



309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group



309 AMARG

Renewing the Force...

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Celebrating 64 years of support to our nation's warfighters

The 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (309 AMARG) began its 64th year sustaining America's warfighters on April 1, 2010.

Occupying 2,600 acres of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base real estate, the Group currently stores slightly more than 4,000 aircraft and 11 aerospace vehicles for the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Coast Guard (Department of Homeland Security), and other agencies including NASA, the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, the State Department and the U.S. Forest Service. A more recent customer, the Royal Norwegian Air Force, stores five C-130Hs here as well.

Established by the Army as the 4105th Army Air Base Unit on April 1, 1946 to store post WWII B-29s and C-47s, this varied aerospace fleet provides a unique savings account from which U.S. and foreign allied militaries and government agencies throughout the world may withdraw parts and aircraft now and into the future.

Tucson's meager rainfall, low humidity, and hard "caliche" sub-soil made an ideal site for aircraft storage. Low moisture minimized deterioration and corrosion, while the caliche (a clay-like sub-soil nearly as hard as cement) permitted the largest aircraft to be parked without replacing the desert surface with concrete or steel parking ramps.

The Group's ancestor organization regenerated many C-47s in support of the cargo carrying needs of the Berlin Airlift. Two years later, the unit began regenerating B-29 "Superfortresses" and reclaiming thousands of aircraft components in support of the Korean War.

In 1964, the Secretary of Defense directed the consolidation of all military aircraft storage and disposition facilities into a single entity, resulting in the organization's conversion to the Military Aircraft Storage and Disposition Center or MASDC. In 1985, the addition of aerospace vehicles (Titan II missiles) as well

as the Group's growing capability for restoring aircraft to flying status, prompted another name change to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center, AMARC.

In May 2007, AMARC aligned under the 309th Maintenance Wing at Hill AFB, Utah transitioning from AMARC to the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group or 309 AMARG.

For almost six and a half decades, 309 AMARG has evolved with the Air Force into a modern, high-tech industrial facility, providing its customers with a broad range of aircraft support services. These services include aircraft storage, parts reclamation, aircraft regeneration (restoration to flight capability), depot-level maintenance and aircraft disposal.

As 309 AMARG moves into the future, its mission will continue

to evolve, embracing new and, innovative techniques necessary to sustain American, allied and coalition warfighters by providing just-in-time delivery and a quality product.



Then...a mechanic performs an engine run on a B-17 bomber in preparation for flight.



And now! A 309 AMARG crew prepares to launch a C-130H after undergoing almost 18,000 hours of depot maintenance.

New portable shade timely as desert temperatures begin to rise

A custom-designed fabric shelter large enough to rival a traveling circus tent is almost ready for occupancy. Close to 5 stories tall, the 150-foot long structure was purchased by the Naval Inventory Control Point's (NAVICP) local field service office (FSO) here to provide shade for 309 AMARG's 577th Commodities & Reclamation Squadron (CMRS) workers.

"We [Navy] are partners with AMARG, as well as good customers, and are always looking for ways to assist AMARG in making things better for their employees," said Mr. Tim Horn, director of the local FSO.

The structure's moveable canopy and tracks are built on a 10-inch thick concrete pad rated at 4000 psi.

"We even included the standard Navy tie-downs and grounding points," said Mr. Horn. "This means more tie-downs," he said with a chuckle referring to the number of anchors required to secure an aircraft to a ship during rough seas.

With precision, CMRS

mechanics are currently dismantling Navy P-3 "Orion" aircraft for shipment to a foreign ally and have 10 remaining air frames to complete. The shelter

can accommodate one P-3 aircraft or three fighter jets at a time.

"We'll be able to protect our employees from the intense summer sun, increasing morale and productivity," said Mr. Tony Draper, the 577th's squadron director. "This means a lot to our bottom-line," he said.

Using "sweep-up" monies or unexpended funds available at the end of the year, the Navy invested almost \$700K on this project and has plans to fund additional improvements in the area.

"We're also going to try to place a more environmentally friendly, noise reducing generator out there as well," said Horn.

Navy dollars are also funding the construction of two new maintenance pads located south of AMARG's 1960's-era maintenance hangar and a pad extension complete with shelter in the aircraft tooling area.

"It's all about improving working conditions," said Mr. Horn. "AMARG personnel are doing a great job for the Navy and we want them to keep turning them [aircraft] out!" he said.



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Annual award nominees/winners recognized at March commander's call

Col. Thomas Schneider, 309 AMARG commander, kicked off his March 12 commanders call by recognizing employee excellence. Twenty-three employees were nominated from across the Group for their outstanding job performance during 2009 as well as their contributions to the Air Force and the Tucson community. The Commander presented each with a medallion representing their achievement and subsequent nomination. Nominees, from left, Mr. Henry Penna, Ms. Carolyn Barton, Mr. Brett Francis, Mr. Rob Raine, Mr. Dan Garcia, Mr. Rick Nelson, Mr. Ray Samorano, Mr. Donald Abram, Maj. Shirley Mercier, Ms. Cheryl Siedler, Mr. Bob Taylor, Mr. Rudy Perez, Mr. Rick Pearson, front row from left, Mr. Kurt Lee, Mr. Rod Vakoc, Mr. Ben Pasadilla, Ms. Pat LeClair, Mr. Travis Mattix, Mr. Kenny Armstrong, and Colonel Schneider. Not shown, Ms. Gina Mendivil, Mr. Howard Jones, Ms. Judy Ouillette, Ms. Cynthia Millard,

Employees of the Year winners were Mr. Kurt Lee; Mr. Ben Pasadilla; Ms. Gina Mendivil; Ms. Cheryl Siedler; Mr. Kenny Armstrong (Supervisor); and Maj. Shirley Mercier (Military).



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