer, “This is a solution to what problem?”

One thing will not change, we maintain our core values of integrity first, service before self and excel-

lence in all we do.

The first reason, as outlined in the *Little Blue Book*, is that “the core values tell us the price of admission to the Air Force itself.”

The second reason is that “they point to what is universal and unchanging in the profession of arms.”

The third reason for adhering to these values is that “they help us get a fix on the ethical climate of the organization.”

Lastly, “they also serve as beacons vectoring us back to the path of professional conduct; the core values allow us to transform a climate of corrosion into a climate of ethical commitment.”

Many have heard me paraphrase these values, “Two rules to live by in the 162nd... tell the truth and give your best effort.” These will never change.

One final thought, many of you who completed the survey after I was identified as the next commander had some enlightening comments like, “Who is this guy? Not sure where he came from,” and, “Been here over 20 years and am pretty sure none of the previous wing commanders have even known I was in the unit.”

To help us get to know one another and introduce myself as the “new” guy I plan to visit different shops around the base.

I have no specific schedule and have already met a number of you in mission support, medical, operations and maintenance groups.

I will continue these visits to different shops on base unannounced at any hour day or night. I’ll do it, not because I want to “check up” on you, but because I truly care about getting to know all our great Airmen.

You are our greatest asset. I’m interested in seeing your contribution to the mission, and listening to what you have to say – each one of you.

“You are our greatest asset. I’m interested in seeing your contribution to the mission, and listening to what you have to say – each one of you.”



A Wing Picnic that honors our entire wing family

New 'Family Appreciation Day' will be in November and will be held on base

by Chief Master Sgt. Shane Clark
Wing Command Chief

For years we've celebrated our annual Wing Picnic off base to reach out to our members, families, retirees and friends. Only recently has it become evident that, though it's great fun and extremely well done, the Picnic has begun to miss the mark.

The Picnic, the Haunted Hangar and the Steak Fry have long been staples of the unit's social calendar. However, the fantastic efforts to bring people together at the Picnic, held every April drill at Udall Park in northeast Tucson, have fallen short in recent years as evident by dwindling participation.

With the April Unit Training Assembly around the corner, wing leadership asked me to announce that these three events will be combined and moved to the November UTA weekend and will take on a form that better serves Airmen and families.



Photo by Maj. Gabe Johnson

Command Chief Master Sgt. Shane Clark, center, discusses options for the wing's new Family Appreciation Day with members of the security forces squadron on base, Feb. 25. The event, scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 6, consolidates several wing events and is intended to increase participation among members, families and retirees.

I cannot overstate how important these events are to enhancing morale, building unit cohesion and for just saying "thank you" for all you do and for the sacrifices your loved ones make in support of your service to country and state.

Each event is an opportunity to enjoy each other's company in a social setting - something we can all agree is important. But it's something we can do better.

Though the plan is currently in concept phase, it will be called "Wing Family Appreciation Day" and will be held here at the base instead of the park.

It will incorporate aspects of the Picnic, the Steak Fry and the Haunted Hangar and most importantly it will help meet our goal to reach all 1,500 of our members, their families, and our retirees.

Saturday, Nov. 5, will remain our traditional day for the Annual Awards and Hometown Heroes Salute. On Sunday, Nov. 6, we will use the duty day to honor you and your families.

Details such as the kind of food to be served, cost, tickets, event times and attractions, are yet to be worked out, but they will be communicated as November approaches.

Our hope is to structure the day in such a way that it's simple for your families to accompany you to the UTA where there will be food, beverages, jumping castles, video games, pot lucks, chili cook offs, car and bike shows, and more.

The day will also be your chance to show your family what you do when you put on your uniform and report to drill.

Shops on base will be asked to open their doors for our guests. We can have F-16s, fire trucks, tools, equipment and demonstrations to showcase our talents and let them see what "mom and dad do in the Air Guard."

And with the day so close to Halloween, our kids could have one more day in costume to participate in a fun and safe 'Trunk or Treat' on base.

These are just some ideas I've heard from Airmen when I ask them what they'd like to see at a wing-wide event. Really, the possibilities are endless and you can have an effect on the success of our first Family Appreciation Day.

Give us your ideas and input. Tell us what would make the event special for you, for spouses, for kids, and for retirees. I encourage you to talk openly with your first sergeants, chiefs and commanders.

We'll need your ideas and your help. Get involved. Join a planning committee. This will be our one big weekend for the year so let's make it one that we can all be proud and enthusiastic about.



Wing commander takes helm amid crisis



Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Col. Michael McGuire, right, receives the 162nd Fighter Wing flag from Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, the Arizona Air National Guard commander, Jan. 8 as a symbol of his assumption of command.

by Master Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Public Affairs

With a flourish of colors, sharp salutes, and a sea of Air Force uniforms in formation, Col. Michael McGuire took the reins as the new commander of the 162nd Fighter Wing in a somber ceremony Jan. 8.

What should have been a joyous occasion was overshadowed by news that U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and several others had been shot that morning during a local event held by the congresswoman at a Tucson shopping center. Several people died, several were wounded and Giffords was later reported in critical condition.

Approximately 1,200 wing members and guests filled an aircraft hangar on base after closely following the events unfold on the local news. Side by side, wing members stood quietly with their thoughts and prayers with the victims and their families.

Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, the Arizona Air National Guard commander, presided over the ceremony

and asked for a moment of silence prior to making his comments.

“I had many more things to say, but they just don’t seem that important right now,” he said.

In a moment of reflection, he recounted an event in which he had the opportunity to spend time with the congresswoman during a recent border tour.

“In the nine hours I got to spend with the congresswoman and getting to know her, I can tell you that she represents everything that is great in this country. Her commitment to this wing and its mission is the number one job that I will ask Colonel McGuire to continue to recapitalize on,” he said.

He concluded his statements by highlighting the recent successes of the 162nd and asked members to maintain “the gold standard” the unit is known for in international training.

With the news heavy in the heart of the wing, Colonel McGuire’s comments echoed those of the general in honoring the victims of the shooting. He said that the decision to continue with the ceremony was one that the congresswoman would have wanted.

“Today is like September 11th. That attitude that allowed us to respond that day is the kind of attitude we are going to use to approach all problems. There will be no failure, breakdown or change in mission. Irrespective to what happens to any of us, we will continue to advance. Congresswoman Giffords would



Tech. Sgt. Chandra Smith sing’s ‘Amazing Grace’ at the 162nd Fighter Wing’s assumption of command ceremony in honor of the victims involved in the Jan. 8 shooting in Tucson, Ariz.



Tech. Sgt. Douglas Catlin, 162nd Fighter Wing crew chief, unveils the name of the new wing commander on the wing's flagship F-16 Fighting Falcon, Jan. 8.

have wanted it that way and I demand it. I think you all understand that and I look forward to serving with you," he said.

Colonel McGuire will serve as the 162nd Fighter Wing's 11th commanding officer since 1956. His responsibilities include more than 1,450 Arizona Air National Guardsmen, 66 F-16 Fighting Falcons and the wing's international pilot training mission – a responsibility he acknowledged as a "humbling opportunity" and one he could not have imagined months ago.

"My job is to do the best I can to train the men and women of this wing so that we can build deeper alliances with our partners overseas," said Colonel McGuire.

He comes to the 162nd following a tour as the commander of the 214th Reconnaissance Group based at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. Prior to assuming command of the reconnaissance mission in February 2010, he served nine years with the wing. Now returning to command the 162nd, he has a vision for leading "the most talented Airmen of the Air National Guard."

"We live by a code of ethics, we have rules. So here are the rules, you tell me the truth and I will tell you the truth. You give me your best effort and I will do the same. That is all I can ask. I truly believe leadership is a gift that's given by those who follow. I hope I can earn your trust and respect as your leader," he said.

Operations Group welcomes new commander

The 162nd Operations Group, the largest F-16 fighter training unit in the Air National Guard, welcomed its new commander Feb. 6.

Lt. Col. Andrew MacDonald, who previously commanded the group's 148th Fighter Squadron, ceremoniously accepted the unit flag from the 162nd Fighter Wing Commander Col. Mick McGuire before an auditorium full of family, friends, fighter pilots and support personnel.

"He has a long history of service in the United States Marine Corps, and has been a proud member of the Arizona Guard for the last 13 years," said Colonel McGuire during the assumption of command. "He's served in a lot of different functions in the wing and I know that a lot of you have history with him and I'm absolutely confident that each of you will do all that you can to make sure the group continues to be successful."

MacDonald began his career as a Marine EA-6B Prowler pilot before joining the 162nd. Most recently he was responsible for training United Arab Emirates pilots in the F-16E Desert Falcon and later Dutch pilots in the F-16 Mid Life Update version of the multi-role fighter.

Today, he's responsible for three flying squadrons that conduct training for the United States Air Force as well as partner nation air force pilots from Singapore, Morocco, Norway and the Netherlands.



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Lt. Col. Andrew MacDonald addresses family, friends and fellow Guardsmen as the new 162nd Operations Group commander Feb. 6.



Psychological health director offers new services

Story and photo by
Maj. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

Arizona Air National Guardsmen deploying overseas, flying MQ-1 Predator combat missions over Southwest Asia, and defending the homeland through air sovereignty alert now have access to full-time mental health services should they need them.

In January, Ms. Diane Schiff, a 25-year licensed clinical social worker, assumed her new role as the 162nd Fighter Wing's director of psychological health (WDPH) at Tucson International Airport. She will work with the 162nd as well as the 214th Reconnaissance Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

She is one of the first mental health professionals in the Air National Guard and will be among 97 contracted experts slated for ANG units across the country.

Military officials have recognized in recent years a steady increase in post traumatic stress disorder, divorce and suicide among servicemembers. As the only service component without military members in mental health professions, Air National Guard leaders announced last year the creation of new, wing-level positions intended to address these serious trends.

In addition to mental health and non-medical support services, the WDPH will work closely with the Yellow Ribbon program, Air Force suicide prevention programs and the Air Force resiliency program when it is fielded.

"When servicemembers redeploy, they go through a formal and comprehensive transition period when they are reintegrated back into their community whether through



Diane Schiff

Yellow Ribbon events or other similar programs," said Ms. Schiff who previously served four years as a military and family life consultant; a short-term, non-medical counselor traveling to numerous installations around the world.

She understands that Guard members don't have the same type of transition that allows for decompression. "As with the Predator mission, Guardsmen go from a combat situation then leave work and go straight to the dentist or a teacher-parent conference," she said. "This presents Guard members with a very challenging dichotomy – the clashing of two worlds."

She says she's here to help with that transition as well as psychological health issues.

"My primary role will be clinical case management and oversight meaning I deliver and coordinate various psychological health services for Guardsmen to include brief counseling, crisis intervention, referrals to other psychological health professionals, alcohol abuse awareness, outreach, reintegration

programs and commander advisement," said Ms. Schiff.

"It's great to be here. It's a great honor to work with you all. This wing seems very close knit. Everyone has been welcoming, helpful and appreciative that I'm here... and that's wonderful. This makes my job that much more enjoyable."

Recent tragedy highlights director's role

Three weeks after Schiff's arrival, the 162nd Fighter Wing suffered the tragic loss of one of its members.

Staff Sgt. John Diehl, a long-time member of the engine shop, died Jan. 28 from complications stemming from his battle with cancer.

A friend and co-worker arrived at Sergeant Diehl's residence to give him a ride to a doctor's appointment that morning and found him on the floor of his home. He immediately called 911 and attempted to stabilize him.

Despite the timely arrival of an ambulance and efforts to save his life, Sergeant Diehl passed away.

"It's a very sad time for the maintenance squadron and the wing as a whole," said Lt. Col. Ken Gavre, 162nd Maintenance Squadron commander. "John was a dedicated aircraft maintainer and a true friend that will be missed by all. His death was such a shock to us because his doctor had cleared him to come back to work. We thought he was doing well. We stopped maintenance for the day and I asked Diane, the chaplain and others to be available for John's section."

Ms. Schiff said she was glad Colonel Gavre was aware of the WPHD program and asked her to assist because the family atmosphere among Guard members makes the loss extremely difficult.

"You guys have such a long history together. Unlike active duty where there is a lot of [moving], Guardsmen



have many years together to grow stronger attachments," she said. "Therefore a tragedy like this can be felt most acutely."

"I was particularly concerned about friends who were closest to him. I did work with groups on Friday and we came up with a strategy that would allow this to unfold and encourage people to process it rather than stuffing it away and minimizing it."

Perceived barriers to seeking help

According to TriWest Healthcare Alliance, many servicemembers share a perception that mental health treatment could cause a loss in confidence in their abilities among fellow members. It's a perceived barrier that the military continues to overcome.

"I have noticed the stigma associated with mental health issues is decreasing. It's my hope that as I spend time with people on base they will feel more comfortable with me and initiate services. The negative, preconceived ideas about seeking help will diminish and people will say, 'that wasn't so bad.' I want them to feel at ease talking to me, and I'm committed to finding ways to allow this to happen," Schiff said.

The top ethical code in Ms. Schiff's profession is confidentiality above all else, she said.

"I work with commanders, first sergeants, chaplains and others on cases within the bounds of confidentiality," she said.

Mental health services are covered by Tricare for active duty members, or civilian health insurance plans depending on the member's current status.

"Or if they don't have insurance, then I look for available community resources."

Ms. Schiff can be reached on base at 295-7315. The WDPH office is open during the week, and on drill weekends, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the 162nd Medical Group.



In Memorium

Staff Sgt. John Diehl

Photos by
Tech. Sgt. Hollie Hansen



Capt. Jason Burns is the Arizona Air National Guard's outstanding junior officer for 2010.

Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Maintenance officer takes home OAY state award

by 2nd Lt. Angela Walz
Public Affairs

Capt. Jason Burns, an aircraft maintenance officer here, is the Maj. Gen. Owens Junior Officer of the Year. He accepted the award at the Arizona Air National Guard's Outstanding Airman of the Year banquet and ceremony held March 5 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

All four Arizona Air Guard units sent representatives to the ceremony to vie for state honors – including the 107th Air Control Squadron located in Phoenix on the Papago Park Military Reservation; the 214th Reconnaissance Group located at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson; the 161st Air Refueling Wing in Phoenix; and the 162nd Fighter Wing at the Tucson International Airport.

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

Besides being active in various community organizations, Captain Burns excelled in his duties as a maintenance officer.

He led the effort to transition the maintenance squadron to the aircraft maintenance unit organiza-

tional concept, coordinating the move of more than 250 personnel in the maintenance complex to new duty locations.

Captain Burns also represented the Air Force in Pakistan during Red and Green Flag planning meetings. He was additionally the sole maintenance representative during the showing of three United Arab Emirates-owned F-16 jets to the Indian Air Force in anticipation of a 186-aircraft purchase.

Maj. Gen. Hugo E. Salazar, The Adjutant General, Arizona National Guard, and Brig. Gen. Michael Colangelo, Commander, Arizona Air National Guard, were on hand to present the award to Capt. Burns. He was also "coined" by other dignitaries at the banquet – including Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, Director, Air National Guard; Chief Master Sgt. Christopher E. Muncy, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard; and Chief Master Sgt. Denise M. Jelinski-Hall, the Senior Enlisted Leader for the National Guard Bureau.

Captain Burns will now compete against other states' outstanding officers for the honor of being named one of the Air National Guard's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

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



Airman earns spot on Arizona's Combatives Team

by Maj. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

Hand-to-hand combat training for the U.S. military is designed to save lives on the battlefield. On the wrestling mat, in the ring or in the octagon, the Army calls it 'Combatives,' and there it's about competition and sharpening one's skills.

One Airman assigned to the 162nd Fighter Wing punched, kicked and choked his way onto the Arizona National Guard Combatives Team during a tryout held at a Tucson boxing gym Jan. 15. It was widely acknowledged that he was the only 'Air guy' at the event. The fact that he was twice the age of the youngest competitor was not.

Senior Airman Ed Small, 41, is an aircraft maintainer who specializes in F-16 Fighting Falcon engines. He joined the wing less than a year ago after serving five years in the Army when he was in his early 20s.

"I came back [as a traditional Guardsman] for the love of the military," said Airman Small, who works full time as a water treatment specialist for Water Energy Systems Technology, Inc. "I heard such great things about the Air Guard. I wanted to become a part of the team."

For the last three years, he's spent much of his spare time studying Brazilian Jujitsu.

"On the first day I went, I loved it. I thought, 'This is it!' So I started going regularly and eventually began going to tournaments," said Small.

He competed in the 205-pound weight class against an all-Army group of challengers for a place on the 2011 team. Not only did he earn a spot, but he won first place in his division.

Combatives, as a sport, takes contestants through three increasingly-grueling matches – grappling, Pancrase, and Mixed Martial Arts. The first match, grappling, consists of wrestling and Jujitsu. The second match, Pancrase, involves open hand strikes to the face and head, closed fist strikes to the body and kicks to the lower body. The final match, Mixed Martial Arts, allows an array of strikes and submission holds to virtually all parts of the body.

Winners are determined based on an intricate scoring system, or if one fighter is knocked out or concedes the fight by 'tapping out.'

"The Army is taking this by storm," said Airman Small. "They're holding classes, they have programs and gyms dedicated to combatives. It's even part of their basic training."

But for Small the sport isn't a professional requirement, or even a hobby.

"I call it a challenge to myself because I have to stay in shape and I have to keep my weight down. I

have to be in shape beyond what it takes to pass a PT test.

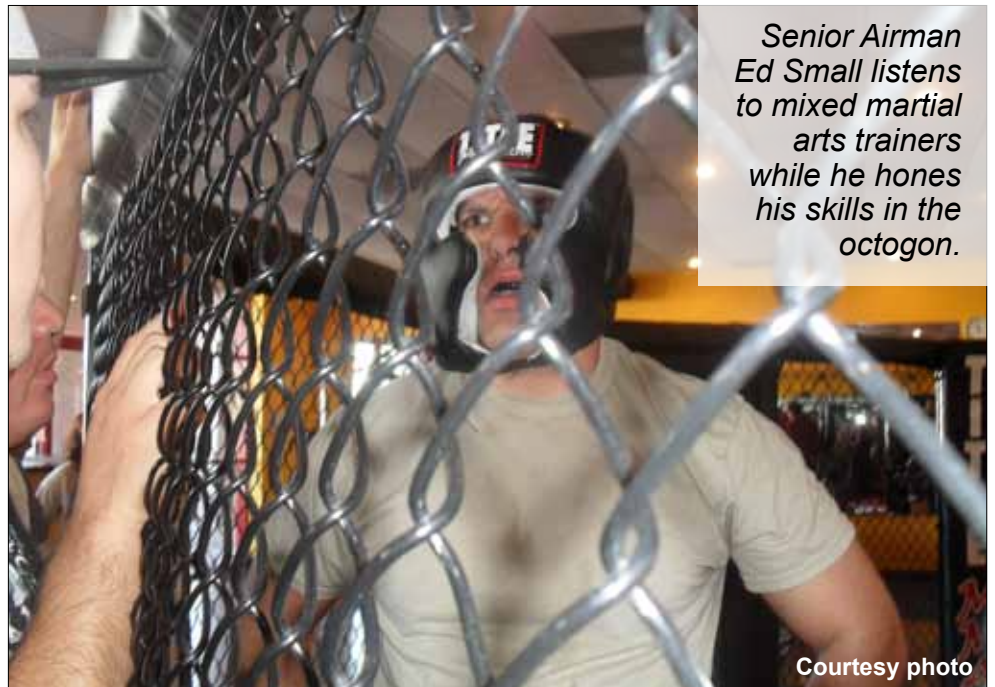
"If I run two miles a day and my opponent runs two miles a day but adds 10 sprints then I have to add 10 sprints or more," he said.

Though his challengers ranged in age from 20 to 28 years old, Small said confidence made the real difference.

"If I believe in myself and my skills then I don't think age matters. I just feel so much better doing this... so much more alive. I plan on doing this a long time," said Airman Small who was sure to express his gratitude for the support he's received from the Air Guard.

"The 162nd has been so supportive. I'd like to thank Master Sgt. Brett Garrett, Command Chief Shane Clark, Senior Master Sgt. Ahern, Master Sgt. Dave Morgan and the wing for helping me participate."

Small's next step will be some team practice and preparation before heading to the nationwide competition at Fort Benning, Ga., this September.



Senior Airman Ed Small listens to mixed martial arts trainers while he hones his skills in the octagon.

Courtesy photo

Coached by “Bear” Bryant, Senior NCO recalls well-respected mentor

by 2nd Lt. Angela Walz
Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Peter Smith, a phase inspection supervisor here, prefers to be known for what he says and does, not for where he has been or what he has done in the past. For this reason, few know of his impressive accomplishments in the realm of American football — including the fact that he played four years under one of the nation’s most winning and respected college coaches of all time, Paul “Bear” Bryant.

“He taught me how to be a champion and how to be successful,” Sergeant Smith said of Coach Bryant. “Most importantly, he taught me how to follow as well as to lead.”

Sergeant Smith played cornerback for two of Coach Bryant’s six national championship teams in both 1978 and 1979. Coach Bryant amassed a total of six national championships and thirteen conference championships during his 25-year tenure as Alabama’s head coach. He held the record for most wins as head coach in collegiate football history at the time of his retirement in 1982.

“You could hear a pin drop whenever he walked into a room,” Sergeant Smith recalled. “People in Alabama treated [Coach Bryant] like a god,” he said.

Ironically, Coach Bryant was a God-fearing man who “was very religious,” according to Smith.

“He instilled in me to be spiritual, and to learn about the Lord and to have a relationship with Him,” said Sergeant Smith. “Coach Bryant encouraged me to join the Fellowship of Christian Athletes,

an organization which helped me to stay in school and eventually finish college.”

Leaving Alabama in 1982 to “regroup,” Smith played football overseas as a tight end for Air Force base-sponsored teams. He played for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe while stationed outside of London at the twin bases of the Royal Air Force stations Bentwaters and Woodbridge, and then RAF Alconbury in Cambridgeshire, England.

Sergeant Smith served in the active duty Air Force for six years. He had a one-year stint working for a manufacturer of business jets for military and civilian use before joining the Tucson Air National Guard in 1990. He’s been here ever since, and memorabilia in his office reflects his respect for the influential leader who passed away in 1983, just one year after retiring from college football coaching.

“He was the first to introduce me to mentoring. He taught me how to be a mentor,” Smith said of his coach.

“[Coach Bryant] instilled in me a quality to never quit. You can always stop, regroup, and go back at it another time, but never quit,” said Sergeant Smith. And this is something he instills in his subordinates at work and at home in his own children—four sons and a daughter.

At work, Smith garners respect from both his supervisors and those who work beneath him. “One of [his] most notable leadership traits is the ability to build unity in a time

of change,” said Chief Master Sgt. David Wolslagel, equipment maintenance flight supervisor here.

“Implementing change is never an easy or simple task, however, Master Sergeant Smith is committed to the idea of continuous improvement and his conviction to this principle is evident. Sergeant Smith does not compromise in this conviction,” said Chief Wolslagel.

Sergeant Smith says he tries not to compromise in his personal life either. As a volunteer coach for Palo Verde High School in Tucson, for example, he helped lead the team to a victory in the 2006 state football championships. He was a volunteer coach on local teams for three of his four boys.

“He is always focused on the total team concept and the ‘leave no Airman behind’ concept,” said Chief Wolslagel. “It’s reflected in his thinking, attitudes, and actions and is just one example of the leadership he brings to our mission.”

Forever a team player who is focused on the mission, Sergeant Smith dates his most meaningful football memory back to the days before Coach Bryant — when his middle school team won the city championship during an undefeated season in which all opponents remained scoreless through 10 season games. “But then Coach Bryant taught me to become a man... not only in football, but in life as well,” he said.

A drill-in-the-life... Maintenance Group

By Master Sgt. Dave Neve &
Tech. Sgt. Hollie Hansen
Public Affairs

February drill, an average Super Bowl weekend for most Americans, was two days of superior mission accomplishment for the members of the 162nd Maintenance Group. Together, 800 skilled F-16 maintainers generated 42 sorties

and performed scheduled maintenance with precision and close attention to detail in keeping with their unparalleled safety record. El Tigre dispatched photographers to capture the moments of this drill-in-the-life of the wing's maintenance group.





A team of maintainers load an F-16 on the flightline.



Tech. Sgt. Royce Reed performs engine removal and installation procedures.



Tech. Sgt. Victor Williams, left, and Tech. Sgt. James Gilbert.



Staff Sgt. Ben Koughn welds in the metals shop.



Staff Sgt. Ty Goeken makes a rig inspection.



Staff Sgt. Elaine Broacha documents maintenance for her jet on the flightline.



Staff Sgt. William Russell sends a pilot on a morning sortie.

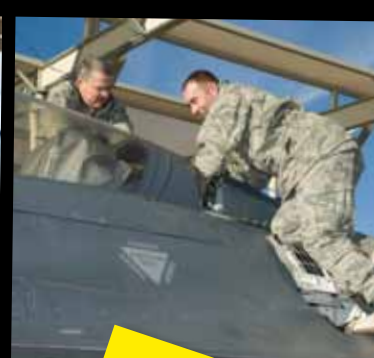


Senior Airman Eric Bickler replaces an LRU.



Staff Sgt. Ed K cleans a canopy.





Senior Master Sgt. Max Moreau, left, and Capt. Jason Burns talk 'maintenance.'

Tech. Sgt. Paul LaBrecque applies ECS air to an aircraft.

Staff Sgt. Josh Cruce prepares his jet for launch.

Tech. Sgt. Alan Varner, left, helps Staff Sgt. Stephen Doe re-install a panel.



Staff Sgt. Luis Camacho performs a brake inspection in the Hydraulics Shop.

Staff Sgt. Rick Padilla completes a weapons pylon inspection.

Airman 1st Class Andrew Scott busy on some sheet metal.



Kron copy.

Senior Airman Brent Wolfson launches his aircraft.

Staff Sgt. David Darrow loads a BDU-33.

Tech. Sgt. Mario Garcia implements a phase dock inspection.

ARIZONA ALERT PILOT NAMED BEST IN U.S.



162nd Fighter Wing air sovereignty alert F-16s fly over alert facilities at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Photo by James Haseltine
High-G Productions

by Maj. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – In a post 9-11 world, hundreds of alert fighter pilots across the country know the feeling of sprinting to a jet at the shrieking sound of a klaxon – the piercing alarm that sends them into the skies to meet an unknown threat.

Nearly 10 years after the terrorist attacks on the United States, none would say the feeling is routine.

“Your heart goes to your throat, you can’t get out of the building fast enough, you get to the jet and you hope your motor skills can zip and snap the G-suit on quickly. You wonder ‘Where am I going, what am I doing, and how serious is it?’” said Lt. Col. Moon Milham, commander of the 162nd Fighter Wing’s Air Sovereignty Alert Detachment here.

Milham is a 28-year F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot, a long-time member of the Arizona Air National Guard, and is the 2010 Air Sovereignty Alert Pilot of the Year. Maj. Gen. Garry C. Dean, the First Air Force commander, presented him the award at a commander’s conference Feb. 24 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Humbled and honored, the colonel said the award represents the heart and dedication of all pilots and aircraft maintainers who work around the clock supporting Operation Noble Eagle; the domestic mission to defend the nation’s skies from aerial attack. For those Airmen, each scramble is a no-fail mission.

Colonel Milham is a Fighter Weapons Instructor School graduate and well seasoned with 4,400 flying hours, 150 of which were in combat during Operations Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, Northern Watch and Allied Force. He said the difference between flying into combat overseas and scrambling on alert is indistinguishable.

“Even when you know there is a planned exercise coming up, when the klaxon goes off you jump in your skin,” he said.

The scenarios alert pilots encour-



Photo by
Maj. Gabe Johnson

Lt. Col. Moon Milham, commander of the 162nd Fighter Wing’s Air Sovereignty Alert Detachment, gets ready for a mission at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

“Your heart goes to your throat, you can’t get out of the building fast enough, you get to the jet and you hope your motor skills can zip and snap the G-suit on quickly. You wonder ‘Where am I going, what am I doing, and how serious is it?’”

**- Lt. Col. Moon Milham
162nd Alert Detachment commander**

ter are endless. The alarm could be a drill, a private pilot unknowingly flying into restricted air space, or there may be a very real threat beyond the horizon.

“Just prior to taxiing out we talk to the command post who is coordinating with Western Area Defense Sector at Joint Base Lewis-McChord,” said Colonel Milham. “They give us our tasking and a rough idea of what direction we are going. While we’re talking to the tower, getting clearance for takeoff, we’re thinking about the mission and how we’re going to be eyes and ears for our leadership – to describe for them the situation in the air so they can make the correct decisions.”

But for Milham and his detachment, 2010 proved to be a busy year apart from numerous scrambles.

“Starting in January (Air Combat Command) rewrote the tactics manual for the F-16. By summer I was assigned as the assistant chief editor of the air defense version for the U.S. and Canada,” he said. “It’s what everybody uses, from Canadian CF-18s to U.S. F-15s, to patrol and conduct aerospace control missions under air sovereignty alert.”

Couple that with protecting the Southwest border and providing air defense for two presidential visits in August and October.

“It was a really good year,” said Colonel Milham. “There was a lot going on in the written side of our mission with new tactics manuals as well operationally with great teamwork among our maintainers and pilots.”

NORAD inspectors conducted a

no-notice alert force evaluation at the detachment in November; a definitive and rigorous assessment of unit readiness and compliance with alert procedures. The alert team earned the highest rating of “Mission Ready” with zero negative findings from white-gloved inspectors.

The inspection report cited Milham’s leadership and oversight in the execution of the new tactics.

“He keeps us performing at a high level, holding expectations high, reminding everyone to do their job the right way and keep everyone safe,” said Staff Sgt. Chris Towns, an alert crew chief for the last five years.

“He leads by example first and foremost,” said Sergeant Towns. “He recognizes people when it’s deserved. He gives time off when it’s needed and during the holidays he and his family come out here to cook for us.

“I had no idea he won. It’s good for him, he deserves it.”

According to Milham, everyone at the ‘Det’ is a volunteer motivated by their commitment to duty, honor and country. They all want to be a part of defending the United States.

“This is a grass-roots Guard mission – defending the homeland,” said the colonel. “But we’re not grabbing a musket like our Guard militia used to; we’re strapping on an F-16 and doing the speed of sound to get between what we’re defending and a perceived threat.”

“It’s an honor. It makes a difference in everyday life,” said Sergeant Towns. “People don’t know we’re here, but we know and that’s very fulfilling.”



Photo by James Haseltine
High-G Productions



In Photos: JEC Basketball Tournament, March 5

by Tech. Sgt. Hollie Hansen



Man on the Street: Who will win the NCAA Tournament?



"I gotta go for the home team – A-Z all the way. For a rebuilding year we're doing pretty well. But I'm still celebrating the Superbowl and my champion Green Bay Packers!"

Airman 1st Class Domonick McIver, Fuels Shop



"Duke. Kansas is tough but Duke is just a powerhouse... period. I don't see anyone beating Duke."

Staff Sgt. Richard Aragon, Retail Sales



"I think it will be a struggle but I'm going to have to pick my team...Duke!"

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Osterlund, NDI



"I really don't get into March Madness until the sweet 16."

Tech. Sgt. Brent Thompson, Safety



Volunteerism: Giving back goes full circle

by 2nd Lt. Angela Walz
Public Affairs

Ask Barb Gavre what she thinks of volunteers and she's sure to get mushy. "Volunteers are awesome! They are what make the 162nd Fighter Wing Family Readiness Group (FRG) successful," she said.

As the Wing Family Program Coordinator, Ms. Gavre claims that without volunteers, her office could in no way support our servicemembers in the manner in which they are currently able.

"I really thought I understood the concept of service before self during my military years of service, and I did, but now I see it in a different light. I'm involved with many community partners and they never stop. The love and patriotism they show to this unit is so heartfelt and heartwarming," Gavre said.

Many local Airmen, and their families in particular, use FRG as a one-stop information and referral center. Families are provided assistance by the group during extended absences of their military member while deployed or remote, during emergencies, and natural disasters. The group offers morale calls, car care and parental breaks for families that have a deployed or remote member, among several other services.

The fact that Ms. Gavre's office is in constant need of volunteers is a testament to how much her office is utilized by local Airmen and their families. Whether out of compulsion to give back or the desire to simply help others, the volunteer efforts of wing members does not go unnoticed, said Gavre.

"Volunteering affords us the opportunity to give back to the very community that supports us so strongly," said Tech. Sgt. Mike Carpenter, 162nd Fighter Wing Junior Enlisted Council president.

"So many in the community say, 'Thank you for your service.' In our eyes, thank you isn't necessary because we are just doing our job, but it really means so much more to our civilian counterparts out in the community," said Sergeant Carpenter.

The Top 3 is another local group that recruits military members for volunteer opportunities within the community. Consisting of master, senior and chief master sergeants from within the 162nd Fighter Wing, the group constantly deploys volunteers out into the community.

"Getting ourselves involved with our community gives us the opportunity to continue to build rapport and gain their support and confidence," said Master Sgt.

Liz Caro-Scarfo of the Top 3 community involvement committee. In a recent email to Top 3 and JEC volunteers, she wrote, "Thank you to the many volunteers who have represented the unit in fine fashion! I hear it all the time from the agencies we have assisted."

Giving of one's own time dates back to 1636 when the first muster of National Guard militiamen – an all-volunteer force – stood to defend itself and its colonies. The tradition continues, but in a more dated fashion these days.

"This nation was founded on the citizen soldier concept and volunteerism," said Sergeant Carpenter. "I feel it is our duty to uphold this 'tradition of honor and a legacy of valor,' as stated in the Airman's Creed. Just know that your volunteering contributions matter to so many," he said.

There are numerous local opportunities to volunteer. Following is a brief list of a few in the greater Tucson area:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tucson

520-624-2447

www.tucsonbig.org/bebig.php

Habitat for Humanity Tucson

520-326-1217

www.habitattucson.org/volunteer

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona

520-326-0060

www.rmhctucson.org

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System

520-629-1822

www.tucson.va.gov/giving/

Special Olympics Arizona

602-230-0075

www.specialolympicsarizona.org/become-volunteer

Tucson Community Food Bank

520-622-0525

www.communityfoodbank.com/volunteer/

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

520-903-3912

www.unitedwaytucson.org/volunteer

To volunteer with the 162nd Fighter Wing FRG, contact Barb Gavre at 295-6566. For more information about joining or volunteering for the JEC, contact Tech. Sgt. Mike Carpenter at 295-7028, or the Top 3, contact Master Sgt. Liz Caro-Scarfo at 295-6652.



A bald
head,

but many
hats with
which to
cover it

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Hollie Hansen

by 2nd Lt. Angela Walz
Public Affairs

Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Martinez is not your average Air Guardsman. He's not your average Catholic priest either. In fact, he wears so many different hats that you might not recognize him outside of his military uniform.

Most commonly referred to as 'Father Mike,' he is known by many for either his infectious smile, shiny bald head, or ever-concerned, "How are you doing?"

"Father Mike isn't a conventional Chaplain like you'd think of a Chaplain," said Lt. Col. Jeff Butler, former 162nd Headquarters Squadron commander. "He hunts, goes fishing, tells a great story, and – shoot – he saved a stranded hunter in the Arizona wilderness just last year!"

Chaplain Martinez began contemplating a life of service to his faith following his junior year in high school. He joined the seminary after graduating from high school and left the small town of Morenci,

Ariz., to attend 4 years of college at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Another 4 years of graduate-level courses at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, Calif., and Father Mike walked away with a Master's of Divinity degree.

He was ordained in 1989 and has served in various parishes in Tucson, as well as at the state penitentiary in Florence, Ariz. Father Mike's call to service for his country came while he was approached at mass one Sunday by a parishioner.

"[Retired Master Sergeant] Bert Otero said his unit needed someone to come out and lead service. I've always been patriotic and pro-military so I checked into it and came out for 3 or 4 years as a contract chaplain," said Father Mike.

Underage Airmen require parental consent to enlist in the National Guard and, similarly, Chaplain Martinez required the endorsement and permission of the Diocese of Tucson to join the Arizona Air National Guard as a Drill Status Guardsman in 1999.

"I'm never more proud than when I'm wearing my uniform because of who and what it represents -- past, present, and future," said Chaplain Martinez.

When not in his Airman Battle Uniform, you might likely spot Father Mike wearing shorts and a t-shirt on stage while playing the bass guitar. Yes, he's a rock star, too.

He plays more jazz than rock, but is nonetheless an accomplished musician. Chaplain Martinez is a professional-level bass player. He started playing at the age of 17, is self-taught, and now plays 'virtuoso.' "That means I can show off and tear it up," he explained with a slight chuckle.

Father Mike likes to 'tear it up' at the gym, too. He is an avid weight lifter and tries to maintain an exercise regime that consists of 3 to 4 days per week of heavy lifting. He enjoys powerlifting and regulation squats are his exercise of choice. "I can squat 450 pounds," he said. "That isn't necessarily a lot, but it is for me. I'm stronger now than I've been in my entire life."

His strength has helped lead him through two deployments – to Saudi Arabia in 2002 and Qatar in 2005. He served an active duty tour for Operation Jump Start from October, 2006 through June, 2008 and has currently been serving another active duty tour since July, 2008.

"Father Mike now fulfills the criti-



cal full-time role of Chaplain service to the 214th Reconnaissance Group on an everyday basis: 365, 24/7. This support is due to the nature of the mission at Predator and the ensuing need of support that only the Chaplain's office offers," said Colonel Butler.

"While serving the 214th, Father Mike also visits the Snowbird and Alert Detachments that happen to be collocated on Davis-Monthan. His outgoing nature brings him much praise and success in reaching the troops and truly fulfilling his calling as Chaplain. He also serves as Wing Chaplain for the ANG's largest Fighter Wing in America,

the 162nd," he said.

This weekend he'll suit up for the Unit Training Assembly. Next weekend you might catch him at the rodeo, sporting a cowboy hat and a dip of fake tobacco. Regardless, he'll be smiling, rubbing some sunscreen on his head, and trying to read your face for some honesty behind your answer to, "How are you doing?"

Wherever he may be, he's never too far away and he encourages people to call him on his cell phone at 850-9075 if they need a friend or if they just want to trade fishing stories.

"I have the ability to help people

and serve God at the same time," said Father Mike. "The best part about my job is the friendships I get to make and the people I get to meet."



Remembering Private William Cathay:

Female Buffalo Soldier

by Capt. Celeste Snyder
Equal Opportunity



During African American History month and Women's History month, in February and March respectively, we are afforded the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifices that opened multiple opportunities for future generations.

Little is known about the life of Private William Cathay and her military career as a Buffalo Soldier. Her motivation to disguise herself as a man is left for each to speculate and draw their own conclusion.

Historians agree she did not join military service for social or political motivations. She, like many, saw the military as a way to gain direction despite the hardships and barriers she was sure to encounter as a black soldier in a white Army.

Although she was illiterate and uneducated, she demonstrated courage and cleverness to avoid detection during her short military career. In the process of carving out a living and becoming independent from others she unknowingly inspires others to push through personal trepidation to achieve.

Private Cathay began life as Cathy Williams, a slave girl near Independence, Missouri. During the Civil War she was "confiscated" from her master by Union soldiers and given work as a cook and laundress with the 8th Indiana Infantry in Arkansas.

After the war she moved back to Missouri and continued working as a cook for the military. This is where she made the decision to join the military and enlisted in the Army on Nov. 15, 1866. At that time a male cook in the Army earned significantly higher wages compared to a female civilian cook and also offered consistent meals, shelter, medical benefit, and respect as a soldier.

In all accounts of her military career she was an average soldier. She performed the same duties as other black soldiers, i.e. garrison duty. Her service took her throughout the southwest. While stationed at Fort Bayard, New Mexico, she became severely ill resulting in a medical examination that revealed her true gender. On October 14, 1868 she was honorably discharged from the Army.

Cathay Williams is one of many women that turned to deception to serve in the armed forces but to date she is the only African American woman documented to serve. Black men have served in the U.S. military since 1775 but it wasn't until 1948 women were permitted to join and serve.



162nd Heritage: Looking back on ‘William Tell’ 1959



Photo by Jim Brink courtesy 1000aircraftphotos.com

A DB-26C with Q-2A Ryan Firebee drone targets under its wings takes to the skies. Air Force and Air Guard pilots practiced their air-to-air combat skills at the 1959 William Tell competition by firing on the drones after they were released.

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

The U.S. Air Force’s William Tell competition is fittingly named. It is a friendly contest designed to identify accuracy skills in aircraft air-to-air weaponry.

Participating squadrons demonstrate expertise at defending our country against airborne threats. Scoring for the competition is based not only the ability to shoot down aggressor aircraft, but also on overall effectiveness of ground crews and equipment function.

This competition was born in 1954 as the air-to-air rocketry phase at the third annual USAF Fighter Gunnery and Weapons Meet held at Yuma County Airport, Arizona (In 1956 the airport was designated Vincent Air Force Base, and later renamed Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.) After its first four years in Arizona, the 1958 William Tell competition was moved to Tyndall AFB, Florida.

By 1959, the 152nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 162nd Fighter Group, was barely three years old and working on proficiency in its third aircraft, the F-100A. It was an honor when the unit was invited to participate in the “William Tell” 1959 USAF World Wide Weapons Meet to be held October 14-23. This was only the second year that ANG units were invited to participate, and the

Tucson ANG was the only Guard unit invited in 1959. The 162nd was also the only unit flying F-100 aircraft, which had recently been modified to carry missiles. The 1959 competition consisted of 12 teams from five major commands competing in three aircraft categories: F-89, F-102 and F-104/F-100.

Unit personnel rose to the challenge. Aircraft were chosen and fine-tuned for competition. Four pilots and 30 support/maintenance personnel were selected to go. Specially marked uniforms for unit members were prepared so active duty personnel would know they were going up against an Air Guard unit. This would be the ultimate test of air superiority in the United States and a chance for the 162nd to display its skills.

When the competition originated in 1954, the target for the air-to-air phase was the towed banner target affectionately known to air and ground crews as “the rag.” Scoring was accomplished visually by observing the action from a T-33 chase plane.

By 1959 the target had been upgraded. It was now a jet powered Ryan Q-2A “Firebee” drone aircraft carried aloft beneath the wings of a modified Douglas DB-26C Invader. The drone was air-launched from the B-26, then flown by ground control to a designated area. The scoring system had also improved and was now electronic state-of-the-art.

During the competition, when an incoming threat (drone) was identified, interceptor aircraft were launched and vectored into the general airspace occupied by the drone. It was then up to the pilot, with the help of the aircraft weapons system, to find the target and position his aircraft to fire an air-to-air missile (AIM-9 Sidewinder on F-100 aircraft) in an attempt to score a hit on the target.



Courtesy photo

“Top Gun” award winner Maj. John Guice, left, chats with 162nd Maintenance Officer Capt. C.L. Coward at the 1959 William Tell.



Courtesy photo

162nd members, front to back, Don Ainley, Dale Iverson, Mike Suzich, Bob Martin and Don Bertoli raise the Arizona flag to identify the Tucson Air Guards location at the 1959 William Tell.

The F-100A had the least sophisticated weapons control system in the competition. It had no radar or automatic guidance and tracking systems like those installed in other aircraft. 162nd pilots relied on a basic optical gun sight and their acquired skills to position the aircraft for accurate firing of the missile.

In addition to this weapons system handicap, prior to preparing for this event 162nd pilots had no experience firing on drone target aircraft.

The competition lasted for 10 days. When the smoke cleared the 162nd had come in a close second in its category. The difference between first and second place was only 100 points with the 162nd scoring 4,400 points.

The 162nd also had the honor of one of its pilot members, Maj. John Guice, walking away with a "Top Gun" trophy by maintaining a perfect score in his sorties flown throughout the competition. The 162nd had proven it could compete with the best fighter interceptor squadrons in the USAF.

The Tucson Air Guard's foray into the world of fighter interceptor competition was a success. A good time was had by all and the 162nd had competently and proudly represented the Air National Guard at William Tell. It was a proud moment in 162nd history and an experience not soon forgotten.

William Tell Folklore

William Tell was a legendary archer in the early 14th century as depicted in Swiss folklore.

The story goes that when Tell refused to succumb to the wishes of a dictatorial governor named Hermann Gessler, he was captured and ordered to shoot an apple off his son's head at 100 paces. If successful, Tell and his son could go free.

Tell took out his crossbow and two arrows. The first arrow successfully pierced the apple on his

son's head. When asked what the second arrow was for, he replied that it was to kill the governor had he missed the first shot and killed his son.

This infuriated Gessler, and Tell was taken into custody. He later escaped, hunted down Gessler and killed him.

This story has been told throughout history, and the name "William Tell" is synonymous with skill and accuracy regarding marksmanship -- not only with arrows, but with all kinds of weapons.

Spring Events

April 13, Semi-Annual Luncheon, HomeTown Buffet, 5101 N Oracle Rd, Tucson, 11:30 a.m.

May 11, Monthly Breakfast, HomeTown Buffet on Oracle Rd., Tucson, 7:30 a.m.

May 11, First Seasonal Summer Monthly White Mountain Breakfast, Deb's Restaurant (formerly Loafin' Levi's), 1624 White Mountain Blvd, Lakeside, Ariz., 7:30 a.m.

June 8, Monthly Breakfast, HomeTown Buffet on Oracle Rd., Tucson, 7:30 a.m.

June 8, Monthly White Mountain Breakfast. Deb's Restaurant, 1624 White Mountain Blvd, Lakeside, Ariz., 7:30 a.m.

June 23, Annual White Mountain Picnic. Will be held at Fool Hollow Lake State Park starting at 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$12.50 per person. More detailed information will be available in the May Retirees Newsletter.

Retirees Remembered

Mike Suzich, one of the early members of the Tucson Air Guard, passed away. As the first engine shop supervisor at the 162nd, his innovation and creativity made our engine shop one of the best in the military.

Robert Cawley also passed away. He was a U.S. Navy veteran who later enlisted in the Guard. He finished his military career in the 162nd's Electric Shop.

Sincere condolences to their family and friends. They will be remembered by all who knew them.



Arizona veterans honor state ESGR chairman



Photo by Army Sgt. Ed Balaban

Scott Essex, chairman of the Arizona Office of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, accepts the 2011 Copper Sword Award from the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society Feb. 11 in Mesa, Ariz.

by **Maj. Gabe Johnson**
Public Affairs

MESA, Ariz. – The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society bestowed its most prestigious civilian volunteer award on the state’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve chairman Feb. 11.

Mr. Scott Essex, in his 18th year as a member of Arizona’s ESGR and fifth year as its chairman, accepted the Copper Sword Award for 2011 at a banquet held at the Dobson Ranch Inn here. The award is presented annually to a civilian with ties to Arizona who goes above and beyond the call of duty to help further the initiatives of veterans, patriotism and humanitarianism. He is the fifth person to receive the honor.

Essex, a program support manager for Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces, volunteered 2,000 hours over the last five years alone to advance the cause of ESGR, a Department of Defense agency established to develop and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service.

He and a state-wide network of ESGR volunteers recognize outstanding employer support through award programs, increase awareness of applicable employment laws, and resolve conflicts between servicemembers and their civilian employers. ESGR’s stated mission is to “encourage employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leader-

ship to the civilian workforce.”

“My viewpoint is that I can never give enough time, enough energy, enough of anything back to the military for all the things they do,” said Essex. “They’re out there on the line no matter what – day in, day out – and when push comes to shove they’re going to be there for us. I just want to be there to try to help them and their families any way I can.”

For Essex, “being there” is more of a full-time passion than a part-time hobby. His days are an endless string of unit deployments, re-deployments, Yellow Ribbon events, employer award ceremonies, meetings, conferences and countless other commitments he seems to gladly accept.

“So many things in life are not planned,” he explained. “I was never in the military, but my relation to it as a volunteer has seemed to evolve.”

As an avid writer, Essex cited the words of American author Richard Zacks, who in his novel *The Pirate Hunter* wrote, “Sometimes a man’s fate depends not on his courage or character, but simply on what street corner he turns at what exact moment.”

“That really was me from my standpoint with the military,” said Essex. “Belonging to one civic group got me involved with others and everything grew from that. My obsession with trying to help the military and my passion for it has grown over the years.”

His service began in 1992 when he joined the Tempe Military Affairs Committee. In 1993 he came to ESGR. Later, in 2003, he became a member of the Phoenix Air National Guard Patriots, the community support group for the 161st Air Refueling Wing. And in 2007 he joined the Arizona Joint Force Headquarters Diversity Committee.

“Each day is divided between all of those,” said Essex who holds, or once held, a board member position in virtually all of the organizations.

Retired Col. Charles Schuler, president of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society, summarized Mr. Essex’ dedication calling him “a genuine patriot, one who generously gives of himself for the betterment of others... He practices what he preaches and has answered his unique call to duty – and by so doing, he has demonstrated that he will go above and well beyond any call to complete any mission.”

Humbly, Essex deflected the credit to his fellow volunteers and the servicemembers he’s worked with over many years.

“When you enjoy the people that you are working with and for, it’s all that more rewarding,” said Essex. “To the men and women in uniform – thank you, thank you, thank you.”



Controlled spend accounts for travel start April 1

In an effort to curtail government travel card abuse and delinquency, Air Force officials are piloting an unprecedented controlled spend account (CSA) concept.

Col. Brian Neal, Air National Guard Readiness Center commander, gave the National Guard Bureau Financial Management office authority to move forward with the ANG rollout of this program.

This concept uses travel order estimates to create the amount available on the card versus a blanket amount for all travelers.

The 162nd Fighter Wing Financial Management office will issue additional guidance for those traveling during the crossover and any additional training requirements.

Those with expired cards will be issued CSA cards from Citibank starting April 1 as part of the Phase I and II portions of the rollout.

Most of the wings frequent travelers will be issued cards around June 1.

In the interim, all questions can be directed to the base Comptroller, Maj. Melissa Jackson, at 295-6185.

Supervisor Mentoring 101: 2011 Schedule

The 162nd Fighter Wing's Supervisor Mentoring 101 Program is a leadership development program designed to provide a series of presentations that will enhance knowledge and assist supervisors and up-and-coming supervisors.

The presentations are scheduled on Saturday during Unit Training Assemblies from 1 to 2 p.m. in the civil engineering class room, unless otherwise specified. Presentation and topics will be posted on the wing's public website's "Resources" page and on the monthly UTA schedule.

Space is limited and available on a first come first serve basis. If there is a high demand for the presentation, the presentation will be repeated the next available UTA. You must have immediate supervisor approval to attend. If you are interested in a presentation, email Senior Master Sgt. Jacinta Figueroa, human resources advisor, and she will confirm your attendance.

The Supervisor Mentoring 101 UTA schedule:

April 2, 1 p.m. (CE Class Room)
Technician Program: Personnel actions and performance plans.

Presenter: Maj. Tim Tucker,
JFHQ Labor Relations

May 14, 1 p.m. (CE Class Room)
Finance Programs: Travel card, days and dollars.

Presenter: Maj. Melissa Jackson,
Finance

June 4, 1 p.m. (CE Class Room)
First Sergeants: Taking care of our enlisted members
Presenter: First Sergeant, Master Sgt. Teresa Concolino

July 9, 1 p.m. (CE Class Room)
Safety: Conducting safety investigations and completing mishap reports.
Presenter: Chief Master Sgt. Brian Karas

August 6 (CE Class Room)
Inspector General: Complaint program, fraud, waste and abuse
Presenter: Lt. Col. Charles Recker

September 10 (CE Class Room)
JAG: Off-base personnel incidents and repeal of don't ask don't tell policy
Presenter: Lt. Col. Janet Altschuler

Tig Bits

Spring blood drives

Give the "Gift of Life." The next 162nd Fighter Wing Blood Drives will be held here Saturday, April 5 and Saturday, June 4 with registration at building 15 (TAGRA), from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

What's your story?

Do you have an interesting hobby or a job in the civilian world that has a unique tie to your service in the Air Guard? Are you a fourth generation member of the 162nd? Are you a semi-pro athlete in your spare time? Do you do a job on base that practically no one knows about? Do you have a unique and interesting story about how or why you joined the military? If so, contact public affairs at 295-6192. Your story could be the next feature in *El Tigre*.

NARFE Meeting

Current and retired Federal employees, spouses, guests and visitors are invited to join the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), Chapter 1874, at the Home Town Buffet at 5101 N. Oracle Rd., just north of River Rd. on the northwest corner.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 18. Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. (\$9.50 per person). The meeting will be from noon to 1 p.m. Contact Valerie Davis at 908-0774 for more information.



All in the EL TIGRE Family

Military Promotions:

To Chief Master Sergeant

Brian Karas
Craig Reed
Edisa Salcido

To Senior Master Sergeant

Jon Myre
Alfonso Soto Jr.
David Crawford

To Master Sergeant

Sadie Felix
Richard Montoya
Livia Almandos
John Casem
Baldemar Dagnino

To Tech. Sergeant

Stephen Osterlund
Richard Akers
Paul Orr
Dustin Adair
Joseph Enriquez
Lena King

Sergio Acedo
Fabian Castillo
Edward Moore Jr.
Andreas Lorenz
Mitchell Schreiber
Freddy Rosales

To Staff Sergeant

Andrew Saulls
Marcus Moss
Steven Case
Ruben Carranza
Aldo Estrada
Rick Akers

To Senior Airman

Aaron Clavero
Branden Hickok
David Cisneros
Leah Rhodes

To Airman 1st Class

Gregory Ferreria

To Airman

Lorraine Gonzales

Births

Tech. Sgt. Leonard Moreno and his wife Gabby from fuels management flight welcomed a new addition to their family. Baby boy Leonardo was born Feb. 27; 6 pounds 8 ounces.

Tech. Sgt. Heidi Estes, communications flight, and her husband Brian had baby boy Warren Vincent Estes; born Nov. 28, 8 pounds, 2 ounces.

Staff Sgt. Jaime Gonzales, fuel shop, and Patricia welcomed Andres Gonzales Jan. 2 to their family.

Staff Sgt. Shane Widick and his wife Julie, R&R shop, welcomed their first child Owen, a baby boy.

Staff Sgt. Ryan and Katy Ramos, hydraulic shop, welcomed a new baby boy, Feb. 24.

Know of any recent births or distinguished graduates in your unit? Email public affairs at 162fw.pa.omb@ang.af.mil.

Wing Quarterly Award winners: 4th Quarter 2010

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



AIC Vanessa Ferreira
162FW Airman of the Quarter
Oct - Dec 2010



SSgt Tiffany Hoeck
162FW NCO of the Quarter
Oct - Dec 2010



MSgt Mark Gooding
162FW SNCO of the Quarter
Oct - Dec 2010



2Lt James Barnett
162FW Officer of the Quarter
Oct - Dec 2010



Lt. Col. Carol Kenny, civil engineering, convoys out to assess damage to a bridge near Mosul Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones, public affairs, deployed to Afghanistan to write about U.S. efforts to train Afghan security forces.



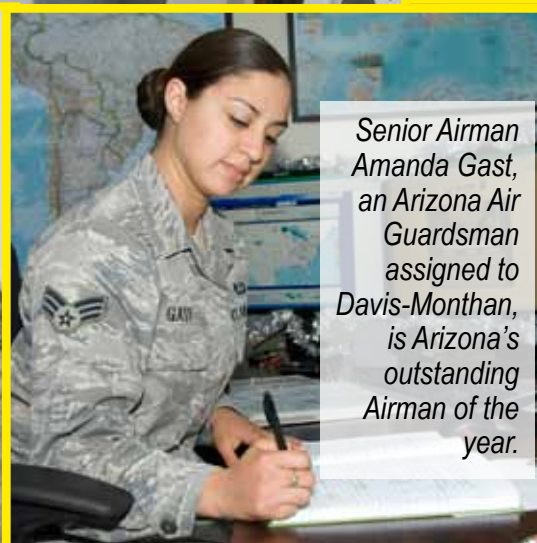
Staff Sgt. Tiffany Hoeck, chaplains assistant, landscapes an orphanage and delivers Christmas gifts while deployed to Curacao.



1st Lt. Nathan Mestler, the 162nd's newest chaplain, takes the oath of office Feb. 16.



Senior Master Sgt. Sandra Ahern visits with Gov. Jan Brewer after helping with her inauguration.



Senior Airman Amanda Gast, an Arizona Air Guardsman assigned to Davis-Monthan, is Arizona's outstanding Airman of the year.



Chief Master Sgt. Chris Muncy, the ANG Command Chief, visits with wing Airmen during the March Unit Training Assembly.



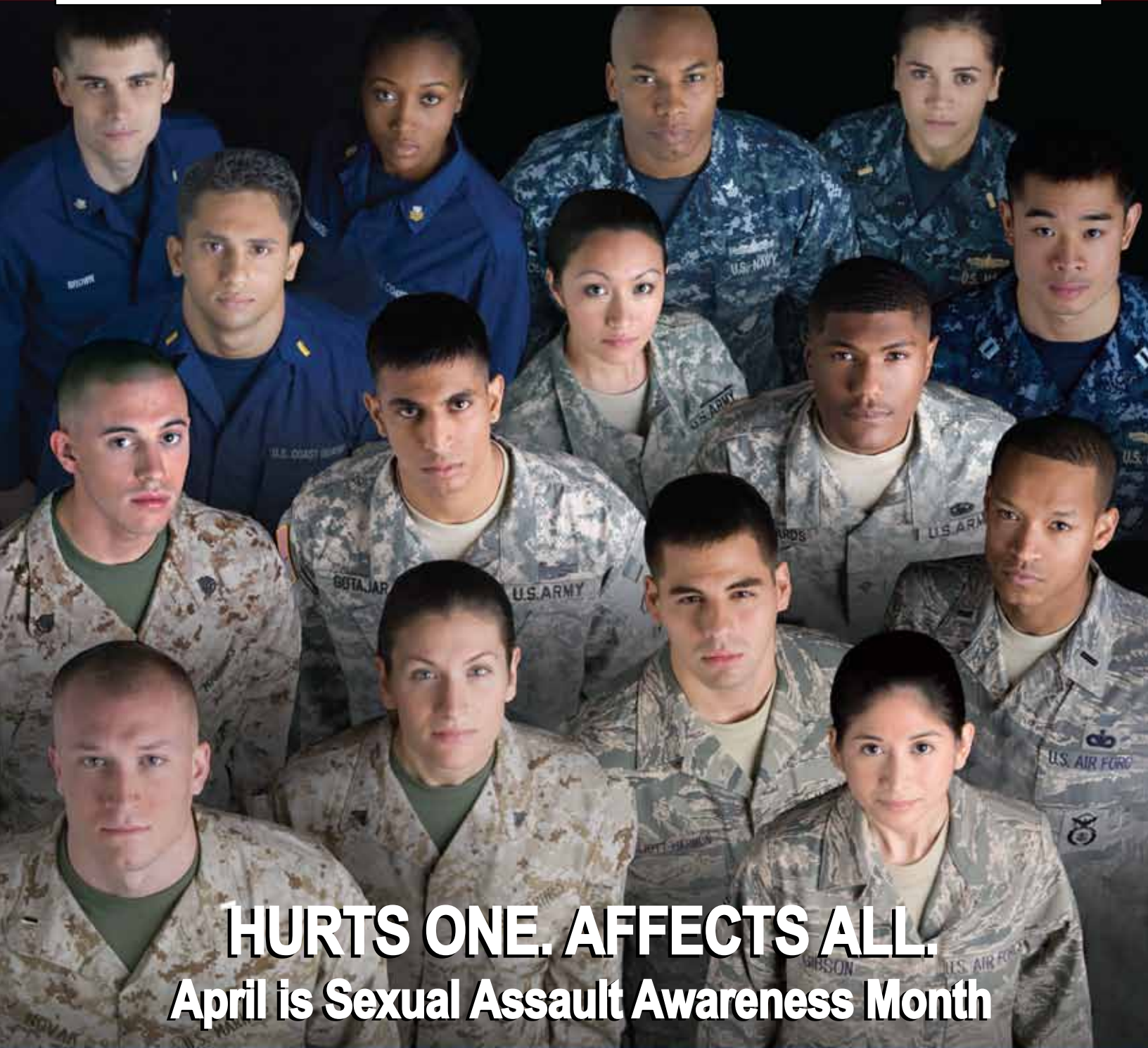
Chief master sergeants at the 162nd Fighter Wing hosted the year's first base barbeque here Jan. 28 to achieve two important goals - raise funds to help Airmen, and increase the visibility of the Chiefs Council.



Maj. Gen. (ret.) Don Morris, center, the 162nd's first commander, Maj. Gen. (ret.) Wess Chambers, left, the unit's second commander, and Col. Mick McGuire, the current commander take a photo together at a retirees breakfast, March 9.

162ND FIGHTER WING
ARIZONA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
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TUCSON AZ 85706-6052
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HURTS ONE. AFFECTS ALL.
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

162nd Fighter Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinators:
Lt. Col. Denise Cullen, 295-6201
Master Sgt. Holly Tek, 295-6102
24 Hour Hotline, 305-0299

**PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT
IS EVERYONE'S DUTY.**