



309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group



309 AMARG

Supporting the Warfighter 24/7...

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B-52D dismantlement begins; parts spared for museum acquisition

The sentinel of Davis-Monthan's Heritage Park, B-52D 56-0659, is undergoing dismantlement and demilitarization in preparation for final disposal.

However, the aircraft which retired in 1982 and was stored at AMARG until ownership transferred to the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) in 1989, will donate some very valuable commodities before succumbing to destruction.

Working from a parts reclamation savelist, a list identifying which parts to retain on behalf of the NMUSAF, personnel assigned to 309 AMARG's 577th Commodities and Reclamation Squadron are carefully removing a number of items for museum preservation.

A week ago, four precision cuts were made by workers to deliver a fairly large section of stenciled fuselage dedicated to the former crewmembers of "659."

On Monday, Reclamation crews removed the entire tail gun and turret area of the D-model aircraft. Originally equipped with four .50 caliber machine guns, many tail gunners had proudly perched here knowing that an aircraft just like this one had delivered the last confirmed kill by a tail gunner in wartime.

The removed tail gunner section and the fuselage piece will be shipped to the NMUSAF for display.

Concurrently, a disposal team from the 578th Storage & Disposal Squadron are demilitarizing the aircraft by removing all hazardous materiel and rendering all non-savelist military-type components unusable.

Soon, "659" will no longer cast a shadow at Heritage Park, but the aircraft's preserved historical relics will serve as a reminder of the D-model's legacy.



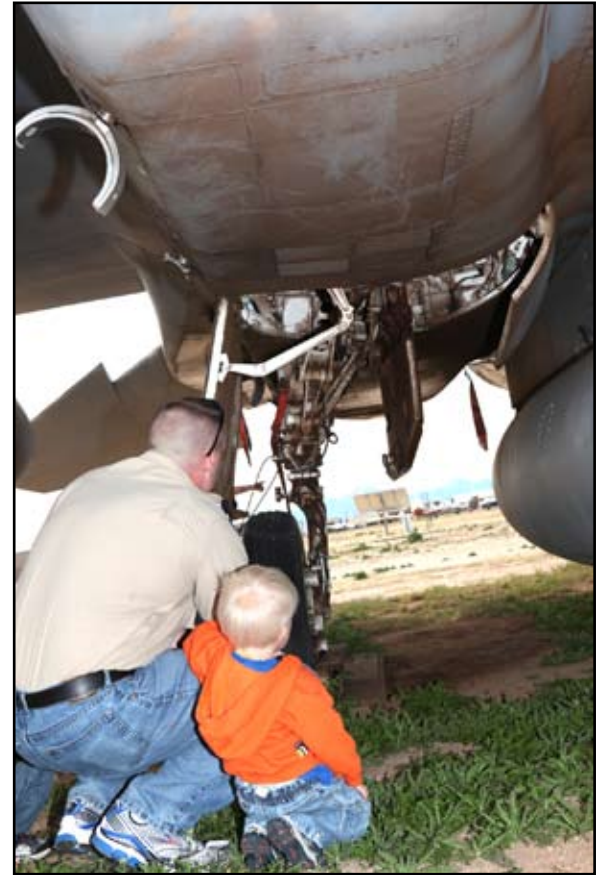
With the tail removed from B-52D, 56-0659, AMARG's 577th Commodities and Reclamation crews began strategically cutting the aft section of the fuselage, removing the entire tail gun and turret area. The section will be shipped to the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF). Above, Fred Vega (left) and Rodney Vakoc, Jr.

Right, Ryan Graves (kneeling) and supervisor, Rick Eddy, inspect shipping fixture.

Left, a section of fuselage bearing the names of former crewmembers is marked in preparation for removal and shipment to the NMUSAF.



Cub Scout Pack 727 visits 309 AMARG



Local Cub Scout Pack 727 visited AMARG on Jan. 21 for their annual outing. The pack included Bears, Wolves, and Webelos, representing den members from ages 7 to 10. Col Kumashiro, 309 AMARG Commander, lead the young men and their families on a trip through the "Boneyard," that included a visit the to the maintenance shelter to see the A-10 "Warthog" undergoing maintenance, the resident great-horned owls (middle) and the impressive mechanics of the Air Force's F-15 "Eagle."

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Prominent Tucson businesswoman is AMARG's first Honorary Commander

Ms. Ruthanne Pitts, a local Tucson community business leader, assumed honorary command of 309 AMARG during an Honorary Commander induction ceremony at Davis-Monthan AFB on Jan. 27.

Colonel Patrick Kumashiro, AMARG Commander, passed the guidon in the traditional manner making Ms. Pitts the Group's first Honorary Commander.

Ms. Pitts is the granddaughter of an Arizona homesteader and received her BA and MA at Arizona State University.

She was a public school educator for grades 8-12. Always immersed in a variety of activities, she traveled and aided in research in Israel, Australia, Guatemala and the southern U.S. as part of the State of Arizona Cotton Research team.

She landed a competitive internship with the Smithsonian Institute and was the founder and editor of the first Native American newspaper for the Ak-Chin Indian community.

With a keen sense for business, Ms. Pitts founded Simmons Contract Furnishings, a very successful company based here in Tucson. She's a current member of the DM-50.

Having served as the vice chairperson of the Air Force Materiel Command's Community Liaison Program, she's a perfect fit. AMARG will provide Ms. Pitts with opportunities to participate in special events, programs and Group activities. The goal--both she and AMARG will benefit from an exchange of ideas.

A pianist, Ms. Pitts also likes to read, fish and garden.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Brittany Dowdle

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