



309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group



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“I am an American!” A 309 AMARG employee achieves his dream

Mr. Jose “Joe” Chacon, a contract employee working at AMARG for more than six years, was sworn in as one of Arizona’s newest U.S. citizens on February 25 during a naturalization ceremony held at the U.S. Federal Court building in Tucson.

Born in Brazil to Spanish parents, Joe emigrated to Canada with his family when he was three years old and despite his age, the young Mr. Chacon developed a strong affinity for the American way of life during family visits to the United States.

“I’ve wanted to be an American since I was a small boy,” said Mr. Chacon. “I felt welcomed here and always appreciated the culture and history. Americans were embracing and the nicest people. I never felt like an outsider, and it has always felt like home” he said.

Acquiring a work visa in 2000, Joe worked in the U.S. auto industry as a consultant and traveled throughout the world to various manufacturing plants. Mastering two engineering degrees, one mechanical and the other industrial, and skilled in operations management, he led major automaker managers in profitable company turnarounds.

“I have traveled to more than 20 different countries, and without question, the United States of America is the best country in the world!” Joe exclaimed. According to Mr. Chacon, Americans possess a patriotic passion unlike anywhere else in the world.

Mr. Chacon’s wife Debbie and daughter Julia, accompanied him as he led 48 new citizens in the ceremony’s Pledge of Allegiance, whose countries of origin included, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Russia, Venezuela, Vietnam, and Western Samoa.

Bringing the event to life, several 309 AMARG employees in attendance held up signs of inspiration and were no doubt part of the same league of supporters who wrote letters to the immigration office on Mr. Chacon’s behalf.

“From the first day he came to AMARG, Joe has prided himself in being an exemplary citizen, a patriot and most dedicated to AMARG and the U.S. Air Force mission,” said Mr. Robert Foley, Chief of AMARG’s Plans & Programs. “His professionalism distinguishes him as a model of what a member of the Air Force team should strive to be. Beyond that, his integrity and undying enthusiasm make his contributions all the more influential. Each and every day, Joe works his hardest to help everyone he supports to improve both personally and professionally,” he added.

Describing how he felt immediately after the ceremony, Joe said he was “exhausted and exhilarated at the same time.”

“The jubilation I felt was even stronger than the first time I placed an Arizona license plate on my vehicle” said Mr. Chacon.

“There are times in your life when you walk away from an event feeling especially proud, this ceremony was one of those times,” he explained.

According to Joe, though his path to U.S. citizenship was at times frustrating and emotional, he believes perseverance is the key and the journey very well worth it.

“I can’t thank my family, friends, and co-workers enough for their

“I have traveled to more than 20 different countries, and without question, the United States of America is the best country in the world!”
Joe Chacon, U.S. Citizen

tremendous support,” said Mr. Chacon. “Someone even came up to me here at work, extended their hand and said “thank you for becoming an American.”

Of course, there are expenses involved in acquiring a citizenship, but Mr. Chacon’s thoughts are “you can’t put a price on belonging and being home.”

Mr. Chacon’s final expressions reveal the importance of this milestone.

“I am an American, the dream is achievable, and I now want to find ways to give back to this nation which has given so much to me and my family,” he said. “It’s a wonderful feeling being an American and I can now rest at ease.”



Left, Mr. Jose “Joe” Chacon, an employee of 309 AMARG, displays the unmistakable smile of pride after becoming one of Arizona’s newest United States citizens.



AMARG co-workers, Mr. Reginald Williams and Mr. Erick Perez display signs of support at Mr. Chacon’s naturalization ceremony held in February at the U.S. Federal Court building in Tucson.

Canadian Forces retires two CP-140A “Arcturus” aircraft into AMARG

Leaving the extreme cold temperatures and five-foot snow drifts behind in Greenwood, Nova Scotia, the last of two Department of National Defense Canadian Forces CP-140A “Arcturus” aircraft bound for storage in the Arizona desert arrived at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group here on Tuesday.

Built by Lockheed, the CP-140A is a variant of Canada’s CP-140 “Aurora,” but lacks the heavy anti-submarine warfare equipment found on the CP-140. The Arcturus is lighter, more fuel efficient, and considered ideal to train flight crews during touch-and-go landings as well as support coastal surface patrol missions.

The 20-year old CP-140As, are said to be two of the final three “P-3” air frames produced at Lockheed’s Burbank, Calif. plant.

Both aircraft will be placed in a long-term or inactivate storage, also referred to as Type 1000 storage, indicating the aircraft will likely be candidates for future withdrawal.

Externally identical to the Navy’s P-3, the

deep distinctive color of both CP-140As will clearly distinguish them from the Orions already parked here.

The U.S. Navy Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) PMA-290 located at Patuxent River, MD, coordinated both CP-140A aircraft retirements with Canadian Forces, and representatives from the local Naval Inventory Control Point’s Field Service Office welcomed the Arctic flight crew upon arrival. Also making the journey across the United States were

several uniformed Canadian Forces photojournalists, assigned to document this Arcturus’ final 8-hour mission.

The retirement of these Canadian CP-140A aircraft brings the number of aircraft stored by foreign militaries to eight. The Royal Norwegian Air Force continues to store five C-130Hs, and one C-137 (E-3A) belongs to NATO, Germany.



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AMARG's Chief of Staff chosen to receive Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award

Maj. Kathryn Roman, 309 AMARG's Chief of Staff, was recently selected to receive the Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award, recognizing her as the Air Force Materiel Command's Aircraft Maintenance Field Grade Manager of 2010.

The Lieutenant General Leo Marquez Award is presented to maintainers who have demonstrated a high degree of sustained job performance, and job knowledge, efficiency and results in the categories of aircraft, munitions and missile, and communications-electronics maintenance.

Filling an important position here, Major Roman is one of only two active duty military members assigned to the Group and represents AMARG well.

Both on and off the battlefield, Major Roman's achievements as a Field Grade Manager are impressive; however, due to the limited amount of space, only a portion of her accomplishments are noted.

As the first operations officer for the 451st Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Major Roman determined the requirement



for, and aggressively stood up, an entire squadron. Her organizational structure formed such a solid foundation for this fledgling unit that it continues to thrive on one of the area's busiest bases.

She facilitated three Air Force Smart Operations 21 events during the same deployment, streamlining and discarding stale maintenance practices and applying corporate techniques such as 6 S methodology. Major Roman eliminated \$150,000.00 worth of excess equipment.

During a devastating flash flood on a base in Central Asia, Major Roman plowed through the bureaucracy and quickly coordinated hangar space in order to relocate personnel and valuable equipment.

Possessing a warfighter's ethos, Major Roman reached out to our foreign allies in the area of responsibility (AOR) coordinating maintenance

support for numerous NATO and interservice aircraft units.

Her genuine loyalty has always been transferable, granting her enormous reach-back capability to prior assignment locations. Last year, Major Roman thwarted a two-month work stoppage on AMARG's F-16 regeneration line when she arranged to have a critical, hard-to-find, F-16 boresight transferred from Hill Air Force Base to AMARG.

Currently, the Major professionally balances the demands of the AMARG Chief of Staff's position while providing respected and sound maintenance advice.

Major Roman, a prior enlisted service member, received her commission after graduating from the Air Force Academy in 2000.

An exceptionally savvy leader, receipt of this award is a distinctive credit to Major Roman and a validation of her superior maintenance efforts.

Major Roman will represent the Air Force Materiel Command at the Air Force level.



Shown left, Colonel Robert Hopkins, Jr., 451st Expeditionary Maintenance Group Commander, congratulates Maj. Kathryn Roman on her promotion to the rank of Major during a 2010 deployment to Afghanistan.

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