



309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group



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## Navy airship flyers and fans visit last ZPG-3W during reunion tour

Nearly ninety members of the Naval Airship Association visited AMARG on May 3 during a reunion tour of the facility. Traveling to Tucson from all over the U.S., the association's members were primarily interested in seeing the "gondola" from the last remaining ZPG-3W, the largest class of non-rigid airships built by Goodyear and operated by the Navy in the late 1950s.

The mission of these airships was to serve as airborne early warning sentries along America's Atlantic seaboard.

Mr. Ross Wood, a former airship pilot and president of the association, was on board for the day's event.

"Our tour guides, Mr. Mark Seitz and Mr. Gene Pearson, ensured the "car" was looking its best for the tour," said Mr. Wood. "The 106-foot gondola had been picked up off the desert floor, the interior cleaned up, new supports placed under it and a ramp placed near the rear clam shell doors so our folks could walk through it," he said.

According to Mr. Seitz, the local NAVSUP office funded the ZPG-3W's clean-up efforts.

CDR Bob Kaiser, the original ZPG-3W airship test pilot was not able to

attend the reunion; however, requested that in his absence, a simple placard bearing his and the name of 1st Class Aviation Machinist's Mate, Swecker be applied for the group's photo.

A lunch and tram tours of the Pima Air & Space Museum followed their visit to AMARG with the evening hours left for reminiscing about the days when these great "ships" were still flying.

ZPG-3W Bureau No. 144243, placed in storage more than 20 years ago is owned by the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum.



The Naval Airship Association reunion members gather together for a rare photo opportunity with the only remaining ZPG-3W, a former Navy airship which operated in the late 1950s as an airborne early warning platform. Note the names of CDR Bob Kaiser, first airship test pilot to fly the ZPG-3W and plane's Captain Swecker on the temporary placard. Top photo, taken in 1959 of the ZPG-3W at Naval Air Station Lakehurst, N.J., complete with 1,500,000 cubic feet of lifting helium. The airship's crew of 25 was returning from a 36-hour AEW flight 200 miles off the New Jersey/New York coastline. Photos courtesy of Mr. Ross Wood, President, NAA.

## AFMC names AMARG Depot Maintenance Mgmt (Production) Team “Outstanding”

In April, team AMARG was recognized for excellence and announced as the Air Force Materiel Command’s Outstanding Depot Maintenance Management Team (Production) of the Year recipient.

The team’s selection was based on sustained job performance, job efficiency results, job knowledge and other achievements in direct support of AFMC’s Depot Maintenance Management program.

“This is an extraordinary accomplishment for a unit this size and definitely the result of a tremendous team effort and commitment to excellence in support of the warfighter,” said Col. Patrick T. Kumashiro, the 309 AMARG Commander.

With one of the most diversified missions in the Air Force and DoD, the following includes some of the Group’s accomplishments in 2011 under the leadership and guidance of Colonel Kumashiro:

Generated six programmed depot maintenance overflow C-130Hs, reducing the flowdays by 24 percent; accomplished 11 service-life extension program A-10s; regenerated 12 F-4s in support of Air Combat Command’s Full-Scale Aerial Target program; and successfully modified nine A-10 wings,

with a flow day reduction of 11 percent.

Managed and flew 22 functional check flights and 57 aircraft deliveries--rated “outstanding” in last Headquarters Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation Visit.

Reclaimed 11,473 parts from more than 25 different

projects.

Hosted the first Air Force Renewable Energy Symposium with 300 congressional, Air Force and industry visitors as the result of locally implementing numerous energy efficiency initiatives.

Implemented E-tools; visibility and parts tracking via the AF Portal; electronic Production Acceptance Certification stamps; and Smart CTks.

Disassembled and shipped a B-1B fuselage two thousand miles overland to support the Boeing Company’s critical fatigue testing program.

Hosted 100 distinguished visitors to include congressional delegations and high-ranking military members.

And, supported numerous media and television productions

to include the Travel Channel’s “Off Limits,” and PBS’s “State of the Re-Union.”

As the first Depot Maintenance Award in AMARG’s 66-year history, the magnitude of this achievement couldn’t have been explained better:

“This award recognizes AMARG’s dedicated professionals and is a reflection of the best military, civil service and contract workforce in the Air Force,” said Colonel Kumashiro.



mission, design and series aircraft; shipped parts valued at \$501 million.

Preserved 82 F100 and F110 engines in just eight months, saving \$300 million in engine overhaul costs.

Complied with two New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty inspections.

Demonstrated the first modified non-nuclear B-1B platform to a Russian inspection team.

Strengthened international relations by supporting \$67 million in negotiated foreign military sales

# Advertising



## Last F-4 Phantom inducted into AMARG's drone production line



*As the new generation F-16 performed its first pilotless flight in support of the Air Combat Command's full-scale aerial target (FSAT) program in Fla. last month, the last F-4 to be regenerated for the same program was towed into AMARG's production line.*

*The final F-4 regeneration and delivery of RF-4C, Serial No. 68-0609 (shown here with AMARG's Commander and the 576th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Squadron's F-4 production team) is expected to take place in January 2013, which will bring the total number of F-4 deliveries to 318.*

*AMARG will continue to support the FSAT program's fourth generation of drones by regenerating approximately 210 F-16s currently stored here.*

*Boeing was awarded a contract to convert the F-16s into QF-16s (pilotless) for the FSAT mission at Tyndall AFB, Fla. and Holloman AFB, N.M.*

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