



# EL TIGRE



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

## Turning The Page

### Base news goes all digital





FALL 2011  
THE FINAL PRINT EDITION

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## EL TIGRE

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**162nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs**  
1650 E Perimeter Way, Tucson, AZ 85706  
(520) 295-6192, 162fw.pa.omb@ang.af.mil  
Visit: 162fw.ang.af.mil or 162fw.com

## 162ND FW EDITORIAL STAFF

Commander.....Col. Michael T. McGuire  
Chief of Public Affairs.....Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Deputy Chief.....1st Lt. Angela Walz  
NCOIC.....Master Sgt. Desiree Twombly  
Staff Writer .....Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones  
Staff Writer.....Airman 1st Class Jack Hurd  
Photographer .....Master Sgt. Dave Neve  
Photographer.....Tech. Sgt. Hollie Hansen  
Contracts/Budget...Chief Master Sgt. Sandra Ahern  
Contracts/Budget.....Master Sgt. Terri Laguna



# Farewell *El Tigre*; hello social media

by Col. Mick McGuire  
Commander

Yes, this edition of *El Tigre* will be the last printed copy of the newsletter ever produced. What was once delivered by the U.S. Postal Service to your mailbox is now available in your email inbox, on the base website, or on Facebook and Twitter.

I've asked the public affairs office to make a transition that will allow the pages of *El Tigre* to live on, but in a way that makes sense financially given all of the advancements in the way we communicate in our everyday lives.

The wing's leap into social media is by far the most exciting aspect of this change. If you have a Facebook or a Twitter account you can keep up with the unit and share your own Guard-related stories and information. There are links to the 162nd's Facebook and Twitter pages on the wing's website homepage at [www.162fw.ang.af.mil](http://www.162fw.ang.af.mil) making it easy to "Like" or "Follow" the unit.

With these new tools comes a measure of responsibility. I want you to feel free to post on these pages but keep operational security and professionalism in mind. This is a great way to spread the word about Junior Enlisted Council events, family programs, retirements, promotions, and anything of interest to your fellow Airmen. Just remember the core values before you post on these or any social media site.

As we embrace new technology, we commemorate one of the wing's great traditions. Unit members and their families have received base news in the form of our beloved newsletter *El Tigre* Since 1959.

The paper will be missed by all, but this change is not unique to our wing. Across the Department of



Colonel McGuire

Defense newspapers have fallen by the wayside in exchange for electronic forms of mass communication. Government-funded publications, like *El Tigre*, have had to take on other forms.

"But active duty bases have printed newspapers..." you may be thinking. Those are produced by contractors at no cost to the government and revenue is created through advertisement sales. They simply take the articles and photos from base websites to create those papers. Unfortunately, *El Tigre* just doesn't have a large

enough circulation to attract enough advertisers to make this an option.

Since 2008, base news has been published on the wing's public website. In fact, it appears there as it happens – sometimes weeks or months before *El Tigre* is printed. If you haven't become familiar with the site I encourage you to pay it a visit. All of the latest articles and photos are right there for you on the site homepage.

It's understandable that not everyone will frequent the website. So to help with this, public affairs will email an electronic version of *El Tigre* to anyone who subscribes to it. On the wing's homepage click the link for "Subscribe to *El Tigre Online*" and each month you'll get an electronic version of the newsletter – a digest of articles previously posted online – in your email. This is an option for those who seek it out. You won't be spammed and you can un-subscribe at any time.

Finally, I congratulate all members of the public affairs staff, current and former, who have dedicated so much to consistently make *El Tigre* the best newsletter in the Air National Guard. The paper is a 52-year chronicle of our time together in the 162nd Fighter Wing. Its positive impact on generations of Tucson Guardsmen is immeasurable. Job well done.

**[www.162fw.ang.af.mil](http://www.162fw.ang.af.mil)**

**The wing's public website**

**Click here for the wing's social media pages.**

**Click here to subscribe to *El Tigre Online*.**

# Annual Awards, Hometown Heroes Salute set for Oct. 1, on base

from Public Affairs

After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Arizona Air National Guardsmen responded to their nation's call to defend liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

In the second annual "Hometown Heroes Salute" Guardsmen who have deployed in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn after 2008 will be formally recognized following this year's Annual Awards Ceremony scheduled for Oct. 1, at noon in Hanger 10.

"There is nothing more powerful than saying 'thank you'," said the 162nd's Command Chief Master Sgt. Shane Clark. "One of the most important things we do is give due recognition to our Airmen and their families for all they have given to the cause of freedom. These folks have put their relationships, their lives and careers on hold to deploy."

The Hometown Heroes Salute initiative celebrates and honors the Airmen, families, communities and those special supporters who have significantly contributed to supporting Airmen and the ANG's mission. The Director of the Air National Guard authorized the recognition program in August, 2008, as a National Guard Bureau-funded initiative.

Members who have deployed will be presented a framed letter of appreciation from Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, the Director of the Air Guard, and the Air National Guard Command Chief, Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy.

"Depending on the length of their deployment, a member may also be presented with a commemorative plaque, a flag, or an eagle," said Staff Sgt. Charmaine Pozo, human resources assistant.

Spouses, or significant others, will receive an engraved pen and pencil set as well as a hometown hero medallion and coin. The children of parents who have deployed will get engraved dog tags.

Hometown Heroes Salute events are held annually at Air National Guard units across the country. "Everyone should come out to help make this Hometown Heroes event as special as it can possibly be," said Chief Clark.

The event will kick off at 10 a.m. with Hometown Heroes and families arriving at Hanger 10 for photos and family awards. All other award recipients and wing members are asked to be seated in the hanger by 11:30 a.m. as the program will begin promptly at noon.

The uniform for all Annual Award recipients and Hometown Hero honorees will be the Airman Battle Uniform or flight suit.



# Members, Families, Retirees, Friends... Don't miss Family Appreciation Day, Sunday, Oct. 2!

See the map below for attractions and amenities. Parking available in the West 40 lot and in TIA's west land parcel adjacent to the base and Park Ave. The Park Ave. gate will not be open to traffic. Please use the Valencia gate.

## 162nd Fighter Wing Family Appreciation Day



Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011  
On Base, 9a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Fun for all Ages**  
Dunk Tank Contest  
Video Games  
Car Show  
Rock Climbing Wall  
Obstacle Course  
Inflatable Slide  
Inflatable Boxing  
Toddler Farm  
Kiddy Train  
Mechanical Bull  
Vendors  
And More!

**Food**  
Hamburgers  
Hot Dogs  
Chips  
Macaroni Salad  
Beans  
Egges  
Cookies  
Soda/Water

**Plus...**  
Chili Cookoff  
Salsa Competition  
Cake Walk

No pets allowed  
No individual alcoholic beverages.





## 162nd firefighter selected as ANG Firefighter of the Year



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Rob Trubia

Tech. Sgt. Dave Arneson is photographed by an Air National Guard Creative Team photographer for a "Go ANG" recruiting campaign. In August the Arizona Guardsman received "Firefighter of the Year" honors at the annual Air National Guard Fire Chief Association conference in Atlanta.

by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones  
Public Affairs

Representing the 162nd Fighter Wing and the Northwest Fire District, Tech. Sgt. Dave Arneson, firefighter, was selected as the Air National Guard Fire Chief Association "Firefighter of the Year."

"Dave's nomination was based on his contributions to the 162nd Fighter Wing, Northwest Fire District, and his community service," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Shane Clark, wing command chief and fire chief for the 162nd.

"I am exposed to a lot of emergency calls where I have the ability to make a difference," said Sergeant Arneson. "I am able to take my experience from my civilian career and share it with my military firefighters."

As a member of the Northwest Fire Department Special Operations Team, Sergeant Arneson extricated a dead body from the city's main water supply. On a separate occasion, he responded to a helicopter crash in the mountains and saved the lives of a law enforcement helicopter crew.

"He utilized his technical rescue training in dangerous situations and passed that knowledge to his military firefighters," wrote Lt. Col. Carol Kenny, commander of the 162nd Civil Engineer Squadron, in a recommendation letter.

In addition to his official duties both with the wing and in his civilian job, Sergeant Arneson performed numerous community service and speaking engagements.

"Using his medical expertise he taught CPR to high school students and an EMT refresher to our medical group and many civilian EMT's," wrote Colonel Kenny.

Arneson taught 133 students CPR and first aid, one of which used her certification to get a summer job as a life guard where she performed CPR on a toddler that had a near-drowning experience.

"I've trained CPR for the past six years. Anytime I hear someone's life was saved because of what I've done, or what I've taught, it makes me feel like I've made a difference," said Sergeant Arneson.

"He was recognized in August at the [International Association of] Fire Chiefs Conference [in Atlanta]," said Chief Clark. "Please join me in congratulating him."



# THE EVOLUTION OF... EL TIGRE

This month, the 162nd Fighter Wing says goodbye to its printed newsletter and looks back on how it all began

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

*Though the Tucson Air Guard unit was born in 1956, it took a few years for the base newspaper to take shape. This first edition of El Tigre was the newspaper's September 1959 debut.*

## El Tigre NEWS

162nd FIGHTER GROUP AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATE OF ARIZONA P.O. BOX 3009 TUCSON, ARIZONA

VOL I Number 1

September 1959

### 152D HAS GUN



152nd Gunnery Team: 1 to r, Col George W. Edmonds, Capt Melvin G. Sisk, Capt Harry R. Eckes, and Major John T. Guice

The 152nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 162nd Fighter Group, Arizona Air National Guard, Tucson, Arizona, has been selected as the only guard unit to compete in this year's "William Tell II" meet at Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Florida.

First Air National Guard unit to be equipped with supersonic F-100A Super Sabres, the 152nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron was chosen for its outstanding record of smooth performance and experience with the speedy jets. The unit will compete against two USAF squadrons in F-104 Starfighters, firing Sidewinder infrared-guided missiles in Category III. Scoring is based on overall effectiveness of ground crews as well as the equipment and pilots from takeoff to touchdown.

### EL TIGRE

This is the first edition of the El Tigre News to be published each and every month of the year. This paper will take the place of the newsletter and will be mailed to all personnel of this organization each month before the drill. Be sure and read it.....This paper will carry all the latest news about the Air National Guard, the State of Arizona, the 162nd Fighter Group and all squadrons.

Any constructive criticisms, ideas or comments will be appreciated by the staff personnel and reporters by providing them with items of interest for this paper. This is your opportunity to let everybody know what is happening in your section.

Also, there will be a section in this paper known as the "Unclassified Section." All personnel having anything for sale, rent or wanting to buy may place an ad in this section FREE.

THIS IS YOUR PAPER

WHY NOT USE IT !

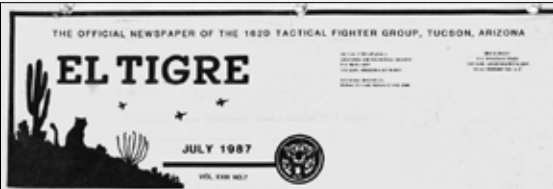
In May 1956 the 152nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron (FIS), Tucson Air National Guard, was activated as a brand new unit of the Arizona ANG. Then Major Donald E. Morris rallied a small group of people that came to Tucson from the 197th FIS in Phoenix and started to build the Tucson Air Guard virtually from scratch.

The first facilities were an old farmhouse, a small hangar and some borrowed ramp space to park and maintain the newly acquired F-86A Sabre Jets. Recruiting efforts got under way and the 152nd FIS was off and flying.

In the early days the unit performed its duties with a growing contingency of full-time employees and an increasing number of weekend personnel. Guard functions for weekend personnel consisted of one weekend drill each month and an annual gathering when all personnel were required to report for duty on a 15-day deployment to the unit for intensive training. This was affectionately called "summer camp."

Initially, communication with unit personnel was in the form of a letter, called a Training Bulletin that was sent to all personnel prior to the weekend drill and annual summer camp. This was the primary communication with unit personnel so they would know when to report for duty and also listed the schedule of events. These bulletins were generally on one page and included only basic information about the scheduled activities.

# EL TIGRE



In the early years, from 1957 into 1959, there were several changes to the formatting of the monthly Training Bulletin. Simple graphic images that depicted aircraft and other unit functions were added to “dress up” the monthly bulletin. These varied graphics were used for almost 3 years as the unit expanded its personnel base, embraced several aircraft conversions and grew from a single fighter squadron to Group status.

In January 1957, only 6 months after the 152nd’s inception, the monthly Training Bulletin showed signs of creativity as it included a hand-drawn F-86 graphic and included, for the first time, the term “El Tigre” that appeared above the right wing of the aircraft. El Tigre’s affiliation with the Tucson Air Guard was born.

PH. BOX 3009 TUCSON, ARIZ. MA-35428-30534

152ND FTR. INTCP. SQDN  
"El Tigre"

TRAINING BULLETIN  
UNIT TRAINING ASSEMBLY  
19 - 20 January 1957  
0800 - 1600 hours

**ALL PERSONNEL:** Government vehicles are the only ones authorized to drive between the Hanger and the Administration Offices.

**ALL PERSONNEL:** In case of an emergency ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL will be at the home. Let's everyone else stay on the job.

**ALL PERSONNEL:** It is the responsibility of each airman and officer to notify the Administration Office of any change of Personal Information such as: (change of address, marital status, etc.).

**ALL PERSONNEL:** Applications of extension correspondence courses and technical training courses are available in the Administration Office.

**ALL PERSONNEL:** The first quarterly party was sponsored by the Officers, the second quarterly party will be sponsored by the Maintenance personnel of the 152nd and Maintenance Element, which will be held in March 1957; the third one will be sponsored by Administration, Stores, and Supply Personnel to be held in June 1957; fourth one by Motor vehicle, Communication, Installation, Medical and Food Service Elements to be held September 1957. First Party was very SUCCESSFUL LET'S EVERYONE ATTEND THE NEXT ONE !!!

**ALL OFFICERS:** It is the desire of the Commander that all Officers who haven't enrolled in one of the correspondence courses available do so by 20 January 1957.

**ALL PERSONNEL:** There will be a personal inspection of Sunday 20 Jan 57 0800 hours. Personnel will report for roll call in Class "A" Blue and Form 72 on time.

In the February 1957 bulletin a different F-86 graphic highlighted the cover and the term “El Tigre Squadron” was included in the title.

By June of '57 the cover consisted of a set of pilot's wings and a stylized fighter jet silhouette. The name “El Tigre” was again included in the graphic.

EL TIGRE

152ND FTR INTCP SQDN  
PH. BOX 3009 "EL TIGRE SQ" PHONE MA-3-0534

19 February 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDER, 152ND FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON  
SUBJECT: THE FOLLOWING LETTER IS QUOTED FROM MAJOR GENERAL WILSON P. WILSON, Chief Air Force Inspector, National Guard Bureau.

TO: THE COMMANDER, 152ND FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON

1. Discontinue the wester route in the first half of fiscal year 1957 during which the wester route has been a loss for Air Force.

2. Even though we are depending on military strength, security for continued operations, we must also improve the quality of our Airman in every possible way.

3. It is the desire of all commanders of Air National Guard units obtain fullest cooperation from each member of their organization in making ROTARY AIR a productive recruiting outlet.

The training assembly on 20 February 1957 is a nation wide ROTARY AIR. We are holding an ROTARY AIR assembly in 300 hours. We have scored all ROTARY AIR scores and we are pleased to inform you that you have a ROTARY AIR score of 100% in the ROTARY AIR assembly. We are proud of you and we are proud of the ROTARY AIR assembly. We are proud of you and we are proud of the ROTARY AIR assembly. We are proud of you and we are proud of the ROTARY AIR assembly.

The open items will include: (1) Display of Aircraft, Engines, Ground Equipment, Communications Equipment, and etc., (2) Let's everyone ROTARY AIR and ROTARY AIR, (3) Let's everyone ROTARY AIR and ROTARY AIR, (4) Let's everyone ROTARY AIR and ROTARY AIR, (5) Let's everyone ROTARY AIR and ROTARY AIR.

ALL PERSONNEL: The ROTARY AIR assembly will be Class "A" Blue, Airman and Form 72 on time and let's everyone ROTARY AIR will bring their...

"EL TIGRE"

152ND  
FTR. INTCP. SQDN.  
P.O. BOX 3009 MA-30534  
TUCSON, ARIZONA  
NEWS BULLETIN

In October '57 the graphic was changed to a cat's head cartoon and the word “roar” was shown exiting the cat's mouth. Subsequently, in November, the Training Bulletin had acquired the name “El Tigre Roar.” The cat graphic was gone, however, this was the first time the term “El Tigre” was included as the title of the unit training bulletin.

El Tigre

ROAR

12-13 Oct 57  
0800 - 1600

Members will report Saturday in work uniforms and Sunday in Class "A". Be prepared for an inspection Sunday by having your shoes shined, hair cut and a clean uniform.

\*\*\*\*\*

Suggestion boxes have been placed in rear of hanger, outside operations and in the administration building. These boxes are for constructive suggestions from all personnel to better the squadron. Major Morris will pick-up all suggestion after each drill and will be the only person to review the suggestions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Recruiting is the job of all of us!!! Just visualize for a minute, that if 50% of the present members of the 152nd enlisted one buddy the unit would reach 100% in no time. You, the members of the 152nd FIS are the greatest asset to our recruiting program. With your efforts behind our recruiting campaign the unit will reach 100% by the end of the year.

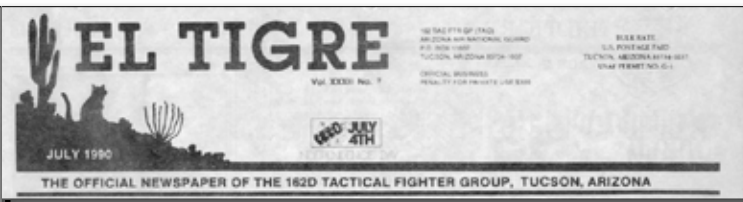
\*\*\*\*\*

This campaign will represent the 152d FIS and all its members. Making it a successful one will take an effort from everyone. Any members with suggestions or

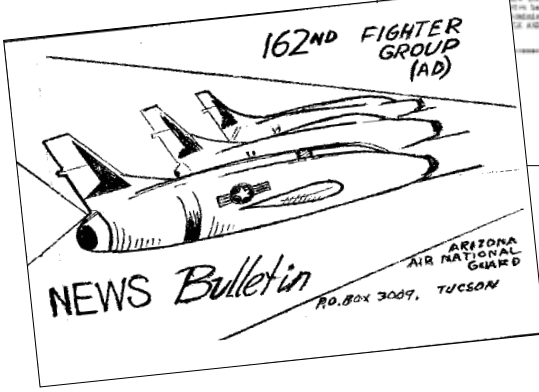


The term “El Tigre” was the name of a jaguar that lived at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, which had opened in September 1952. The unit adopted the big cat as its mascot and started using the name in its Training Bulletins. A cartoon image of the big cat was also used on the 152nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron unit patch. That original patch image is still in use today by the 152nd Fighter Squadron.





By January 1958 the drawing of an airplane returned with the silhouette of an F-84F and the title "El Tigre Roar" remained.



In June of 1959 the unit entered a new era. The term "El Tigre" was shelved for several months and a new airplane graphic appeared that depicted the upgrade to F-100 aircraft.

Then, in September 1959 a major change in the way the unit communicated with its personnel occurred.

That's when the very first "El Tigre News" was published as the official monthly news document of the 162nd Fighter Group.

This first issue was an expanded eight pages and included pictures and articles about personnel and events at the 162nd FG. It was a high-quality publication that provided an expanded format of information to unit personnel.

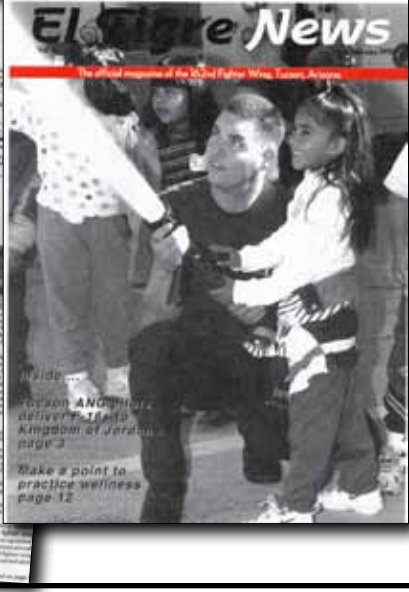
Members involved in the first El Tigre publication were the 162nd Fighter Group Commander, Maj. Donald E. Morris; El Tigre Editor, Master Sgt. Therman Guire; Associated Editor, Tech. Sgt. Robert Murphy; Staff Writers, Airman 2nd Class Chris Borden, Airman 2nd Class W. Wilson, Airman 3rd Class Frank Kalil; and photographer Staff Sgt. Charles Putnam.

These talented individuals initially set the standard of excellence that would remain with the El Tigre publication for the following 52 years.

Thanks to Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Tony Peralta who contributed to this article.

See page 23 for upcoming retiree events and announcements.

# EL TIGRE: 52 YEARS OF SERVICE



# Airman on the Street:

## What do you think about the end of the printed El Tigre and the start of social media for the wing?

by Airman 1st Class Jack Hurd  
Public Affairs



### Master Sgt. Fernando Castillo

*Being that I'm older it makes me sad due to the fact that I'm used to printed media. But I realize that technology is moving ahead, and I'm going to have to get on the technology train.*



### Staff Sgt. Michael Espinoza

*Info is shared more frequently on a more consistent basis through online networks. It's also a lot easier than flipping a page or waiting for material information to get printed. It's much faster posting info on Facebook, and it keeps our service members informed sooner rather than later.*



### Tech. Sgt. Dana Watson

*I completely agree with the El Tigre going away. Economically it makes sense to keep it electronic and do away with hard copies. As for the 162FW going to Facebook I think it's an awesome idea. More people, whether they are retired or still at the unit, check Facebook more than anything else. Social media is a great benefit for everybody keeping up on what's going on in the unit in a fun way. I'm glad to see our unit is keeping up with today's society.*



### Master Sgt. Marc Gooding

*I think it's great. With the new world of technology I think it's a step in the right direction. A lot of people don't even use the mail anymore and everything is going technology based.*



**Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Barry Soulvie**

*Change is nothing new. We're always facing changes and this is one more. We have always adapted to new policies, new forms, new ways of doing business. Base news will still be there for those who want it in electronic format. For retirees who don't have a computer, the Retirees Office will continue to send out a newsletter to keep them informed about the unit.*

*From the beginning, El Tigre has always been a high-quality product. Many of us will lament the end of the paper version, but this is a sign of the times. The Department of Defense is moving in this direction and the wing must too.*



**Lt. Col. Michael Martinez**

*I have a mixed reaction. It's good to get with the times, as far as the technology and the tools we have that a vast majority of people are using. It's too bad we can't do both especially for the retirees to have the magazine. I understand it's an issue of funds, but we shouldn't have one or the other and to me that's a bit disappointing. I'm thinking about some of the retirees that don't have much computer access, or the computer is way out of their time. The magazine is a good communication tool to have, and when I get the magazine it really makes me feel like I'm a part of the unit – it's a connection. It's sad, but we do have a back up online to view the magazine; it's not going away completely.*



**Staff Sgt. Stephen Myers**

*I think it's a great idea because social networking is the future of communication. Having attended a few Air Force-level symposiums, that's where the rest of the Air Force is headed. It will put us in line with our active duty counterparts as well as our Guard counterparts. Other perks are the cost effectiveness and making sure our members have access to that information. I think Facebook is a great idea.*



**Master Sgt. Sandra Gilliland**

*Working with computers I think is a fantastic idea. A lot of folks are going to computers at all ages. We're allowed to use Facebook at work now which is nice and it's free. As a unit we're not spending money on the paper used for the magazine so I think it's a great idea.*



# For RAF pilot the road to the Netherlands goes through Tucson

Story and photo by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

Royal Air Force fighter pilots qualified on the F-16 are few and far between but surely exist as a result of exchange programs with the United States and other partner nation air forces. In July the 162nd Fighter Wing here added one more to the short list.

RAF Flt. Lt. Jean-Claude Guertin, an experienced Tornado F3 pilot, completed nearly five months of transition training to fly a jet that few of his countrymen have flown. He's on his way to using his new skills during a three-year exchange tour with the Royal Netherlands Air Force.

It's an assignment long in the works for Guertin. Before arriving in Tucson he spent 15 months learning the Dutch language.

At Tucson International Airport he took on ground school, assorted simulator rides and a busy flying schedule of two-to-three sorties per week; all along side Dutch and U.S. pilots at the 148th Fighter Squadron, the designated Dutch F-16 training unit in the United States.

"There are a few new things to me," said Lieutenant Guertin. "I lose a navigator in the back seat, there's one less engine and I've had to bring up my air-to-ground skills."

Guertin is a veteran of Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom and most recently he's put his air-to-air expertise to use at RAF Leuchars, Scotland, for the quick reaction alert mission.

The Tornados he's accustomed to, air-to-air platforms, were retired from the RAF in March in exchange for the multi-role Eurofighter Typhoon. He said most former RAF Tornado pilots are now learning the additional ground attack role.

"This is good preparation for me to eventually go back to the Typhoon later on," he said.

As for the F-16, the lieutenant was complimentary.

"It's been a childhood dream to fly the F-16. I remember the movie Iron Eagle as a kid. We don't have the F-16 in the RAF inventory so this is a unique opportunity," said Guertin. "It's a joy to fly. The F-16 lives up to the hype even though it's 25 years old. I think what it has



*Royal Air Force Flt. Lt. Jean-Claude Guertin prepares for an F-16 training mission at the Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing in Tucson.*

going for it is that it's a fully matured weapon system; it's capable and has proven itself in both air-to-air and air-to-ground roles."

According to Guertin, training in Arizona afforded many benefits apart from the vast military training ranges and perfect flying weather.

"The American input is good to see," he said. "Things are very similar to how we do things in the UK. Everything is well standardized and the level of training is very good."

Lt. Col. Mike Neighbors, an instructor pilot at the Arizona Air Guard unit, said Guertin is a first for the international wing.

"We've trained with more than two dozen different partner nations, but we've never had a pilot from the UK complete a course here," said Colonel Neighbors. "We pride ourselves on having a positive impact on international relations, but it's usually between us and another country. This is really a nation-to-nation, to-nation success story."

The 148th, in addition to training new pilots, hosts operational Dutch pilots on a regular basis who return to Tucson for two weeks at a time to fly in Arizona's optimal conditions. Guertin may return to Tucson at least one or two more times, said Neighbors.

"It's good to face new challenges," said Guertin. "I never thought I'd learn Dutch. Intellectually, it's been quite stimulating. I'm looking forward to my tour in the Netherlands; working with their air force, the different culture and pace of life."

Since 1989, the 162nd has trained with virtually every nation that flies the F-16. In addition to the Netherlands, the wing currently trains with pilots from Singapore, Norway, Belgium, Chile, Morocco, and the Republic of Korea.



**TEN YEARS LATER**

# September 11, 2001... The 162nd Fighter Wing will never forget

## What's your 9/11 story?

being annoyed with it all. I was hungry, broke, tired, I had a paper due and the overcrowded gate was not helping. When it was finally announced that we would be boarding, all I wanted to do was find my seat, get some free airline food and sleep.

After what seemed like all day waiting to board, we were down the runway and in the air in a hurry. In no time at all we reached cruising altitude and the food service had just begun going down the aisle. And out of nowhere, the pilot made an announcement for the flight attendants to get to their seats and buckle up and for all passengers to remain seated.

I remember the tone he used - it had a "don't mess with me" and "do as I say" tone that anyone with a father would recognize. As soon as the lead flight attendant picked up her phone and said a few words into it, the plane felt as if it was dropping out of the sky. Once we stopped descending, the pilot announced we'd be returning to Phoenix and all passengers were to remain seated until we had landed and had come to a complete stop. Everyone was wondering what could be going on. We circled Phoenix for about 45 minutes and when we landed, it took another hour to reach the gate. But once we did and were out of the plane and walking out onto the gate, our lives had changed along with the rest of America.

The normal over stimulating hustle and bustle of one of America's busiest airports was gone. Earlier that morning Sky Harbor was alive with activity. Now, it was dead quiet and looked deserted. SWAT members (or personnel dressed up in armor) along with K9 units and other armed officials were guiding us toward the baggage claim. And there was a crowd of what seemed like thousands.

Quietly, everyone either sat on the ground or stood against a wall as they watched TV screens mounted all over the area. Together we all watched the first tower fall...then the second. As time passed, I didn't need anyone to tell me what was going on; I was able

to piece everything together on my own. Immediately, the annoying feeling I felt earlier that day toward people for simply going about their day as best they could vanished, and I never felt the same before or since then. We were all in the same boat.

The news kept reporting rumors all day long as well, adding to anxiety and feeling that it wasn't ever going to end. One plane crash, then another and another and another. Threats to the Statue of Liberty, to the San Francisco bridge, the President was in an undisclosed location and no one knew where the Vice President was. Threats to the Sears Tower and a commotion at Los Angeles International Airport caused people to panic in the baggage claim area. I guess some were headed to Disneyland, which had also received threats, according to the news.

After dogs sniffed our bags as we were each screened one-by-one, we were left to fend for ourselves and find our own way home or to our destinations. By that time, most of America had been sent home from work. Which meant renting a car, hailing a cab, catching a shuttle or even getting a Greyhound ticket was out the window. I ended up waiting all day outside of baggage claim for my parents to drive up from Tucson to pick me up. On the way home, it didn't matter how tired I was. I was glued to news radio. My parents hung on to my every word as I shared my experience with them and I never in my life felt a stronger sense of duty.

I had to do something. I had to do my part. But what? All anyone could do (I hadn't enlisted yet) was watch everything unfold. As time went on and the picture became clearer as to who was responsible and what America's response would be, I saw some of my childhood friends choose their preferred branch of service and answer the call. It wasn't long before I was raising my hand and repeating, "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic..."



**by Senior Airman Jose Roman Jr.**  
Logistics Readiness Squadron

By September, 2001, high school was a year and a half in my rear view and I was going to school full time at the University of Arizona. I needed a little extra cash, so I took a job working in the receiving docks at Macy's. I had only been working there a few months and I was scheduled to go to San Francisco to attend a training course and seminar.

Sky Harbor [Airport] was bustling. Just like any other day at a major airport, people were double timing to their gates, struggling with keeping young children in line, announcements for departures and arrivals were blaring. My flight had been delayed an hour and a half so I remember being irritated, hungry (college kids can't really afford the crazy airport restaurant prices), and people watching.

A huge family was at the gate waiting for a loved one to deplane. The raucous they made when she came out made it seem like it was a long lost family member or something. I just remember



**by Staff Sgt. Travis Wilson**  
Airfield Management

I remember I was maybe 12 or 13, in 8th grade waiting to go to school. My mother, Lt. Col. Trish Wilson, called me at home and told me to turn on the news because an airplane had just crashed into the world trade center.

At the time I had no idea what the world trade center was. The whole bus ride to school all the radio stations were talking about the horrific scene in New York. By the time I reached my school, the second plane had already hit the second tower and a third plane had hit the Pentagon.

I remember in school that day all of the classrooms had the TVs on different news channels, trying to figure out what had happened. I also remember them showing then President Bush reading to the elementary school children and being told what had happened.

By the time I got home, they had declared it a terrorist attack. My mother was a DSG [drill-status Guardsman] with the 162nd at that time, in the coming weeks she was brought on fulltime and has been with the unit ever since. After my graduation from high school, I followed in her footsteps and joined the unit.

**by Chief Master Sgt. Dean Miller**  
Aircrew Flight Equipment

One of our fighter squadrons was deployed to MCAS [Marine Corps Air Station] Miramar. On the morning of September 11th, I walked out to the lobby of our billeting to go to work and saw my fellow Guardsmen standing in front of the big screen television watching the first World Trade Center tower smoking.

I asked what had happened and no one knew. Approximately 2 minutes later, the second tower was hit by a jet airliner. Everyone stood there in shock and knew at that time this was a terrorist attack.

Shock changed to anger and all were setting their minds for war. At least it was in mine.

As we approached the flightline gates, I stated to the Marine on duty to call on us if they needed assistance in defending the base. We went to our duty locations and stood by for instructions from our commanders.

We bedded down the jets and closed up our work locations, then returned to billeting to stay put until further notice. We were able to make a quick visit to the shopette, but it wasn't long before the base became a ghost town.

The next day, we launched the jets for home, packed up our equipment, and headed back to Tucson in our rental van. It was a long, somber, 6-hour drive back. I had no time to shed tears, but finally did a week later.

I will never forget that day. God forgive me, but it's even harder to forgive.

With respects to those lost on that terrible day.



**by Master Sgt. Mark Tarin**  
Avionics Supervisor

It wasn't until late May of 2006, almost five years following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, that I realized how I was personally affected by that fateful day.

I had recorded a documentary on the Discovery Channel based on American Airlines Flight 11, the Boeing 767 that crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. I stored the rather worn out tape in my entertainment center, and completely forgot about it. It was on one of those evenings when there was nothing on the over 120 channels of cable television to which I'm subscribed, when I decided to check out what I had recorded.

I began to dig through the overly re-recorded VHS tapes and found one labeled American Flight 11.

As the narrator began, he mentioned the names of the crew members on that fatal flight. "Working in first-class that day was flight attendant Barbara Arestegui." A terrible empty and sick feeling suddenly hit me. I rewound the tape to make sure that I heard it correctly. A friend of mine who was visiting noticed me sit up, my face going pale, and asked if I was okay. I responded, "That's Bobbi."

"Who?" she said.

Bobbi, is a woman that I met in Germany on a TDY to accept our unit's first two F-16s. As she asked if I was okay, I was already on my way to my computer to do a name search. Her last name wasn't very common so I knew



the results weren't going to be good. Just then, a photo of the woman who accompanied me to my best friend's wedding in Phoenix, filled the monitor; staring at me with those pretty brown eyes and a smile that never quit. She was such a kind, warm and helpful person; perfect qualities for a flight attendant.

I slumped in my chair and as the sick and empty feeling increased, I kept shaking my head in disbelief. For the very first time, I really began to feel what those closest

to the thousands of people lost on that day had been feeling for over five years.

As a result of watching the documentary, I had learned that Bobbi, despite her five foot two inch frame, had done all that she possibly could have done to keep the terrorists from breaching the cockpit door. Being assigned to first class on that flight, she had been waiting on the terrorists as Flight 11 left Boston's Logan Airport early that morning. Reports indicate that Bobbi was likely stabbed and died prior to the plane's impact into the North Tower; making her one of the first two U.S. citizens to lose their life during this atrocious event.

A few days passed when I began do some research, looking for some type of closure. I was able to contact and speak with Bobbi's fiancé at the time. I identified myself to Wayne Nichols, having never met him, as a long ago friend. He began telling me about the last time he had contact with her. I learned that they had been making vacation plans, and in order to offset some of the costs, she had volunteered to work some extra flights; she wasn't even scheduled to fly that day.

I could still hear the anguish in his voice and the love that he had felt for her by his words; and this, after five years. I gave him my most sincere condolences, as I heard him begin to cry; I could feel his pain.

As I hung up the phone, I realized that speaking to someone who knew Bobbi was all I needed for closure. Although, I do recall re-telling the story to whoever would take the time

**by Senior Master Sgt.  
Brenda Chase**  
Logistics Readiness Squadron

On Sep 11, 2001, I had been working on what needed to be done for an upcoming inspection. All of a sudden, a coworker came running down the hall saying that the Pentagon had just been attacked.

We all dropped our work and ran to the break room to watch the news. At that time it was showing the World Trade Center with the first tower after the plane went in and we were just in time to see the second airplane go into the tower.

No one spoke as they could not believe what they were witnessing. Within the hour, the 162nd went into Threatcon Delta. All of us were scheduled right away to pull door guard duty due to the Threatcon. During my watch, I struggled to get my mind around what was happening to my country, so I just prayed.

Later in the morning hours the whole base joined forces to help maintenance convert some of the training jets to alert jets and get the necessary equipment to Davis-Monthan [Air Force Base] to support the new Alert Detachment.

The hardest part of that day was when they sent the majority of the base home. It was for our protection, but still I joined [the military] to defend America and my unit and to go home--I felt like I was not fulfilling my oath for my country.

I was single at that time and while at home I was watching all the people on the news weep and cry for their loved ones, and their sadness engulfed my heart. I finally went and stayed with friends as it was too hard for me to be alone.

For a long time after 9/11 (or so it seemed) we could not leave base at any time in our uniforms unless it was in a government vehicle. That is when I felt that my freedom as I knew it had changed forever.

Since that time, I have become more alert of my surroundings, especially off base. I have seen the entrance to the unit change from one lane to two in the morning hours. I have seen Davis-Monthan change their entrances as well.

When I joined the Air Force in 1974, women never shot an M16. I was placed



on mobility and for the first time in my life at age 45, I learned to shoot an M16, had the Chemical Warfare Training, practiced Self Aid and Buddy Care, and the list goes on for mobility requirements.

The startup of my computer now requires a CAC [common access card] with a password instead of just turning it on and starting to work. I went from not carrying my ID card around the base to carrying it all the time. The flightline was open to just about everyone, too. Now you must have your restricted area badge--I only got restricted badges for TDYs, not home station. That has all changed.

As my parents shared with me their feelings when Pearl Harbor was attacked and how it affected America, it taught me to respect my country and her flag. As we share our stories, I hope that young people of today that were born after 9/11 or were too young to remember will learn about what happened that day, learn to respect Old Glory every day of their lives and appreciate the freedoms that America still has today.



**by Tech. Sgt. Carolyn Noon**  
Production Controller

I joined the guard right out of high school. I was raised by Air Force parents, and Air Force history runs deep in my family via numerous uncles and grandparents that have also served our country.

I never thought twice about joining the Guard; I wanted to give back to my community and my country by doing my part while also getting my education. I honestly felt (and still feel) that it was my duty, but also my privilege to be an Air Force member.

I had been working full time at the Guard for many years while going to school at night. I decided to take a job on "the outside" working for Bombardier Aerospace because they paid for more of my school. I was there a few months when 9/11 happened.

I remember VIVIDLY pulling into the parking lot at work and hearing what at that time everyone thought was an accident when the first tower was hit. I said a prayer for the victims and their families and thought "man that's going to be a long haul repairing that building, hopefully the aircraft didn't do too much damage."

I walked through the parking lot and into the hangar en route to my desk and that was when I was hit (and hit hard) with the realization that this was no accident as the second tower was hit.

Not a soul in that hangar was working. We were all standing, mouths draped open in awe watching the 32 inch TV in the hangar break room in complete disbelief. My husband worked at the Guard at the time (he has since retired) and I remember running to my desk calling him (as I cried) and asking him if he had heard about what was happening to our country and if he was ok.

He said he had to go as they were preparing the base for elevated



security levels. At that moment I had never felt more shame and disappointment in myself for not being out there doing my part for my country and my community; I was hurting for my country and needed to help. A few weeks later I was voluntarily activated back to the Guard. I was back in the uniform helping my community and my country by doing my part while simultaneously helping myself heal.

It is human nature to forget; we move on with our day-to-day lives, as our busy world moves around us. Forgetting can be easy to do if you don't want to remember, especially if it's a painful memory. Some block pain out, some move on from the pain and are able to forgive and forget.

September 11, 2001 is a day, as Americans, we cannot forget.

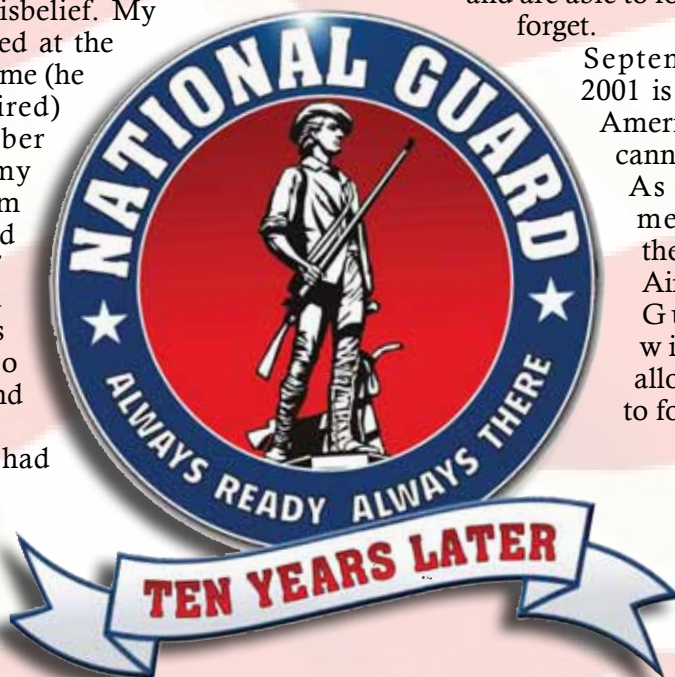
As a proud member of the Arizona Air National Guard, I will not allow myself to forget.

**by Staff Sgt. Stetphen Myers**  
Travel Pay Technician

Throughout my childhood, I can recall many occasions where my grandparents shared stories about significant moments in our national history. As I listened to their experiences and feelings about Pearl Harbor, the day WWII ended and the day that President Kennedy was assassinated, I was always intrigued by the common goodness of the American people in the face of tragedy. In spite of these stories, I believed that my generation was beyond such tragedy and that we were incapable of such unity and patriotism.

In the days following 9/11 my thoughts on this subject shifted completely as I witnessed something extraordinary. Police officers, firefighters and an array of exceptional people traveling from every corner of the United States to the aid of New York, crowds of people gathering alongside New Yorkers at the barricades to encourage the rescuers and provide them with food, water and comforts, a bipartisan Congress standing on the steps of the Capitol under a common God singing for his blessing of our nation, and a President humbled to tears in a shared gesture of grief amongst the American people.

Ultimately for me, September 11, 2001 was as December 7, 1941 was for my grandparents and November 22, 1963 for my parents. September 11, 2001 has become the day when the goodness and the resolve of the American people came under attack and ultimately rose above those who wish us harm.







# Mission Support Group exercise goes 'bare'



Photo by Lt. Col. Garry Beauregard

*Dozens of 162nd Mission Support Group Airmen form up for an in-brief from Golden Falcon exercise organizers before putting their training to use at Camp Navajo in Belmont, Ariz., July 17.*

by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones  
Public Affairs

BELMONT, Ariz. – Creating a deployed mission support element for a bare, or new, base was the task given to 71 members of the 162nd Mission Support Group during their Golden Falcon deployment exercise July 14-18 at Camp Navajo here.

“This is the first time mission support group has forward deployed during an exercise,” said 2nd Lt. Jason Gonzales, installation deployment officer and Golden Falcon project officer.

“You have to go out there and exercise knowing you don’t have the reach-back capability for things you forgot,” said Gonzales. “We were out on our own, and whatever we brought we had to make it work.”

Using more than 10 vehicles including busses, trucks and sedans, Airmen from an array of professional support backgrounds con-

voyed to the camp.

Training included land navigation; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive training; self-aid and buddy care; cardiopulmonary resuscitation and squadron-specific training, said Gonzales.

“Everyone has to complete their training within six months prior to their tempo band [the scheduled time when they are most likely to deploy] so that they are ready in a moment’s notice,” said Gonzales. This deployed training will probably be conducted bi-annually to fulfill that requirement, he said.

“Making this the best possible training opportunity for everybody was quite difficult because everyone has different requirements,” he said. “I was really surprised at how many people came up to me afterward and said it was a good opportunity for them to meet people outside of their squadron.”

The exercise provided new challenges, such as planning and executing the movement of Airmen and equipment, and some familiar challenges like land navigation.

“There was a bear and a cub up there [on the land navigation course]. For the second half of the day they had to close off half of the course where the bear was seen,” said Staff Sgt. Charmaine Pozo, human resources assistant.

Some of the challenges posed real world hazards to the exercise participants.

“Sergeant Campbell found an actual unexploded ordinance - it was a grenade. And you had to be careful of snakes; I saw two snakes out there,” said Pozo.

Despite the challenges and threats, the experience turned out good for those involved.

“Security Forces did a good job teaching everybody; it was a challenge to traverse the whole area covered with hills, rocks and safety hazards. Even the shortest points were three miles apart,” said Gonzales. “It was a motivational experience for everybody.”



Photo by Lt. Col. Garry Beauregard  
*Senior Airman Chris Esparza from LRS apprehends Staff Sgt. Jacob Lee as part of a quick reaction force. Sergeant Lee played the role of opposition forces for the exercise.*



# Current Libya operation brings back memories of El Dorado Canyon

by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones  
Public Affairs

**A**pril 15 is a day best known as the traditional deadline to file taxes in this county. In 1986, however, that day became notable for another reason – Operation El Dorado Canyon.

In light of the current operation, Odyssey Dawn, El Dorado Canyon is remembered as a day the U.S. took action against modern terrorists, namely Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan head of state since 1969.

Operation El Dorado Canyon also marked the beginning of a new era of joint tactical operations for the U.S. military.

One of the 162nd Fighter Wing's own warriors was there that day. Tech Sgt. Pamela McNair-Foust, now a student liaison for the unit's international military student office, recalled her experiences from that day in history.

"We were scheduled for a normal exercise at 1800 hours on the day before the mission. I got a call at home at 10 and was told to be in at noon," said Sergeant McNair-Foust. At the time, she was a weapons load crew chief working on F-111 tactical aircraft at the Royal Air Force Lakenheath station in the United Kingdom.

"That night that we were loading the aircraft; a lot of the crew members were writing notes on the bombs for Gaddafi. We knew that's where they were going," said McNair-Foust.

By 10 p.m., 24 F-111s from RAF Lakenheath were fully loaded with munitions and bombs – ready to



Courtesy photo

*Tech. Sgt. Pamela McNair-Foust operates a weapons loading vehicle known as a jammer at RAF Lakenheath England during the 1985 U.S. Air Forces in Europe "Loadeo" competition. McNair-Foust armed four of the F-111 aircraft used in the U.S. military's 1986 Operation El Dorado Canyon. Today she assists international F-16 student pilots in training at the 162nd Fighter Wing at Tucson International Airport.*

rendezvous with 14 Navy A-6E aircraft from two aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean Sea.

The F-111s were directed to avoid contentious airspace and were required to fly a 14 hour roundtrip of 6,400 nautical miles to reach their targets in Tripoli, Libya, said McNair-Foust.

Five targets in Tripoli were chosen by the National Security Council and approved by President Ronald Reagan. It became known as National Security Decision Directive 207.

The Libyan targets were destroyed in less than 12 minutes with more than 60 tons of munitions dropped. Reports after the bombing indicated the anti-aircraft guns hardly

mustered a response, and none of the Libyan MIGs launched to fight off the attacking aircraft. One U.S. F-111 was lost during the operation.

"Two aircrew members and their jet crashed – they didn't make it back," said McNair-Foust.

"None of us left until we saw [the rest of] the pilots come back at about 9:30 the next morning," said McNair-Foust. "All the planes came back clean. The bombs had all been dropped."

As mementos of their involvement, members of the weapons crew were allowed to keep several of the solenoids left attached to the planes after the bombs had been dropped.

"Solenoids are devices that connect to the arming wire that runs



through the munition to the aircraft. It tells the pilot that the munitions have dropped,” explained McNair-Foust. “I have some of those. They remind me that I am a part of history, and also that the United States is a country of power, freedom, and of selflessness.”

“I have a sense of pride – of belonging – that I was part of that [moment in history],” she said. “You’re in the military and you know you’re here to serve your country and fight for your country. We went [to Libya] with clear goals in mind and those goals were accomplished in a very short period.”

“My experiences make me a better person for the job I have now because I understand pilots – I worked with them for 13 years. All those years prepared me for what I do now. I love what I do,” said McNair-Foust.



Photo by Maj. Gabe Johnson

*Arizona Air National Guardsman Tech. Sgt. Pamela McNair-Foust, a former active duty weapons load crew chief, holds up a piece of history – a munitions solenoid left over from Operation El Dorado Canyon. McNair-Foust joined the 162nd Fighter Wing in 2009 after a break in service and credits her pride in serving to her experience in the first U.S. operation in Libya.*

## Technician income is Arizona taxable income

Commentary by  
Senior Master Sgt. Lance Bonlender  
162nd Medical Group

The state of Arizona passed legislation in 2006, House Bill 2795, to provide a subtraction for compensation received for active service by a member of the reserves, National Guard, or armed forces of the United States, to the extent not already excluded from Arizona gross income. HB 2795 extended the exemption for active duty military pay from Arizona income tax to 2007 and later years, and provides a subtraction for National Guard Members and reservists for taxable years 2007 and later.

A.R.S. 43-1022. 19. states “To the extent not already excluded from Arizona gross income under the internal revenue code, compensation received for active service as a member of the reserves, the National Guard or the armed forces of the United States, including compensation for service in a combat zone as determined under section 112 of the internal revenue code.”

Some technicians have misunderstood “active ser-

vice” to include their air technician pay. According to the Arizona Department of Revenue, “Compensation received for full-time civil service employment would not qualify for the subtraction under A.R. S. 43-1022.19. Therefore, a member of the National Guard who is also a civilian employee of the National Guard is not eligible to subtract the amount of civilian pay received during the taxable year as a civilian employee of the National Guard.”

Technicians receive one Form W-2 for their military income and one Form W-2 for their technician income, so it is clearly identifiable what income is a subtraction from income and what is not. The intent of the legislation is to provide a subtraction from Arizona income for military income only.

Incorrectly taking a subtraction from Arizona income will result in taxes, interest, and penalties being assessed should the tax return be audited. This could amount to thousands of dollars depending on the size of the income being subtracted and the number of years the technician elects to subtract their income incorrectly. I suggest amending tax returns if you’ve made this mistake to prevent penalties and interest from accumulating.



# Khobar Towers 15 years later

by Lt. Col. Chuck Blank  
152nd Fighter Squadron

It was 15 years ago, but the memory of the Khobar Towers bombing is as vivid as ever in my mind - and so are personal lessons I learned from that horrible night that claimed the lives of 19 Airmen and injured hundreds.

Volumes have been written since then outlining everything we learned from that terrorist attack. But as someone who was there, I hold two simple truths; the training we get in the Air Force truly works in a crisis, and our vigilance and pure instinct can save lives.

In 1996 I was an F-16 pilot assigned to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and in June of that year I deployed with my squadron for my third tour to Saudi Arabia to support Operation Southern Watch. We were in Dhahran flying out of the international airport to enforce the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Khobar Towers was a military compound which was part of a civilian apartment complex. It was a nice compound with a clinic, a gym, a dining facility and



Photo by Master Sgt. Jack Braden

*Lt. Col. Chuck Blank, left, walks to an F-16 Fighting Falcon on the 162nd Fighter Wing flightline at Tucson International Airport with a student pilot from Poland. Colonel Blank, now a squadron commander in the Air National Guard, was one of 372 people injured in the 1996 terrorist attacks on Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia.*



*Nineteen Airmen died and hundreds were injured in the terrorist attack at Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on June 25, 1996. At the time, it was the worst terrorist attack against the American military since the bombing of a Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983.*

they even built a roller-hockey rink - not a bad place to spend 90 days.

We were conducting 24-hour operations and occasionally we'd get some continuation training done. Often after dinner, if we weren't flying nights we'd play hockey then go back to our room to watch a movie before bed. Then we'd do it all over again the next day.

It was our second week in country. On this night I was in my second floor suite with two roommates sitting in our common area when it happened. It must have been quick, but time seemed to slow down. I could feel the earth shake for half a second, the power went out and we didn't hear anything.

Then in an instant the sliding glass door to our balcony, and everything attached to it, flew across the room in shards and landed on us.

There we were in the dark with a big hole in the wall. We didn't know what happened and all we could hear was yelling and screaming from outside.

We started to realize it could be an attack so one of my roommates had the wherewithal to flip a table on its side for cover. My other roommate helped me pull remains of the door off my legs. We were cut up but not mortally wounded so we got out of there.

We grabbed our hockey sticks in case we had to defend ourselves and went to the hallway dimly lit by a few security lights. At that point a friend pointed out a three inch piece of glass stuck in my leg and the blood pooling by my foot.



I pulled out the glass and dressed the wound with my T-shirt. Chaos had begun to ensue and there were many people hurt worse than I was so my focus was getting them out of the building while administering self-aid buddy care.

It wasn't until I got outside that I realized that it wasn't our building that was directly attacked. Two buildings down the row I could see a large plume and the people running away from it.

For the first 45 minutes I remember controlled chaos. In the midst of the confusion and walking wounded, people were responding. We were triaging those seriously wounded in front of the dining facility, and our squadron was forming up in the gym accounting for our unit members. Everyone was doing exactly what they were supposed to do. This was an amazing response to witness that, to this day, gives me personal faith in our people, their discipline and the training they receive in the Air Force.

Four or five hours later, after my squadron was all accounted for and our wounds were patched, we turned on CNN in the gym to finally learn that it was a terrorist attack.

Explosives were delivered in a large fuel tanker truck. The terrorists were third country nationals that worked on the compound as contractors. They had all of the proper identification and paperwork to gain access that evening.

If they had been able to plant the truck where they wanted - right in the middle of the compound - the explosion would have killed hundreds were it not for one young troop. A security forces Airman in the first days of his first deployment followed his instincts and didn't allow the truck onto the compound even though the driver had the necessary documentation.

Why would a fuel truck deliver fuel at 9:43 p.m.? It didn't make sense to him. This is the second lesson I learned. There is no substitute for, or greater security measure than vigilance and instinct.

Instead, the terrorists were turned away. So they detonated the TNT-laden truck outside the compound. The damage and loss of life were tragic, but this one Airman undoubtedly saved countless lives.

Khobar Towers taught us several lessons that should be remembered every day. Those who died made the ultimate sacrifice, and we should never forget that each of us, regardless of our role in either operations or support, is responsible for the safety and security of our fellow servicemembers.

Our training, professionalism, awareness and our "gut" instincts are some of the most valuable assets in the United States Air Force.



Photo by Samuel King Jr.

*F-16s from the 33rd Fighter Wing fly in a missing-man formation over the Khobar Towers Memorial June 24, 2011, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. June 25 marked the 15th anniversary of the bombing that killed 19 service members including 12 33rd FW Airmen. Each year, a ceremony is held by the 33rd FW to remember their fallen brothers.*



# Chief's promotion highlights Air Guard's community ties

Story and photo by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

A diploma from Sunnyside High School is not a prerequisite for promotion to the Air Force's highest enlisted rank, but four chief master sergeants at the 162nd Fighter Wing here have both achievements in common.

Chief Master Sergeants George Silvas, Edisa Salcido and Gil Quiroz are all graduates from the South Tucson high school located less than a mile from the Arizona Air National Guard Base. They welcomed Chief Master Sgt. Sandra Ahern, a former school mate, to the unit's Chief Council when she was promoted to the rank Sept. 23.

Not only do they come from the same school and neighborhood, but they attended Sunnyside together in the 1980s and have known each other for years.

"It's been nice to see Edisa, Gil and Sandra reach this level, and to be honest it hadn't dawned on me until recently that that the four of us are a rare story in the Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. George Silvas, 162nd Medical Group superintendent. "When I take a step back, I realize that it's unique to have four chiefs at one unit that came from the same high school around the corner."

It's a coincidence that can only happen in the Guard. In the active duty Air Force, Airmen are moved around the world throughout their careers and rarely serve in their hometowns. Members of the 162nd Fighter Wing often enlist after high school and spend most of their military careers here.

***"Our members are long-time community members. Everyone in Tucson seems to know at least one person who is in the unit."***

**- Chief Master Sgt. George Silvas**

A promotion to "chief" is never happenstance, however. By law, the Air Force promotes only two percent of its enlisted corps to the top grade. Airmen who attain it take on the duties of a senior leader and mentor. As most chiefs often admit, it's not a level they expected to reach when they first joined.



*(From the left) Chief Master Sergeants Gil Quiroz, Sandra Ahern, Edisa Salcido and George Silvas gather to congratulate Chief Ahern on her promotion to the Air Force's highest enlisted rank. The four chiefs are graduates from nearby Sunnyside High School. They, like many unit members, represent the wing's connection to the Tucson community and are examples of the career opportunities the Guard offers those who serve.*

Chief Ahern, class of 1983, enlisted in the Guard in 1988 after seeing a recruiting ad in the newspaper.

"All I knew in high school was that there was a Guard unit on Valencia and I always saw the planes flying overhead," said Chief Ahern who currently serves as her unit's plans and resources branch chief.

She began her career as a traditional, or part-time, Guardsman. By 1993 she was hired full time. She worked in the communications flight, the personnel office, the wing commander's office and eventually returned to communications where she works today.

"George and I have known each other since elementary school," she said. "We used to walk to school together. I met Edisa in junior high school and Gil later on after high school. Historically, I don't know of any other time when four chiefs in the wing came from the same high school. But because our members have always been a reflection of the community we serve, I wouldn't be surprised to learn that this has happened here before."

Chief Silvas, class of 1983, joined the unit in 1986 while attending Pima Community College. He said at age 21 he was looking for a career with structure and wanted to be a part of a team.

"The Guard offered that as well as education ben-



efits,” said Chief Silvas. “I grew up hearing the sound of the jets too, but it was really the people I knew who were in the Guard that brought me in. Our members are long-time community members. Everyone in Tucson seems to know at least one person who is in the unit.”

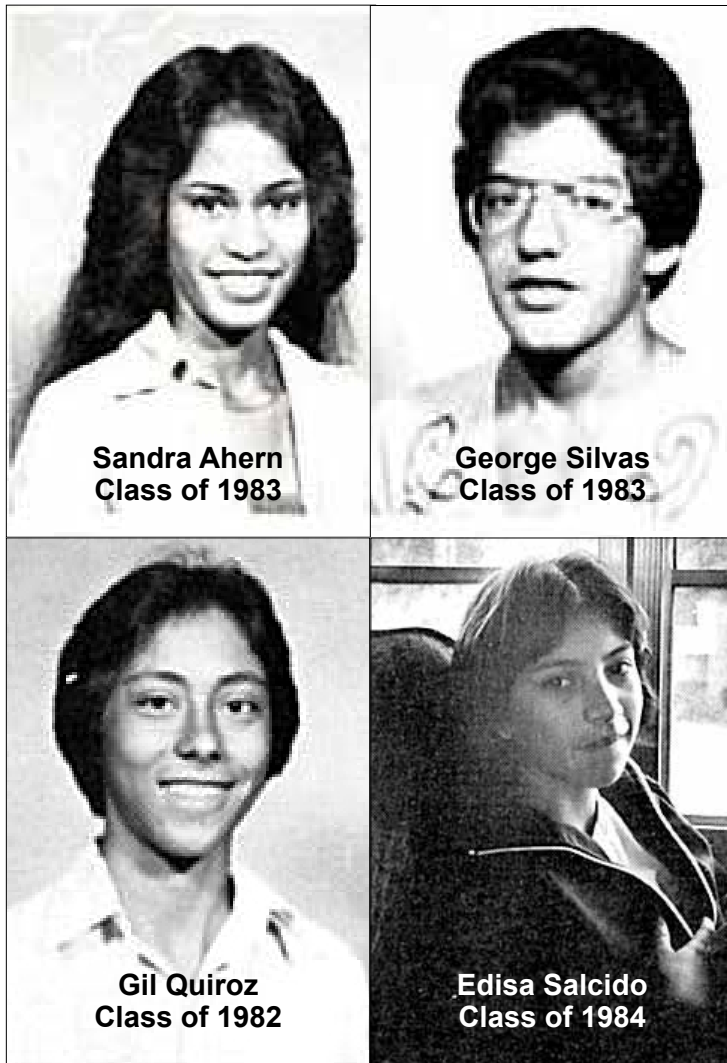
Chief Ahern attributes her success to the Airmen she’s worked with over the years.

“In my career, I’ve been truly blessed to have met and worked with all the people here, both current and retired. You grow up with these people. Together you play on softball teams, participate in wing events together, and experience changes in the unit together,” she said.

“What we have to do as chiefs is mentor the new generation serving the wing so that they have the same experience and success.”

“A chief has a desire to implement change and work together,” she said. “A chief is visible and knows what is going on in the wing, reserves judgment and does the right thing. I hope to be a productive chief master sergeant – engaged through interaction with people. I want to be there to listen and help people in their careers.”

### The “Sunnyside Chiefs”



**Sandra Ahern**  
Class of 1983

**George Silvas**  
Class of 1983

**Gil Quiroz**  
Class of 1982

**Edisa Salcido**  
Class of 1984

## BRIEFS

### Fall Retiree Events

**Oct. 1-2, Recognition Weekend:** Saturday, Awards & Hometown Heroes Ceremony. Retirees are encouraged to attend. The event in Hangar 10 starts promptly at noon. Sunday, Commander’s Briefing for retirees at 10 a.m. in the base auditorium in building 1. After the briefing, retirees are invited to participate in the Family Appreciation Day activities. Tickets are \$1 and can be purchased from Command Chief Master Sgt. Shane Clark. Call Chief Clark at 295-6161 to RSVP and reserve your tickets.

**Oct. 12, Semi-annual Luncheon:** Golden Corral, 4380 E. 22nd St., 11 a.m. (Note: lunch will be held in lieu of breakfast on this date.)

**Oct. 31, Monthly Flightline Luncheon:** Skybox Cafe, NE corner of River Road and Craycroft, noon.

**Nov. 9, Monthly breakfast in Tucson:** Location to be determined, 7:30 a.m.

**Nov. 28, Monthly Flightline Luncheon:** Skybox Cafe, NE corner of River Road and Craycroft, noon.

### Retiree Remembered

**Paul Munie** recently passed away. He was a U.S. Army World War II veteran that came to the 162nd and continued his military career serving in the radio shop. We extend sincere condolences to Paul’s family and friends.

### Thank You

The public affairs staff express their sincere appreciation to wing leadership, wing members current and former, families and community members who have supported the print version of *El Tigre* for 52 years. It has been an honor to carry on the *El Tigre* tradition with you - it has been an honor to tell your story in these pages. Though your service and achievements will continue to be written, photographed and published in other forms, we will always remember the base newspaper. - *El Tigre* (in print) signing off.



# Wing poised for Expeditionary Combat Support System

from the 162nd Logistics  
Readiness Squadron

The Air Force is in the midst of an historic transformation. The way it's organized and the ways that airpower is employed are changing in revolutionary ways. Changing, too, are the ways in which Air Force logisticians provide support to warfighters.

The Expeditionary Combat Support System (ECSS) is the cornerstone enabler of the logistics transformation effort. Using an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software solution, ECSS is applying best commercial practices and using industry-proven tools to establish the Air Force's first capability to globally view and manage its logistics resources - major end items, materiel, people and funds.

But ECSS is much more than an IT system. It will fundamentally change business processes, personnel roles and jobs across the spectrum of the Air Force logistics community. Locally, ECSS will drive dramatic changes and improvements in the way logistics is done.

For example, the process of scheduling a repair currently means setting a repair date on the base level without the ability to ensure technicians, parts, facilities, tools, etc., are available Air Force wide. With ECSS, an integrated global view of people and parts availability will enable greater scheduling effectiveness and ultimately increase availability of repaired components or major end items. Simply put, Air Force logisticians will have what they need to get the job done when repairs are system-scheduled under ECSS.

Citing another example, today Air Force logisticians collectively rely on paper forms and enter data into multiple base-level systems. This

*Mr. Mike McCarthy, Air National Guard Readiness Center, explains ECSS.*



labor-intensive effort will be replaced by entering data once into one system. When fully implemented, ECSS will replace hundreds of logistics information systems and will be the single source of truth for logistics information.

While it will be several years before ECSS reaches full operational capability and its benefits are fully realized, the implementation process is already underway. And, that process will affect the 162nd very soon as the wing is postured to implement ECSS by May 2013.

To help with that preparation, the ECSS program conducted its kick-off meeting with 162nd Fighter Wing leaders and ECSS users Aug. 23. During the meeting, an ECSS program official from the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Mr. Mike McCarthy, provided an informational and educational briefing about ECSS, its goals, program timelines and how the Air Force will be affected.

At the kick-off, Mr. McCarthy introduced our field agent, Mr. Steve Oliver, to the base leadership and base population. Mr. Oliver is part of Team ECSS and will assist the 162nd's site transformation lead on various ECSS activities. The site transformation lead is Lt. Col. Gregory Bliss, 162nd Logistics Readiness Squadron commander. Colonel Bliss will work with each section to ensure all are ready for ECSS.

The kick-off represents the begin-

ning of the ECSS organizational change management program, which is designed to prepare everyone for this transformation effort.

History tells us that no change is ever successful until individual behaviors change. The people who perform Air Force logistics processes, from all functional communities, must personally engage in the transformative aspects of ECSS in order for it to succeed.

As is always the case, these sweeping changes will not be easy, as long-standing ways of doing business will either dramatically change or completely disappear. ECSS will pull people from their comfort zones and cause them to do new tasks in different, unfamiliar ways. To help logisticians navigate these changes, the ECSS program will provide education and training programs for those who will use the new system.

An Air Force-wide change agent network, supported by an ECSS program team, will share information on ECSS activities, schedules and lessons learned and conduct local problem-solving meetings to help smooth implementation at each installation. This same network will support the sustainment of ECSS after fielding is completed.

ECSS will drive changes in the way the Air Force does business and the way logisticians perform their jobs. The result will be an Air Force enterprise better enabled to provide its warfighters the right materiel at the right time. ECSS will also enable logisticians to use their time more productively, significantly reducing the cost of accomplishing the Air Force logistics mission.

Under the current schedule, the 162nd Fighter Wing will be among the first to realize the benefits that ECSS will bring to the Air Force. To learn more about ECSS, visit <https://www.ecss.wpafb.af.mil>.





# Patriot Golf Day Tournament raises \$30K for military charities

Story and photo by Maj. Gabe Johnson  
Public Affairs

Nearly 200 local service and community members braved the summer monsoons during a golf tournament to raise more than \$30,000 for charities that benefit military families.

An extended lull between local lightning storms Sept. 12 gave Airmen from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the Arizona National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing, a chance to hit the links at Ventana Canyon Country Club in northeast Tucson for the second annual Patriot Golf Day Tournament.

"After the drill weekend, our wing had a scheduled day off," said Lt. Col. Doug Hadley, a military representative on the tournament committee and an F-16 pilot with the 162nd. "I can't think of a better way to spend the day – playing golf for a great cause. This event generates a lot of funds that will help many people."

Patriot Golf Day raised funds for the Folds of Honor Foundation which provides post-secondary educational scholarships for children and spouses of military servicemembers killed or disabled while serving. While it is a national organization, the funds raised in Tucson are earmarked to benefit two local students.

"It was very important for us that these funds stayed in our local community," said Paul Adamsbaum, tournament chair for the country club, "So we worked with Folds of Honor to ensure we could keep the funds here to help Arizona Families."

The second local organization to benefit is the Jimmy Jet Foundation – a non-profit Arizona corporation serving 162nd Fighter Wing members, their families and the Tucson community.

The Jimmy Jet Foundation assists unit and community members in need, more specifically, those who suffer financial setbacks due to unforeseen events in their lives. Other annual services include: scholarships for active and retired members and their dependents, care and assistance to hospitalized members of the community, programs for charitable purposes, and home renovations and transportation assistance for members and their families in need.

According to Adamsbaum, the inspiration for the



*Staff Sgt. Jose Toro, left, and Master Sgt. Frank Enfinger, members of the 162nd Fighter Wing Honor Guard based at Tucson International Airport, present the colors at the start of the second annual Patriot Golf Day Tournament at Ventana Canyon Country Club, Sept. 12. More than 170 Airmen from the Arizona Air Guard and from Davis Monthan Air Force Base along with several community members, participated to raise funds for military charities.*

tournament came while watching golf on television.

"I was watching the PGA championship back in the summer of 2009 and a [public service announcement] came on the air for a Patriot Golf Day and I thought it was a great way to show our support for the troops in Tucson," he said. "We always talk about 'supporting the troops,' but this is a way to actually do it. We put the first local Patriot Golf Day together last year and it really took off."

In 2010, the tournament raised \$18,000 for Folds of Honor placing the event in the charity's top ten most successful fundraisers in the country for that year. This year, Adamsbaum projects that the tournament will net nearly double that amount.

"We have a hard working board of volunteers with a real passion for this, we have the support of the course management, the country club members and we've had very generous corporate sponsors," he said.

In all, the tournament hosted about 100 enlisted, 40 officers, and 35 community members. Officers, civilians and guests paid \$50 each to play the pristine course, but the enlisted were invited to play for free.

"That was our third objective," said Adamsbaum. "After helping Folds of Honor and Jimmy Jet, we wanted to say 'Thank you' to the Air Force and Air Guard, especially the enlisted members."

For more on the Folds of Honor Foundation, visit [www.foldsofhonor.org](http://www.foldsofhonor.org).



# All in the EL TIGRE Family

**Military Promotions:**

**To Chief Master Sergeant**

Armando Gonzalez  
Jacinta Figueroa  
Sandra Ahern

**To Senior Master Sergeant**

Emily Guchereau  
Fernando Cuevas  
Marc Polanco

**To Master Sergeant**

Clayton Barker  
Michael Radice  
Amie Neighbors  
Michael Coleman  
Mitchell Awana  
Bruce Newcomb  
Omar Fernandez  
Michael McCurdy

**To Tech. Sergeant**

Jamie Hawkins  
Jacqueline Crow  
Raymond Marquez  
Eric Hall  
Todd Conaway  
Chandra Garman  
Jacob Sulwer  
William Tully  
Todd Dawson

Rene Federico  
Joseph Ferreira  
Melissa Ballesteros  
Eric Klajda

**To Staff Sergeant**

Brian Milligan  
John Greer  
Travis Wilson  
Christopher Raines  
Patrick Ramirez  
Ana Canillas  
Jose Ordaz  
Adam Fuller  
Steven Fontes  
Daniel Hoffman  
Leslie Ramirez  
Thomas Berezny

**To Senior Airman**

Paul Stewart  
Nicholas Warren  
Daniel Valdez  
Justin Koughn  
Cody Darby  
Manuel Bentiez  
Julio Gasca  
Larry Miller  
Brandon Butler  
Elliot Smith  
Paul Carrizosa  
Ryan Anderson

Anthony Soto  
Scott Vickers

**To Airman 1st Class**

Lorraine Gonzales

**Births**

Tech. Sgt. Eugene & Charlotte Sanders are proud parents of a baby boy, Taylor Alexander Sanders, born Aug. 4. He weighed in at 8.1 pounds and measured 22 inches.

Capt. Ben Swope and his wife Addie welcomed Alycia Irene Swope, born June 27. She was 8 pounds 3 ounces and 20 3/4 inches.

Tech. Sgt. Sean Pierce and his wife Patricia had a healthy baby girl July 1. Allie Renee Pierce weighed 8.4 pounds and was 20 inches long.

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Smith and wife, Brooklyn, welcomed the birth of their third daughter, Jossalyn Olivia Smith.

Tech. Sgt. Ernest Ortner and his wife Cassie, welcomed the birth of their son Easton Ortner.

1. Clip this page. ----->
2. Post it in a visible place.
3. It's a helpful reminder that looks cool all year.

## Wing Quarterly Award winners: 3rd Quarter 2011

 <p><b>SrA Jessica Southwell</b> 162FW Airman of the Quarter Jul - Sep 2011</p>	 <p><b>TSgt Amie Neighbors</b> 162FW NCO of the Quarter Jul - Sep 2011</p>	 <p><b>MSgt Henry Ivy</b> 162FW SNCO of the Quarter Jul - Sep 2011</p>	 <p><b>Maj Bryan Rhodes</b> 162FW Officer of the Quarter Jul - Sep 2011</p>
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# 162ND FIGHTER WING 2012 UTA SCHEDULE

JANUARY	7-8
FEBRUARY	11-12
MARCH	3-4
APRIL	14-15
MAY	5-6
JUNE	2-3
JULY	14-15
AUGUST	4-5
SEPTEMBER	8-9
OCTOBER	13-14
NOVEMBER	3-4
DECEMBER	1-2



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TUCSON, AZ



## IN PHOTOS



◀ Members of the 162nd Headquarters Squadron negotiate one of several obstacles at the Leadership Reaction Course at Fort Huachuca, Sept. 11.



◀ Col. Mick McGuire gives the oath of enlistment to Jeremy Chafin on Sept. 11.

▶ Four members of the 162nd Fighter Wing flew with the largest number of F-16 flying hours ever flown in a four-ship formation - a total of 14,834.3 -



in 4th of July flybys this year. The flybys, which took place over Independence Day celebrations in Sierra Vista and Mt. Lemmon, Ariz., were flown by Lt. Col. Moon Milham with 3,844.9 hours, Lt. Col. Eric Salomonson with 4,462 hours, Lt. Col. Don McMillen with 3,948.6 hours, and Lt. Col. Chuck Blank with 2,578.8 hours.

▶ Maj. (Ret.) Ronald Ladavac gives the oath to Aaron Phillips on Sept. 11 as well. Both new Airmen made it a point to enlist on the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States as a symbol of the sense of purpose.



◀ Chief Master Sgt. Bill Minter gets a pie in the face Aug. 6 from Airman 1st Class Michael Labreque. The 162nd Fighter Wing Junior Enlisted Council and wing senior leaders worked together on the "Pie in the Face" fund raising event to benefit several worthy JEC programs.



▲ Staff Sgt. Haley Bia, security forces, aims her M-4 rifle during a rescue exercise Aug. 10 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Like us at [www.Facebook.com/162FW](http://www.Facebook.com/162FW)