



309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group



309 AMARG Renewing the Force...

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309 AMARG's Area 25, supporting the mission's "tools" of the trade

Situated near Irvington Road on Tucson's far east side, almost 320,000 pieces of aircraft production tooling create a staccato horizon which appears to end at the base of the Rincon Mountains. Stored within 309 AMARG's perimeter fence, this valuable production tooling was once used by American contractors on aircraft assembly lines to produce military hardware.

"Tooling," officially named Area 25, is home to production plates, jigs, molds, forms, dies and other components for all services according to Mr. Darrell Lewandowski, 309 Support Squadron's (309 SPTS) material's examiner leader.

Tooling and Storage are both components of 309 SPTS's special assets branch and provide a valuable service to the aerospace industry, saving our government millions by preserving these vital materials. *Tooling* receives, preserves, stores and ships the aircraft production tooling and *Storage* duplicates the process for pilferable aircraft parts, classified parts, and those containing special metals, blades, propellers, guns and other similar items removed during an aircraft's process in to 309 AMARG.

Because contractors continue to use the stored items, Tooling handles as many as five requests per week for the withdrawal of various tooling components.

The larger, statuesque-like tooling items are preserved with an Armor-Shield coating, a dark gray paint-like material and a white rubbery paint protects boxes.

The tooling is inspected each week for preservation and boxes are checked for weather rot and damage. The Arizona sun, temperature extremes, and low humidity take a toll on tooling storage boxes. Among the thousands of boxes

maintained by Tooling, an average of 30 per week are identified for repair or replacement, according to Mr. Lewandowski.



309 SPTS Special Assets Branch, Tooling and Storage teams halt from a hectic schedule of processing more than 300 pieces of aircraft production tooling per week. From left, Don Houlihan, Paul Craft, Bob Simmons, Ed Bellenger, Darrell Lewandowski, Bill Wetz, Ron Craig, A.J. Francis, Mark Babcock, and Chris O'Rourke. Not shown, Matasaua Migi, Andy Scarrow and Ms. Sammie Hansen

On any given day the team handles a diverse group of tasks. Tools, parts, and other small items must be transferred from old boxes to new. Box bottoms, including their support frameworks, which keep boxes off the ground and tilted for rain runoff during Monsoonal downpours, must be inspected. Boxes and tooling must be sprayed with preservative materials.

The team also prepares areas to receive deliveries of new items, such as the tooling currently arriving for the B-2, EA-6B and C-135 airframes. This includes inspecting for damage, completing paperwork and database entries, and moving items to assigned locations. A meticulously-kept inventory of every piece of tooling enables the team to locate pieces for customer queries or shipments.

"We may process more than 300 items a week," said Mr. Lewandowski. "These are super guys who do a great job for AMARG!"

Like their counterparts in 309 AMARG's aircraft preservation and parts reclamation, the tooling team works in a demanding environment. However, since the completion of a new modern-day facility in 2008 dubbed the Desert Oasis, temperature extremes can be thwarted during break time.



Andy Scarrow prepares to re-box C-5 aircraft tooling. The box will be sealed and preserved with a white rubbery coating, placed in outdoor storage and assigned a row within Area 25.

According to Mr. Lewandowski the new building made a huge difference in the team's morale and overall contentment.

Of course, run-ins with a few of the desert's denizens are common place in Area 25. Jackrabbits, quail, and rattlesnakes frequently seek the man-made shelters for protection from

predators and the hot summer sun.

"We see a tremendous number of rabbits and families of quail," said Mr. Lewandowski, "but we leave them alone, we're not that hungry yet," he said with a gentle smile.



Almost 320,000 pieces of production tooling from the assembly lines of B-1B, EA-6B, C-135, B-52, B-2 and other military aircraft are stored at 309 AMARG. Pictured above is an aircraft assembly jig.

History Channel episode depicts 309 AMARG in a “Life After People”

A film crew from Flight 33 Productions visited 309 AMARG on April 10 to film an episode for The History Channel’s new Life After People television series. In keeping with the original pilot aired in 2008, Life After People explores how cities and landscapes might change over the course of time if there were no people.

This particular episode featuring the 309 AMARG is scheduled to air next month. It will explain the preservation processes aircraft undergo at 309 AMARG in order to endure the extreme desert temperatures and other naturally-occurring elements unleashed by mother nature during storage.

“A lot goes into preserving these aircraft,” said Mr. Jack Kruger, Storage Services Flight Chief, 578th Storage & Disposal Squadron (578 SDS).

“Arriving aircraft must have their egress systems made safe, fuel removed, engines and fuel systems preserved and a complete wash and corrosion inspection before being sealed up and parked,” he said.

Sealing consists of different stages. A black electrician-type tape covers crevices and joints and a barrier material is applied to engine inlets, exhausts and sensitive areas to keep out birds and rodents. Radomes, de-icer boots and canopies are waxed to keep the preservation material from adhering to surfaces.

“After taping, technicians apply two coats of black Spraylat (both the name of the company and the preservative compound) to seal the aircraft, said Mr. Kruger. “Finally, a couple of coats of white

Spraylat, the visible coating seen on the aircraft from the perimeter fence, is applied to keep the airframe’s interior temperatures within 10 to 15 degrees of ambient temp.”

With the assistance of computer-generated imagery (CGI), the producers will attempt to depict what would happen to these aircraft if humankind were to disappear from the Earth.

However according to Mr. Kruger, the show’s CGI, which rapidly deteriorates objects exposed to the elements, is not going to be an easy undertaking due the amount of effort AMARG teams put into preserving these aircraft to ensure they are ready when operational forces call them back.



Flight 33 Productions director, Mr. Savas Georgales (l) interviews Mr. Jack Kruger on AMARG’s unique aircraft storage processes for a June 2009 episode of The History Channel’s “Life After People..” Right, Mr. Dave Roe, AMARG’s senior engineer, describes nature’s impact on aircraft in a “Life After People” scenario.



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Security matters at 309 AMARG

Security issues surround us. We hear it over the airwaves, and it jumps out at us from daily newspaper headlines. We're a society focused on the security of our personal data, our families, our workplace, our economy, and our nation.

Fortunately, 309 AMARG has a Security Team who are extremely dedicated and take the demand of their jobs very seriously, helping to keep those security stressors at bay.

"Most people view the Security Office as the place you go to get your AMARG Badge so you can enter AMARG to do your official work," said Dr. David Muhleman, Chief of Security for the Group.

In fact, there is a great deal more to security than the dozens of security badges they must research, prepare, and verify on a daily basis. The three-member security team faces a daunting task, 12 miles of perimeter fence line, 2,600 acres, security for the almost 700 civilian, military and contractor employees, and the responsibility for safeguarding more than \$35 billion worth of Department of Defense aerospace assets.

Another challenge, according to Dr. Muhleman, has been processing and managing hundreds of personnel security clearances, clearances required to retain

government employment with the Group. The Security team coordinates schedules across the spectrum of the 309 AMARG workforce from office and administrative staff members to mechanics and technicians operating in the field. Their diligence in this area ensures that many Group employees remain on the job with valid and up-to-date security clearances.

The world is a dangerous place with people ready, willing and able to cause harm to the United States. As the world continues to ramp up its focus on ways to counter these threats, the Security Team's myriad internal programs (information security, operations security, and anti-terrorism) will follow suit.

"We go to great lengths to assure the protection, at the correct level, of classified materials that may be associated with arriving aircraft," Dr. Muhleman said. He also noted that although classified material requires specific, mandatory protective measures, organizations

hostile to the United States, including both foreign governments as well as non-governmental organizations, are willing to go to great lengths to acquire information they can use against us.

"If people think that sounds paranoid," Dr. Muhleman said, "take a look at the number of computer hackers, identity thieves, criminals and terrorists we hear about in the news on a daily basis. Compare that to the amount of information publicly available, because of our free country, and you'll have some idea of the challenge. Operational security – protecting those pieces of information that might be put together to give our adversaries information they can use against us – is a huge deal."

"Security of our 309 AMARG team is one of our highest priorities," said Dr. Muhleman. Whether monitoring the perimeter for potential trespassers, interacting with members of the public who request entry to the facility, or preparing Group employees for foreign travel, "The 309 AMARG Security Office is here to protect our most valuable assets; our people."

"We're happy to be the place where you go to get your 309 AMARG badge," Dr. Muhleman said. "But the mission of the AMARG Security Office is to 'secure and protect' the people, the equipment/information, and the mission of AMARG.

Their seamless efforts on our behalf, often "under the radar," make the 309 AMARG Security Team worthy of the title, Unsung Heroes.



309 AMARG Security personnel safeguarding \$35 billion worth of Department of Defense aerospace assets and the people, equipment, and information of AMARG. From left, Security Managers Bryan Downing and Shirley Longoria, and Dr. David Muhleman, Chief of 309 AMARG Security

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