



309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group



309 AMARG

Supporting the Warfighter 24/7...

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New Vision will vector AMARG forward to a successful future

By Robert Foley
309th AMARG Chief of Plans & Programs

In late August, Col. Patrick Kumashiro, commander of the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, assembled his leadership team to evaluate AMARG's strategic planning efforts and design the way forward for success.

After review of the fiscal challenges facing DoD over the next five years, the group focused on the development of a clear Vision for the future of the organization. Through an exceptionally precise and focused effort, the strategy team, comprised of Colonel Kumashiro, 309th flight chiefs, squadron leaders and directors, formulated a comprehensive Vision focusing on the needs and expectations of its broad spectrum of customers.

This final Vision statement reads:

"To be the premier logistics enterprise providing diverse, flexible, world-class depot level maintenance and logistics capability sustaining our joint, interagency, and international partners."

The banner slogan also developed at this strategic meeting reads "Sustaining our War Fighters 24/7" and epitomizes the dedicated efforts of the entire 309 AMARG community in ensuring everyone's pursuit contributes to the Vision.

Capitalizing on the work done at a recent Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, workshop on strategic planning, the team evaluated the organization's Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats, and Opportunities performing what is commonly referred to as a SWOT analysis.

This SWOT endeavor is designed to evaluate critical elements of the organization's business in the context of current environmental conditions while folding in future needs and demands of the customers.

The analysis was conducted around five primary business focus areas including People, Infrastructure, Process, Performance and Growth. Using this approach ensures AMARG remains consistent with both AFMC and 309th Maintenance Wing direction (AMARG is aligned under the 309th Maintenance Wing which is located at Hill Air Force Base, Utah).

Within each focus area the SWOT analysis revealed gaps between the current state of operations and the characteristics the Vision seeks to attain. This enabled the team to create goals for each of the focus areas:

Focus Areas	Goals
People	Recruit, train, educate, mentor & retain our multi-skilled workforce
Infrastructure	Adapting maintenance repair and infrastructure to build capacity/capability for future customer requirements
Process and Performance	Optimizing quality, cost and schedule
Growth	Create a successful and relevant business environment that attracts new business opportunities

With each of these goals comes the obligation to develop objectives, initiatives and measures to ensure success.

As such, there is much work to be done, but under Colonel Kumashiro's leadership, the way forward for the success of 309 AMARG has been mapped.



309 AMARG Vision

"To be the premier logistics enterprise providing diverse, flexible, world-class depot level maintenance and logistics capability sustaining our joint, interagency, and international partners."

AMARG blood donor helps many to be able to enjoy Halloween fun

Ghosts, goblins, ghouls and vampires take flight this time of year to give goosebumps and spine-chilling thrills to both the young and the young at heart.

But there are some that would not be well enough to enjoy the Halloween frivolities without the help of Mr. Roger Meeker (shown right), a 576th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Squadron aircraft electrical worklead.

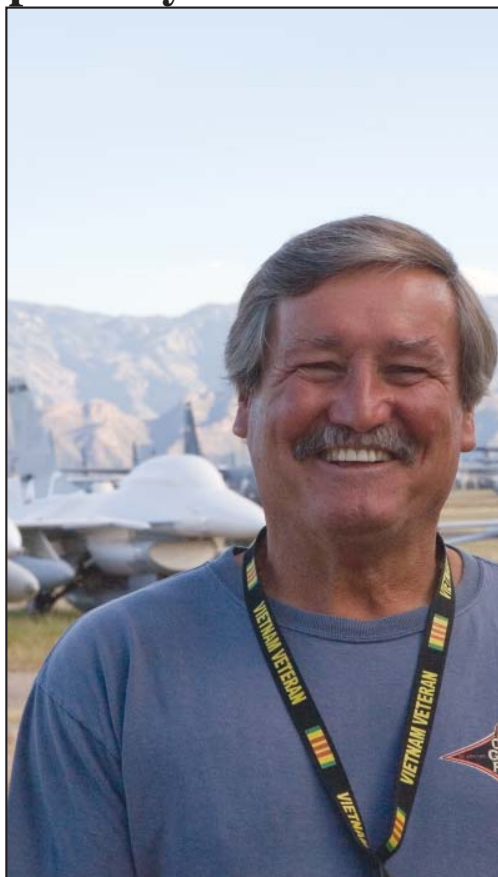
Mr. Meeker, a 30-year veteran of AMARG, and an American Red Cross Baby Brigade blood donor, is one of only a few people in Tucson that have very unique blood properties safe enough for infants and people with weakened immune systems.

The Baby Brigade donors have type 0 negative or 0 positive blood that tests free of a common virus called cytomegalovirus, a common virus in the same family of chickenpox, herpes simplex and mononucleosis.

"I have Type-0-Positive," said Mr. Meeker, "from being a very "Positive" person!"

Mr. Meeker's critical blood donations are used primarily for newborns and premature babies, but can also be used for people with compromised immune systems such as cancer patients.

Since 1980, Mr. Meeker has donated a pint of blood every 56 days (8 weeks) and by next summer will have donated 25 gallons or 200 pints



of blood!

The entire process of giving blood takes an hour or less and according to Mr. Meeker, only 4 or 5 minutes includes the needle.

"I figure I can get rid of some of this old tired blood and maybe it'll slow down the younger kids some," he said with his famous grin-and-a-wink.

Being funny comes natural for Mr. Meeker as his father performed as "Candy" the clown for 25 years.

"I guess some of dad probably rubbed off," said Mr. Meeker.

On a more serious note, Mr. Meeker added that many of our military are blood donors and it's important that civilians step up to the plate while they are deployed.

According to Mr. Meeker, his 15-year old daughter's goal, at 16, is to be eligible to donate to the Baby Brigade alongside her father.

"It's always good to know that the blood is going to be there when it's needed," said Meeker.

AMARG's next American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled to take place on Friday, November 5, 2010. If interested in donating, please contact the AMARG point of contact, Mr. Tim McClaghry at 228-8875.

Mr. Roger Meeker, a 576 AMRS aircraft electrician, has donated almost 25 gallons (200 pints) of blood to the American Red Cross Baby Brigade.

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Written memories on warplanes past capture true spirits of "Boneyard"

Fading handwritten epitaphs drawn from memories of conflict, courage and camaraderie, tattoo the ashen-colored paint on AMARG's heroic collection of fighters, bombers and cargo aircraft.

On some, poignant thoughts of triumphant feats and gallant performances are described in only a few words, though there is a much deeper story.

Delicately stenciled prose is scribed with sentiment, as if written for a loved one making their journey to a final resting place.

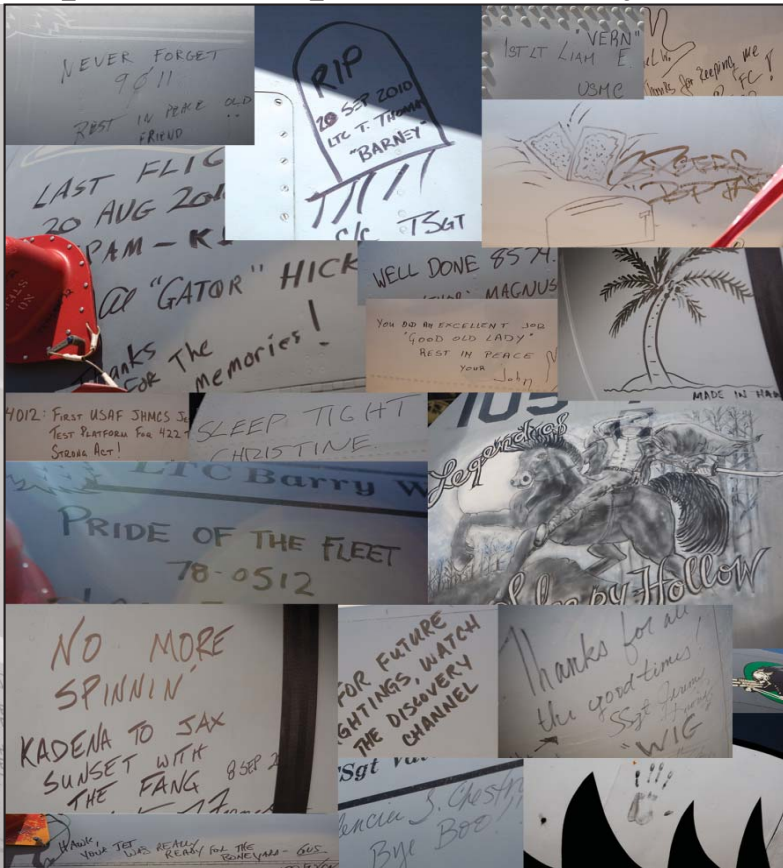
A C-141 bears the many heartfelt "thanks" for a pilot's incredible and almost impossible landing in 1977 that spared the lives of crewmembers on board.

Though these are only snippets from moments in history, a sense of pride, confidence, and devotion to this country develops from reading this mix of tell-tale calligraphy and hieroglyphics.

Evident is a strong appreciation for these aircraft by pilot and crew. These are the aircraft that carried them into theaters of war, delivered victories in battle, assisted in providing relief during U.S. humanitarian efforts, jointly protected the homeland and safely returned deployed troops home to friends and family. A connection that will bind both man and machine eternally.

As if headstones in a graveyard, their signatures bid farewell to these "spirits" of aviation;

however, the true spirits of these aircraft come not from the planes themselves, but from the memories of the men and women who once flew and maintained them.



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