



EL TIGRE NEWS



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SERVING THE 162ND FIGHTER WING AND TUCSON AIR NATIONAL GUARD COMMUNITY SINCE 1959

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Courtesy photo

Shadow of a memory -- Security Forces return home

Standing on top of a Humvee near Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, Staff Sgt. Adam Schoonover, Tech. Sgt. Michael Long, Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Wallace and Staff Sgt. Jason Gonzalez are silhouetted against the setting Iraqi sun as they stand guard with their M-4 assault rifles. The four Security Forces Airmen were deployed to Iraq in February with 15 fellow Airmen from the 162nd Security Forces squadron here to provide aircraft security in-theater. They all returned home safely to their families Aug. 23.

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Our safety-minded culture a source of pride

by Brig. Gen. Rick Moisio
Commander

Last month our Command Chief, two of our safety professionals, and I attended an Air National Guard Leadership Summit at Volk Field, Wisconsin. The main topics of the conference were unit culture, safety and strategic planning. The first day and a half was dedicated to culture and safety. Then most of us at the unit level left the facility and about 80 senior leaders spent two more days formulating some guiding principles for a Guard-wide strategic plan.

The plan does not yet address specific unit missions but rather defines what we do well, what we can do better than any other force, and what type of missions are sustainable in our community-based forces. In future articles I'll keep you informed of the progress and direction of this plan.

An important part of what makes the Air National Guard so effective, specifically in the fighter mission, is our safety record. Since 2000, the ANG Class A mishap rate is approximately half that of the active Air Force; 0.8 Class A mishaps per 100,000 flying hours versus 1.5 for the active force in fighters. Both of these numbers are very good given the nature of flying fighters and the operations tempo over the past many years, but the Guard rate is really impressive.



General Moisio

A few obvious reasons for our relative success are certainly the experience levels of both our pilots and our maintenance professionals in the Guard. ANG fighter pilots have a little more than twice the average flight time of our active duty counterparts and the difference in maintenance experience is even greater. The fact that Guard equipment is generally older is more than made up for by this experience. But unit culture also plays an important role in flight safety, particularly in the Guard since culture, good or bad, is deeply imbedded and difficult to change.

So what are the elements of a favorable culture? I believe self dis-

cipline comes first; doing the job right even when no one is watching because we know that our actions or lack thereof have an impact on the mission and the safety of others.

Equally important, the conviction and the fortitude to call "knock it off" if something is starting to get away from us. This applies equally in the air, on the ramp, in a hangar, a warehouse, a fuel truck or an office. Never hesitate to slow or stop the production line if something doesn't look right, feel right, or if the documentation is suspect. I rely on the experience and judgment of every single one of you. There are so many great examples in our past of individuals saving the day by speaking up and breaking the chain of events which might have led to an accident. Never hesitate!

I'm proud of the safety record and culture of the 162nd. Our instructor pilots fly every day in a very demanding environment with students who are inexperienced and are receiving their instruction in a language that is not their native tongue. Our maintenance force is working under the unrelenting pressure of sortie production to keep these students flying at a rate most conducive to learning. And all of our support agencies have to safely keep up with the pace; getting fuel in the aircraft, being ready and responding to emergencies, obtaining and properly accounting for supplies to name only a few critical tasks.

You are the best at what you do and I thank you.

EL TIGRE NEWS

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Arizona names next fighter wing commander

by Staff Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Public Affairs

The Arizona National Guard announced the next commander of the 162nd Fighter Wing here, Aug. 1.

Col. Jose Salinas, currently the wing's vice commander, will step up to command the F-16 unit at Tucson International Airport early next year. A date has not been announced for the change-of-command ceremony.

Salinas will be the tenth commanding officer to lead the wing since it was founded in 1956. He will succeed Brig. Gen. Patrick Moisio, the current commander who has served in the position since November 2004.

As commander, the colonel will be responsible for roughly 1,600 Arizona Air Guardsmen who maintain and operate 70 F-16s for the purpose of training fighter pilots from the Air National Guard, the U.S. Air Force and various allied countries.

Colonel Salinas is from Abilene, Texas, and was commissioned in 1981 through the U.S. Air Force Academy. He joined the Arizona Air National Guard in 1992. An F-16 pilot by trade, he has commanded at group and squadron levels and has more than 4,600 flying hours.

Most recently, Salinas deployed for six months as the chief of U. S. Central Command's Joint Operations Center. He learned of his selection to the wing's top post while returning from Afghanistan in late July.



Colonel Jose Salinas



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Col. Randall Straka, 162nd Operations Group commander, recites the oath of office after receiving his new wings pinned on by Brig. Gen. Rick Moisio (left), 162nd Fighter Wing commander, and his wife Kathy. "We will succeed at the challenges that this Ops Group and Wing have before them," said Colonel Straka. "Be proud of everything that this wing stands for."

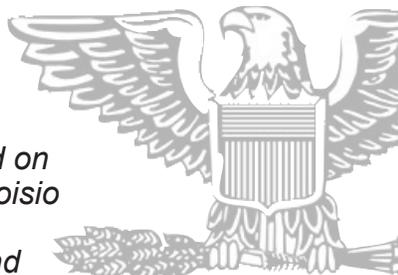


Photo by Army Sgt. Ed Balaban

Col. Michael Colangelo, right, addresses a member of the Arizona Air National Guard after the change of command ceremony held July 25 at Russell Auditorium in Phoenix.

Colangelo assumed command of the Arizona ANG from outgoing commander Maj. Gen. Michael Shira. During the ceremony, the colonel received the guidon from Maj. Gen. David Rataczak. He was promoted to brigadier general Aug. 3.





International military student office best in the Air Force

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

They come from Europe, Asia and the Middle East to learn to fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon from the Arizona Air National Guard, and Guardsmen here serve as their wingmen in more ways than one.

When flying over the military training ranges of Southern Arizona international student pilots have experienced instructors to guide them; but back on the ground they need help with housing, transportation, documentation and adapting to American culture.

That's where the 162nd Fighter Wing's award-winning international military student office takes charge.

The wing's seven-member IMSO staff recently took home the 2007 IMSO Team of the Year award in the small activities category for their superior service out of 24 IMSOs Air Force wide.

The Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron presented the award to Maj. Donna Wolslagel, the wing IMSO officer, Aug. 5 during the annual IMSO conference held at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

The small activities category includes all offices supporting less than 200 international students annually.



The 162nd Fighter Wing International Military Student Office brings home the 2007 IMSO Team of the Year trophy. The office staff, Lt. Col. Donna Rinehart, Maj. Donna Wolslagel, Senior Master Sgt. Teresa Campbell, Master Sgt. Deb Alegria, Master Sgt. Marnie Neve, Tech. Sgt. Amie Howell and Airman First Class Jonathan Jackson worked around the clock to ensure a smooth training experience for international student pilots here last year.

IMSO supports about 100 student pilots per year ensuring on-time and complete training. The staff oversees the wing's compliance with all international training requirements. They provide cultural education to wing members before they come into contact with foreign students. They coordinate official visits from international leaders. They are on call 24/7 for any emergency situations involving their students.

"Without a solid IMSO program, our students would not be able to focus on their primary mission... learning to fly the F-16," said Col. Randy Straka, 162nd Operations Group Commander.

"They need a focal point where they can go to get help with family problems, buying a car, finding a place to live, health care and so on. Those things are not easy to do when you're in a foreign country. When their personal issues are taken care of they can get to work with their instructors."

At the end of training when students are surveyed about the most memorable part of their experience they always mention the IMSO office, said Major Wolslagel.

"We're the ones who meet them at the airport. We're the ones who take care of them. We're the ones who help them handle family issues. And we're the last ones they see when we drop them off at the airport at the end of training. From start to finish they are in our care, and it's extremely rewarding to have a hand in showing them the American way of life," said the major.

Prior to being named the top IMSO in the Air Force, AFSAT singled out the wing's office as a flagship program for others to follow. The staff members are designated subject matter experts, and are often asked to assist other IMSOs across the country.

From start to finish they are in our care, and it's extremely rewarding to have a hand in showing them the American way of life.

- Maj. Donna Wolslagel, Wing IMSO Officer

"We've never won this award before," said Major Wolslagel, a nine-year IMSO veteran. "So to us it's a wonderful recognition of all

that has gone into building this program over the years and ultimately the service we have provided to our international students."



Arizona ANG Command Chief praises 162nd, JEC

**Story and Photo by
Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones
Public Affairs**

The Junior Enlisted Council here was praised Aug. 3 by Arizona Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Bell for the council's community involvement and dedication to improving the 162nd.

From providing Airmen Against Drunk Driving service to bringing Airmen's concerns to the attention of senior leadership, and from organizing morale softball tournaments to building homes as volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, the JEC here is accomplishing their mission of *giving voice to the enlisted ranks while playing an integral part in leadership development.*

During their annual meeting, guest speaker Command Chief Bell spoke to more than 96 Airmen

about the impact of the JEC, staying focused and fit, completing professional military education, staying loyal and trusting the leadership.

"The Airmen Against Drunk Driving – if that's not taking care of Airmen I don't know what is," said Chief Bell. The Chief continued to speak on the JEC being the proper avenue to bring concerns to the senior leadership's attention.

The JEC participates in Adopt a Highway, Habitat for Humanity, and AADD. They also organize and run the Adopt a Family, Gaslight Theater, Haunted Hangar, and morale softball tournaments. "The Adopt a Family was good – when you bring the tree and presents the kids' faces just light up," said Staff Sgt. Dana Watson, JEC president.

"If you're not already involved in the council, get involved," said Chief Bell. For more information on the JEC contact Sergeant Watson at 295-6106.



Chief Bell encourages junior members to stay informed by reading El Tigre News. The chief praised JEC's involvement in the community and base events during the council's annual meeting here attended by 96 members Aug. 3.

Free marriage workshop

Arizona National Guard couples who are married, engaged, or in a serious relationship may participate in the free Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program Sept. 19-21 in Tucson.

PREP has proven so effective that it has been featured on *20/20*, *48 Hours*, *Oprah*, and in the printed media.

The workshop teaches effective communication skills, addresses problem resolution strategies that work, and reveals how to discover the hidden issues in every relationship.

Couples will be provided with a hotel and, in most cases, placed on Invitational Travel Orders for reimbursement of mileage.

Couples should plan for their own child care needs and dress casual for the workshop. There will be a "Date Night" Saturday.

Reservations are first come, first served with priority given to those who are deploying soon or recently returned from deployment.

Call 602-267-2391 to request a registration form and for additional info. Forms must be submitted by Sept. 11.

162nd members save lives

As many as 90 lives can be saved thanks to the efforts of 31 162nd members here Aug. 2 during a blood drive where 30 productive units of blood were collected, four of which were from first-time donors.

"Thank you for sponsoring a blood drive this past Saturday. Summer is a very difficult time for us, and we sure do appreciate those of you who stick by us to help boost the blood supply," said Christina Rowden, donor recruitment representative, American Red Cross.

A typical kidney transplant takes two

units, approximately one pint, of blood. A liver transplant requires up to ten units, and an accident victim from four to 100 units. Donated blood is good for up to 45 days.

162nd members, including those who gave this time, can donate blood at the next blood drive scheduled on Oct. 4 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Bldg. 15.

For more info and to make an appointment contact Master Sgt. Liz Caro-Scarfo at 295-6652 or Senior Master Sgt. Rafael Vingochea at 295-6808.





Poland's 'Peace Sky' at home in Arizona



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

First Lt. Adam Jantas, left, a Polish Air Force student pilot, goes over his morning sortie with F-16 instructor pilot Maj. Julian Pacheco on the 162nd Fighter Wing flightline.

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

In the transition from Soviet-built MiG-29s and Su-22s to American-built F-16s, Poland takes on one of NATO's most aggressive fighter up-starts known as "Peace Sky."

A new generation of Polish Air Force pilots is learning how to fly their country's most advanced fighter, the F-16C/D "Jastrzab" or Hawk as it's called, from the Arizona Air National Guard.

To date, the Central European country has received 41 of the 48 F-16s it has on order, and is rapidly increasing its number of qualified pilots with help from seasoned instructors at the 162nd Fighter Wing based at Tucson International Airport.

"When the program started here in 2004 we were

training Poland's senior pilots and squadron commanders. These days we're training their junior pilots," said Lt. Col. Will Johnson, an instructor pilot in charge of the wing's Polish program. "We've graduated about 34 Polish pilots so far, and we anticipate that there will be more to come."

Polish fighter pilots undergo a rigorous selection process at home to fly the F-16 – the future of their country's Air Force. The Su-22 Fitter, for example, is scheduled for retirement in 2012 prompting more pilots to apply for the Peace Sky program.

First Lt. Adam Jantas is one of seven Polish Air Force pilots currently half-way through the initial F-16 course. He's a graduate of Poland's Air Force Academy and has eight years of fighter pilot experience in the Su-22.

"It was my goal to train in the U.S.," said the lieutenant. "I've been here for two years. I started at language school at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas then I



went to T-38 training at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. My final phase is here.”

Jantas flies an average of two or three times per week, but in the first months he flew as much as five times per week.

“In the beginning it was good to fly often so I could practice. Sometimes long breaks are not good when you are learning something difficult, and repetition is very important,” he said.

Jantas and his countrymen are not only learning a new aircraft, but also a new way to fly.

“Take offs and landings I can do, but all the other stuff in the F-16 is very difficult,” he said.

With 40 F-16 hours under his belt, Jantas observed that the F-16 inflicts more G forces, and requires more aggressive flying.

“The airplane’s fly-by-wire system and computer keeps us from exceeding the limitations of the fighter,” he said. “Before, I had to be more careful not to exceed [the Su-22’s] limitations.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

According to Colonel Johnson, the goal is to get the Polish Air Force to fly like the U.S. Air Force.

“We teach Polish students that fighters can be flexible,” said Johnson. “We teach them that when you make a flight plan, that’s a good starting point, that’s where we’re going to deviate from. We teach them to adapt, and they like it. They like to have the ability to take off and make decisions.”

Since Poland adopted the F-16, it’s changing its ways. Pilots are learning to plan the mission prior to take off, which gives their sorties added flexibility.

“At home I would spend two or three days planning sorties and then go fly several in a day,” said Jantas. “I knew exactly what I was going to do in those sorties, but here it changes everyday. Just when you think you’ve learned something, you will also be introduced to something new at the same time.”

The real learning begins at debrief when student and instructor review video from the flight and all questions are answered.

“Our instructors are like mothers who love you and are eager to correct you when you do something wrong, but they do it because they care about you and they want to help you,” he said.

“They know what they are doing, and I see that they have a lot of experience and a lot of patience. They just calmly say, ‘Ok, don’t do that again.’”

When Jantas and his compatriots graduate this winter, they will return to flying squadrons in Poland. Their instructors know they will see them again.

“We’ve been sending our members to a base in Poznan for the last two years as mobile training teams,” said Colonel Johnson. “The teams consist of three pilots and they spend three months at a time assisting Polish F-16 pilots keeping them current on their training.”

Johnson himself has visited the country nine times to assist former students.

“It’s a great country, the people are nice and the food is great. As a former Soviet republic they have really adopted capitalism. They have joined the West from a free market standpoint, and they are good allies for our country.”

The unofficial motto of the Peace Sky program is “We are more than allies, we are friends.” Everywhere U.S. troops are deployed in the War on Terror, Polish troops are there also.

“Seeing them succeed gives me a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction,” said Johnson. “We will continue to build our alliance with them, and it’s a great feeling knowing that the work we do here in Tucson is translating into a safer environment in other parts of the world.”



Health fair teaches Guardsmen to make smart decisions

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

Arizona health care providers gave Guardsmen at the 162nd Fighter Wing hands-on experience with several issues that influence health during a Health and Wellness Fair here Aug. 7.

The event organized by the wing's human resources office was the first ever at the Tucson-based Guard unit. Its intent was to promote good health among Arizona's citizen Airmen.

Several booths in the base's dining facility were set up to test blood pressure, body fat percentage, physical strength and even the effect of alcohol on a person's sense of balance. At the fair's number one attraction, members were asked to wear goggles that simulated the effects of three

drinks. They were then asked to walk a straight line. The demonstration proved to be a challenging task that illustrated the dangers of driving while intoxicated.

"It's good to know your body fat content, how strong you are, how much sugar is in your food and what your reaction is to being under the influence," said Master Sgt. Susan Echeverria, event organizer. "We wanted to host an event designed to show our people, not just tell them, why they should make good health choices."

The Health and Wellness Fair is a precursor to the wing's upcoming Federal Employees Benefits Fair scheduled for Nov. 4, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in the base dining facility.

"The benefits fair will kick start the open season for federal technicians who want to make changes to their federal benefits," said Echeverria.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones
Staff Sgt. Dana Watson attempts to walk a straight line while wearing goggles that simulate the effects of three alcoholic beverages.

Military Family Relief Fund gives Arizona families new hope



Relief Fund provides funds to families whose loved one has been seriously injured or killed while fighting the Global War on Terror.

The Fund is administered by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, so donors are assured that the money goes to Arizona military families in need.

By law, no more than 5 percent of all donations can be used for administrative costs. It provides taxpayers with an avenue for charitable giving that gives the contributor a tax incentive.

"Everybody always asks what they can do to help, and this is a great opportunity to make a real difference," said Col. Joey Strickland, Director for the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.

"We have helped three families so far – two of whom were facing

homelessness while dealing with combat-related injuries."

Arizona taxpayers seeking to give back to those who have answered the call of duty can also receive a tax credit.

Donors are essentially telling Arizona how to spend a portion of their tax dollars when they give to the Military Family Relief Fund; maximum \$200 for singles, \$400 for couples filing jointly.

Military Family Relief Fund recipients can use the support in a variety of ways. From mothers facing financial calamity after their loved one has been killed, to parents purchasing overseas plane tickets to be by their injured son or daughter's side in the hospital - the fund will be there when people need it most.

For more information visit www.azmfrf.gov



Lodging office supplies Airmen needed rooms

By Capt. Paul Jefferson
Services Flight Commander

Members who reside outside Tucson generally need lodging during Annual Training or Unit Training Assemblies. Billeting is an important aspect of duty for these members and properly coordinating efforts with the 162nd Lodging Office will help ensure members have a room without incurring personal costs.

Ultimately it is the member's responsibility to obtain billeting; however, reservations should always be made directly through the lodging office which will help make the process simple.

After receiving a reservation request, the lodging office will make reservations for members first at the Inn at Davis-Monthan; if there is no availability there, reservations will be made through contract quarters at other local hotels. If possible, technical sergeants and below will be doubled up with another off-base Airman.

How should I submit lodging reservation requests? Members may make reservations in one of three ways: fill out an IMT 26, Room Reservation Request, and submit to the lodging office located in Bldg. 5; submit requests by calling 520-295-6121 or faxing 520-295-6009; email requests to 162fw.lodging@aztucs.af.mil.

Billeting requests should be submitted no later than the UTA prior to the requested date(s).

What should I do if there is no room at the Inn? In the event a member has reservations at DM and the Inn has overbooked, the front desk clerk will attempt to contact a 162nd lodging representative; the representative will then arrange for contract quarters. If the 162nd lodging representative can not be contacted, members should request a letter of non-availability from the Inn. Members using contract quarters while on orders must come to the lodging office to obtain an Annual Training Contract Quarters reimbursement letter. Without this letter Finance will not reimburse the member. Members in Inactive Duty Training status do not need to do



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones

anything special; the room will be direct billed to the 162nd.

Can billeting be arranged for family members? Billeting for a member's family or guests is not authorized.

How is my billeting bill paid when I am on IDT status? Billeting for traditional members on Inactive Duty Training status, i.e. during UTAs, who reside outside of the commuting area will be paid for by the 162nd through direct billing. Full-time Guard members must pay their own billeting for IDT unless the billeting is required by military necessity.

What about during AT days or while on active duty status? Reservations should be made through the lodging office. Members on orders will be required to pay for their lodging expenses with their government travel card and then submit a travel voucher through finance for reimbursement; lodging receipts must be in the member's name and submitted with the travel voucher.

What if I am doing AT days in conjunction with UTA days? The lodging office will pay for the nights prior to UTA status when a member is performing AT in conjunction with UTA, i.e. the member arrives Friday for normal UTA with orders starting Monday. The member must pay for the billeting for the nights prior to the AT days as described above.



Airmen feedback essential to additional duty study



162nd members may now participate in an Air Force-wide study being conducted via an online questionnaire on additional duties.

The study, initially directed by the Air Force chief of staff, will be used

to assist in the reduction, consolidation, and elimination of additional duties.

A Community of Practice and questionnaire are available at [https://www.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=AF-DP-](https://www.my.af.mil/afknprod/ASPs/CoP/OpenCoP.asp?Filter=AF-DP-00-70)

00-70.

The CoP will be used to provide updates on the study, a feedback avenue for Airmen, and to house a master list of Air Force prescribed additional duties in one location.



*With life roaring all around – distracting, captivating
All the attention – it can be hardest to see those who are
Closest. But those are the moments to just stop and wonder...*

What life would be

**Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones
Public Affairs**

A mighty roar erupts close by; but the area is shrouded from sight. Into the summer sky with a roar strong and bold, an F-16 Fighting Falcon climbs quickly above the buildings that once blocked it from view.

In stark contrast to the mighty roaring Falcon, the attention now focuses on the quiet and virtually unnoticed building that seemed to only block the view a few moments before. But without those in this building, the Falcon's mighty roar would never be heard. On the door

there are three letters – AGE.

“The mission of the Aerospace Ground Equipment shop is to provide the cleanest, safest and best maintained equipment for aircraft support,” said Senior Master Sgt. Frank Paredes, AGE section supervisor. “With a 95 percent in-commission rate for equipment to be ready for use by flightline personnel, we accomplish that mission pretty well.”

Without the Airmen working in the AGE shop, the 162nd may not have the tremendous safety record it enjoys, and it may not be the unit of choice for more than ten foreign nations to send their pilots to learn the F-16.

Even with more than 500 pieces



Sergeant Suarez grinds a piece of 3/8 inch round stock to fabricate a replacement brake rod for a C-10C air conditioner. The unit was damaged during a deployment to Edwards AFB, Calif. By fabricating parts like this one instead of ordering replacement parts, the AGE shop is able to maintain a 95 percent in-commission rate for more than 500 pieces of equipment.



Airman 1st Class Ana Canillas, AGE technician troubleshoots the starter and electronic systems on a MJ-1B bomb lift to ensure it is getting enough voltage to start the engine. The unit was in the shop for a yearly and special inspection when problems were discovered with the starter and lift cylinders.

of equipment to maintain owned by the U.S. Air Force, allied air forces, the Alert Detachment and Operation Snowbird, the AGE shop here goes above and beyond.

“The average level of experience for an AGE technician here is 15 years. Because of this experience technicians have the ability to rebuild components that would otherwise be removed and replaced,” said



No Airpower Without Ground Power

AGE Motto

like without AGE

Sergeant Paredes. “These types of maintenance practices enable AGE shop personnel here to research parts and associated costs keeping expenditures to a minimum.”

Among the items the AGE shop here repairs are the fuel control units and gear cases for the gas turbine generators and lift cylinders for the bomb lifts.

“Each lift cylinder we repair saves the Guard nearly \$2,000. A cylinder goes bad about two or three times a year,” said Tech. Sgt. Chris Strange, production control.

But that’s not all they do; despite a lower ratio of personnel to equipment



Sergeant Brewer removes the combustion can from a “Dash 60” unit to inspect the igniter and atomizer as part of an inspection. Sergeant Brewer has inspected and repaired AGE equipment since he joined the 162nd in 2000.

than an active duty base, the AGE personnel here also find the time to maintain the Fire Department’s Jaws of Life and generators, the Hush Houses’ air conditioners, and assist Civil Engineering with their shop compressors, hangar generators and other equipment around the base, said Sergeant Paredes.

One unit in particular that the AGE shop works on is the A/M32A-60A gas turbine generator, or “Dash 60” to those who work on it.

“It’s basically a jet engine – a turbine engine,” said Staff Sgt. Brian Brewer, power support systems technician, as he serviced the machine during its annual inspection.

“Vibration is a big issue with this

machine,” said Sergeant Brewer as he clipped a safety wire off the atomizer.

Its operating speed is 42,000 revolutions per minute with the gear case stepping that down to 7,000 RPMs for running other components such as the cooling fan and fuel control, he said.

“There’s no airpower without ground power”, said Staff Sgt. Louis Suarez, power support systems mechanic.

So with a firm knowledge of what the 37 men and women working in AGE do for the 162nd, perhaps now is the perfect time to take a moment and wonder what life would be like...without AGE.



Tech. Sgt. Jackie Vernon, AGE technician, services a hydraulic test stand used to test the hydraulic systems on the aircraft. Sergeant Vernon has 26 years experience in AGE.



The state of El Tigre News, according to readers

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

It's official! *El Tigre News* is accomplishing its mission to keep members, families and the Air National Guard community in Tucson informed; and that's from a credible source – you the reader.

The 162nd Fighter Wing public affairs staff conducted a readership survey from July 15 through Aug. 15. In our effort to produce a quality monthly base newspaper we constantly analyze and evaluate our product; however we asked for input from you, the public we serve, to make effective changes.

We surveyed 400 members over the July Unit Training Assembly during lunch at the Dining Facility. We mailed 350 surveys to the homes of retirees and community members. We also posted the survey to the base Web site for anyone interested in giving feedback.

Here's what we found out...

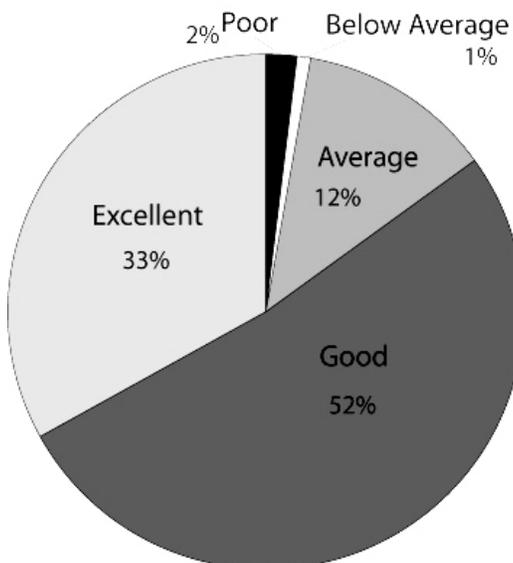
In *El Tigre's* overall approval rating, 85 percent of readers said the paper ranked in the "good" or "excellent" categories. Readers think their base newspaper has excellent design and layout, quality writing and interesting photos.

As chief of the public affairs office, I take these ratings as complimentary considering the amount of mass media Americans consume today. The competition is tough, and the *El Tigre* staff can be proud of this assessment and will work to win over more readers.

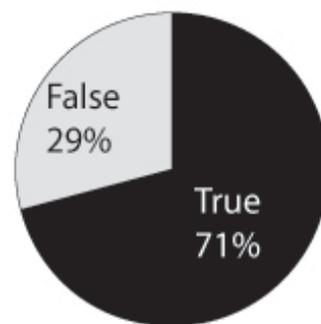
The survey has already given us a plan to raise the newspaper's already high marks. We learned our weakest area was in variety and scope of coverage, with 26 percent of readers rating that area at "average" or below. Therefore, we will make a sincere effort to find those stories that haven't been told in a while. In fact, take a look at page 10. You'll find an article about the Aerospace Ground Equipment shop. It's a story we haven't covered recently, and it's the kind of story we all should read about. I encourage readers to pitch story ideas like the AGE shop to public affairs. Together we'll make sure everyone is getting equal coverage and recognition.

Timeliness is another area that indicates a weakness in the base newspaper. Almost 30 percent of readers think the paper isn't timely enough. This constructive criticism is to be expected when dealing with a monthly publication. To improve the speed at which news and information is made available; public affairs started the 162nd Fighter Wing public Web site, 162fw.ang.af.mil. Articles, photos, major events and even the Dining Facility menu are posted on the site as soon as possible.

Overall Newspaper Quality



I am aware that all the news and information contained in El Tigre can be found on the wing's public Web site



In regards to the new Web site, we wanted to learn how many people were aware of its existence. And to our pleasant surprise, 71 percent of *El Tigre* readers were aware of the site. Not bad considering it's only four months old.



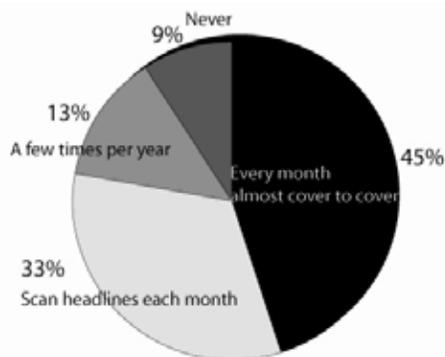
The public site offers the wing great capability to communicate at the speed of today's information age. Yet the newspaper is a more tangible source, and serves as a physical record of our time together at this wing. Public affairs understands the advantages and disadvantages of both mediums and therefore asked readers the question, "Which do you prefer?"

I prefer to receive base news and information...



The findings will not necessarily generate changes to *El Tigre News* or the Web site, but they do serve as a valuable indication that both serve an important purpose in our wing.

Frequency Read



Finally, we learned that many people are reading *El Tigre News* – 45 percent. Of course, we'd like to see that 100 percent of recipients are reading the paper every month from cover to cover. But for now we should focus on diminishing the number of members who only read *El Tigre* a few times per year or never. Public affairs will strive to make the base newspaper worth reading, and we ask supervisors to encourage their Airmen to read it more often.

Anyone not receiving *El Tigre News* should first check with vMPF, then inquire at your unit's orderly room. If they do not have their correct address in MILPDS they will not receive their *El Tigre*. Retirees may update their addresses by contacting the retirees' office at (520) 295-6663.

A few interesting survey comments...

- You rock!**
- I'm staying informed with the coverage of the El Tigre News.**
- El Tigre continues to be the best ANG paper in Tucson! (Ha Ha)**
- My wife enjoys reading this as much as I do. Thanks for sending it.**
- Stop featuring the same people over and over.**
- The paper has made giant strides in improvement, keep up the good work.**
- More maintenance articles!**
- Save the planet, go green.**
- An outstanding product... best of the best.**
- It doesn't grab my attention, but I look at the photos.**
- The retiree section has shown great improvement since Chief Soulvie took over.**
- As a recent retiree, the El Tigre is my source of info as to what is going on at the unit. Even before I retired, the newspaper was my lifeline.**
- If it's working don't fix it.**

Public affairs appreciates everyone who took time to participate in the 2008 readership survey, and we encourage continued feedback. Thank you for reading *El Tigre News*. An informed Guardsman is an effective Guardsman.



Celebrating desegregation Arizona Air Guard ahead of its time



Photo by Alan Boedeker / Illustration by Senior Airman Jonathan Rojas

Basic trainees with the 326th Training Squadron stand in formation during a Basic Military Training graduation ceremony July 25 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

by **Capt. Gabe Johnson**
Public Affairs

This year the Air Force and its sister services observed the 60th anniversary since racial integration was mandated in the military, yet few people realize the Arizona Air National Guard was desegregated two years earlier.

On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which states, "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin."

Former U.S. Senator, Barry Goldwater had personally led the integration of the Arizona Air National Guard in 1946, two years before President Truman ordered the desegregation of the U.S. armed forces. He organized the Arizona

National Guard from 1945 to 1952 and had been an active member of the NAACP and the Urban League in Phoenix well before he ran for public office.

Arizona's heritage of equality is alive and well at the 162nd Fighter Wing here. "The 162nd truly is a shining example of diversity, and what better place to host an international training mission where cultures blend and influence each other. We ensure the wing continues to value progress and equality; all to better defend our country and state," said Maj. Sandy Wilson, the unit's military equal opportunity officer.

Today the wing enjoys a diverse membership that reflects the population it serves in Arizona with 4 percent African Americans, 17 percent women and 30 percent Hispanics.

"We embrace diversity, not because of a law, but because it's the right thing to do; and it's one way to ensure we recruit and retain the best," said Major Wilson.

IG addresses concerns

by **Lt. Col. Chuck Recker**
Inspector General

The inspector general ensures the concerns of all complainants and the best interests of the Air Force are addressed through objective fact-finding.

The roles of the IG are to:

Be the "eyes and ears" of the commander; be alert for and inform the commander of matters that are indicative of systemic, morale, or other problems that impede efficiency and mission effectiveness.

Keep the commander informed of potential areas of concern as reflected by trends based on analysis of complaint data.

Function as the impartial fact-finder and honest broker in the resolution of complaints.

Educate and train commanders and members of the base populace on their rights and responsibilities in regard to the Air Force IG system.

Ensure periodic education/training is provided to new commanders and other installation leadership regarding reporting requirements in this instruction, e.g. reprisal, allegations against senior officials, etc.

Assist commanders in preventing, detecting, and correcting fraud, waste, abuse and gross mismanagement.

For assistance with your complaint or situation contact the 162nd IG, Lt. Col. Chuck Recker, (520) 295-7770, via email at charles.recker@aztucs.af.mil or IG.162fw@aztucs.af.mil.



Intelligence at 162nd takes on literal meaning as Airmen succeed

by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones
Public Affairs

Guardsmen from the Intelligence Office here are proving exceptional skills at fighting the War on Terror.

“Technical school lays the foundation,” said Lt. Col. Joseph Berlanga, senior intelligence officer. “We focus very hard on training them for that school; what they should expect when they get there. We set the conditions for their success.”

With the ground prepped for the foundation to be laid, the intelligence office has some great successes.

“Four of our members were distinguished graduates, and four won the most valuable player award,” said Colonel Berlanga who received the Air Education and Training Command 2007 Intelligence Field Grade Officer of the Year award.

“We have a very heavy emphasis on training because when I take someone into combat I take that

responsibility very seriously,” he said.

While deployed, Staff Sgt. Nerissa Rodriguez received strong accolades from air crew members and commanders; they trusted her mission planning and accept it without question, said the colonel.

“The command we worked for in-theater now emulates how we initially established our operations.”

“When we are preparing for deployment, scenarios are put in front of us so we can practice what we would experience once we got in country,” said Sergeant Rodriguez, operations intelligence specialist and AETC’s 2007 Reserve Component Intelligence Airman of the Year.

Typically, Airmen deploy with aircraft from their base. But at the 162nd the day-to-day mission is training allied nations’ pilots; planes stay here but Airmen still deploy.

This unique situation can make it difficult on intel specialists. The Airmen must be trained for the mis-

sions they are to deploy to support; and the leaders must balance the needs of the Airmen with the needs of the mission. “I take all those personal needs and weave them in with the mission,” the colonel said.

Staff Sgt. Andra Cochran’s commitment to the nation was about to throw her an inconvenient twist. As an Army soldier’s wife, she was scheduled to deploy for six-months just before her husband would return after two years in-theater.

“We choose to shape this fight,” Colonel Berlanga said. By working with the National Guard Bureau and the intel members, Colonel Berlanga arranged to have his Airman deploy early to provide short-notice, mission-critical support to war-time operations so that she could be home when her husband returned.

“Our focus is on customer satisfaction, but the customer varies; it could be a pilot or a ground commander. And me as a boss – my troops are my customers.”



TUCSON AIRPORT AUTHORITY CELEBRATING 60!

Community Open House at TIA

Saturday, October 11, 2008, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

AT THE TIA TERMINAL:

Terminal Tours / Live Entertainment
Peter Smith, *UA Mars Lander Mission*
Giveaways / Free Refreshments

AT THE EXECUTIVE TERMINAL:

—The TIA Tower celebrating 50!
Airfield Tours / Static Displays
Air National Guard Color Guard and
Flyby @ 11 a.m. / Aviation Film Festival

Fun for the entire family!

Free parking and shuttle from TIA
Economy Lot

60th Anniversary 1948-2008
TUCSON
AIRPORT AUTHORITY
TUCSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • RYAN AIRFIELD



Chaplain's Corner

Looking back on two years with Operation Jump Start, it was worth it

by Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Martinez
Wing Chaplain

Last month, while on my way home from drill, I stopped at the grocery store to get a few items. While I was standing in line to pay the cashier I felt a tug on my arm. I turned around and standing there was an elderly couple. With tears running down their faces they said "thank you for your service."

This tugged on my heart, and without thinking, my response was "you are worth it." They looked at me, smiled and said, "We thank everyone we see wearing the uniform, but no one ever said that to us." The encounter prompted me to reflect on my previous 18 months serving Operation Jump Start. Looking back, I know in my heart that serving my fellow Guardsmen on OJS was worth it as well.

I started this mission in October 2006. I had three days of in-processing in Phoenix with Airmen and Soldiers. It was my first experience working everyday with the Army and with agents of the Border Patrol. There were six chaplains on the ground in Arizona working under the state Chaplain, Chaplain (Col.) Dan Butler. Our mission was to cover all the deployed locations of Airmen and Soldiers in our state.

We had troops in Douglas, Naco, south of Sonoita, Wilcox, Nogales, four locations on the Tohono O'odham Nation, Ajo, Tucson, Casa Grande, Phoenix, and Yuma. The chaplains were placed in different regions to ensure proper coverage. I was in a challenging situation in that I was the only Catholic Chaplain. I couldn't cover just one region. I had to travel to all areas to meet the needs of the Catholic servicemembers in particular, and all the troops regardless of religious affiliation. After almost two years of being a road warrior I memorized just about every rock, tree and bush along the way! I logged 74,216 miles. It was worth it.

One of my duties as a chaplain is to meet the spiritual needs of the troops. I was able to do this on a daily basis. We assisted the troops with religious services and materials, hospital visits, counseling, Red



Photo by Army Sgt. Ed Balaban

Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Martinez (right) serves a hot meal on Christmas Eve to an Airman assigned to an entrance identification team in Yuma, Ariz., as part of Operation Jump Start.

Cross notifications, marriage preparation, baptism preparation and morale and welfare visits.

I estimate that nearly 80 percent of my contacts were occasions for the troops to have a safe and confidential place to vent in exchange for encouragement and advice. The remaining 20 percent concerned various crisis situations and serious issues. Some circumstances were easy to handle and some were very difficult, but helping our Airmen and Soldiers was worth it. One of the great things about any deployment is the people you meet and the experiences you share. I could write a book about Operation Jump Start. I met people from at least 20 states, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As part of the joint mission, I met many Soldiers from our own state, and had the daunting challenge of trying to learn how to speak "Army." Hooah!

I will never forget the smile on the face of a Soldier from North Carolina working in Yuma as he landed a 40-pound catfish from the Colorado River. I will always remember trying desperately to find the words to comfort a Native American Soldier from Arizona and his wife as they found out their son, serving a second tour in Iraq, was unfortunately receiving his second Purple Heart.

I remember Wisconsin Soldiers who were feeling under appreciated and the look on their faces when the chaplain team surprised them with pizza.

I could go on and on with memories and experiences. On June 30, I completed my last day on Operation Jump Start. Looking back, I'm grateful for the opportunity I had to serve our Airmen and Soldiers. They were all worth it.



Hush House F-16 demonstration amazes local girls basketball team

Photo and Story
by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones
Public Affairs

The *Tucson Shock* 12-member all-girls basketball team experienced the mighty power of an F-16 engine at the Hush House here July 25 during a tour of the 162nd Fighter Wing.

"The Hush House is basically a big muffler so we can test engines without the noise affecting the other people working on the base," said Staff Sgt. Rolando Talavera, propulsion mechanic.

During a routine test, the mechanics kicked on the engine's afterburner causing an exhaust flame nearly 40 feet long to shoot out the back end.

The afterburners can burn up to 133 pounds of fuel per minute and produce 37,000 pounds of thrust -- nearly 57,000 horsepower, Sergeant Talavera told the girls. "That's like 57 monster trucks," he said.

"The afterburner was awesome! It was loud but cool; I liked the colors -- they were very pretty," said Jamee Swan, center for the team.

The Hush House was the first stop on the tour. Later, the team experienced the effects of night vision goggles and concluded the day by racking up

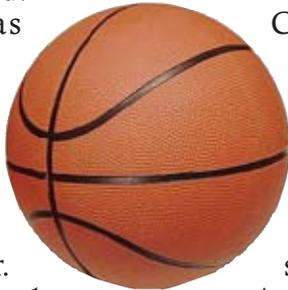


The fierce roar and streaking exhaust flame of an F-16 Fighting Falcon engine being tested at the Hush House grabs the attention of the Tucson Shock all-girls basketball team and family members as they huddle close to the observation window.

some F-16 simulator flight hours.

The team was created by Coach Darryl Peoples in 1997. "The Shock team dominated the Cinco de Mayo tournament championship this May at Cesar Chavez High School in Phoenix," said Senior Master Sgt.

Andrew Trueblood, assistant coach and father of team member Jennifer Trueblood.



Shadow box help needed

Volunteers and donations are requested for the Wing Shadow Box Program. If interested in helping this extremely important program please contact Master Sgt. Miguel Islas at 295-6356.



Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Dan Lawrence is presented an impressive shadow box.

Tig Bits

Federal employees

Current and retired federal employees, spouses, guests and visitors are invited to join the National Active and Retired Employees Association, Chapter 1874, at the Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd., for their meetings on the third Monday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more call Mrs. Butler at 733-7450.

Scholarship

162nd members and their immediate family members may apply for the Southern Arizona Minuteman Committee Air National Guard Scholarship. Interested persons may submit an application by Sept. 12 to Maj. Denise Cullen, 1650 E. Perimeter Way, Tucson, AZ 85706. Questions call 295-6201.

SGLI Rate Decrease

The Servicemembers Group Life Insurance premium rate decreased from 7 cents per month per \$1,000 of coverage to 6.5 cents per month per \$1,000 coverage effective July 1. Visit <http://www.insurance.va.gov> to learn more.

GTC Update

162nd members are beginning to receive their new Government Travel Card from Citi Visa. Current DoD GTC cards from Bank of America will expire on Nov. 29; the new Citi GTC must be used starting Nov. 30. Members who do not receive their new Citi GTC by Oct. 31 should notify their APC. Contact Master Sgt. Di Aragon at 295-6180 with any questions.



TriCare pharmacy benefit a great deal for retirees

by Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Barry Soulvie
Retirees Office

Medical costs are escalating at a rate greater than the increase in income for many Americans. Retired seniors on fixed incomes may find that the cost of medications takes a large bite out of their usable dollars. However, for TriCare beneficiaries this should not be the case.



Military retirees are privileged to be part of one of the finest medical benefit programs available; and access to reasonably priced medications is an important part of that program. Flexibility is a key element in the system, and TriCare allows filling of prescriptions three different ways.

First, prescriptions can be filled at the nearest military base pharmacy. Most military facilities have a pharmacy, including Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Luke AFB in Phoenix and Fort Huachuca Army Post in Sierra Vista. At these military pharmacies prescriptions will be filled at no cost, usually with a three months supply per visit. The base pharmacies medication list (formulary) contains most common medications.

A second option is to take prescriptions to any local

drug store and receive medications by paying a nominal co-payment of \$3 for generic drugs and \$9 for brand names. Local pharmacies will fill prescriptions only on a monthly basis for one co-payment per medication.

The third, and most convenient, option is to order medications through the TriCare Express-Scripts Mail Order Pharmacy. The first step is to set up an account by accessing the web site at www.express-scripts.com/tricare, by calling (866) 363-8667, or by mail.

Then, obtain a prescription from your doctor and mail it in, or, as an alternative, your doctor can fax the prescription directly to Express-Scripts at (877) 895-1900. Remember, only doctors can fax prescriptions, not you personally. Through TMOP, one month's co-pay will get three months of medications which are mailed to your home. An advantage for some is that the list of mail-order medications is more extensive than the list at base pharmacies. The TMOP mail order



system is a convenient and inexpensive way to obtain medications. It has also proven to be the most cost effective way to fill prescriptions in the TriCare system. The government has made it easy, convenient and economical for TriCare beneficiaries to obtain medications. Take advantage of this benefit. It's a great deal.

All in the EL TIGRE Family

Military Promotions:

To Chief Master Sergeant

David Burton, Logistics Readiness Group
Victor Mendoza, Aircraft Maintenance Group

To Master Sergeant

Kristeen Jones, Medical Group
Gina Martin, Medical Group
Phillip Watson, Maintenance Group

To Technical Sergeant

Carol Lance, 162nd Fighter Wing

To Staff Sergeant

Karinka Copeland, 162nd Fighter Wing
Edmundo Del Valle, 162nd Fighter Wing
Daniel Sales, 162nd Fighter Wing

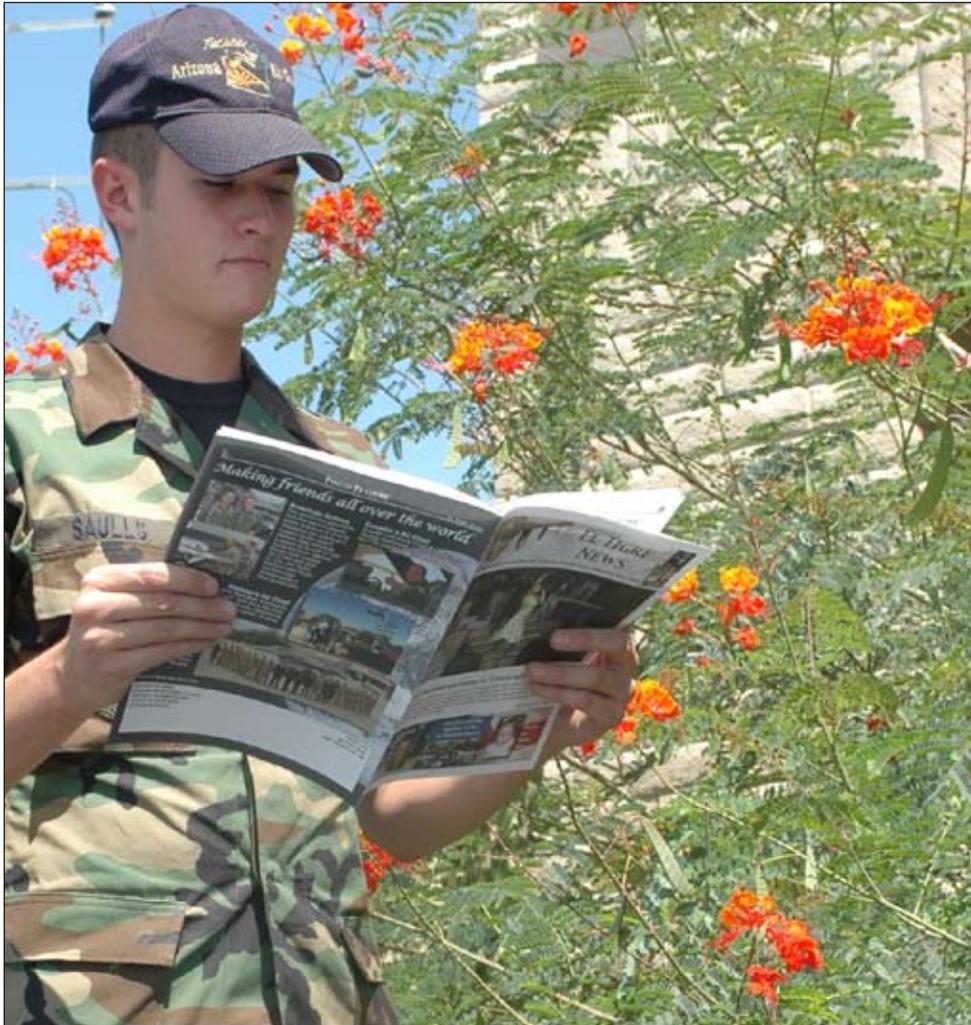
New Members:

Staff Sgt. Kendall Brooks, NDI Element



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones

Airman 1st Class Kristi Hardison, aerospace systems security specialist, receives the \$582 Chamber of Commerce Louis E. Williams Scholarship Aug. 15 presented by Senior Master Sgt. Jody Page (left) and Master Sgt. Kelly Kvamme. Airman Hardison is pursuing an administration of justice degree at Cochise Community College and has been a member of the 162nd Fighter Wing since March, 2007.



**You too can contribute to
El Tigre and 162fw.ang.af.mil**

submit articles and photos to: 162fw.pa@aztucs.ang.af.mil



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**DESERT ROSE
DINING FACILITY
MENU**

SATURDAY

- Shredded Beef
- Chicken Enchiladas
- Mexican Rice
- Refried Beans
- Calabasitas
- Green Beans, Mexicorn
- Salsa, Tortillas
- Carrot Cake
- Sugar Cookies

SUNDAY

- Braised Pork Chops
- Teriyaki Chicken
- Rice Pilaf
- Mashed Potatoes
- Mushroom Gravy
- Fried Cabbage
- Steamed Cauliflower, Asparagus
- Chocolate Macaroon Cake
- Apple Pie
- Jell-o w/D

**SHORT ORDER &
STANDARD ITEMS**

- Grilled Hamburgers
- Cheeseburgers
- Chilli Dogs/Chilli Cheese Fries
- Chicken Strips
- Fish Sandwich
- Tuna Sandwich
- Pizza
- Baked Beans
- French Fries
- Onion Rings
- Baked Potato Bar
- Assorted Breads
- Assorted Desserts
- Frozen Yogurt
- Jell-o
- Salad Bar w/Condiments
- Fresh Fruit
- Assorted Beverages

*Dining Facility Hours
9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.*

*The menu is based on
availability and is subject to
change without notice.*



Families welcome home Security Forces Airmen



All 19 of the wing's Security Forces members returned home safely Aug. 23 after six months in Iraq. (Clockwise) Staff Sgt. Dan Lawrence meets his son Ryan for the first time while his father Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Dan Lawrence looks on. Tech. Sgt. Dion Hawkins gets a hero's welcome from the Patriot Riders. Tech. Sgt. Jose De Jesus is hugged by his wife Monique. Staff Sgt. Haley Bia kisses her son Ethan. Staff Sgt. Juan Yebra holds his son Andres and his new grandson Henry. (Below) The Arizona Air Guardsmen commemorate their deployment together with a photograph in Baghdad.



Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Neve



Photo by Staff Sgt. Steven Jeffers

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ARIZONA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
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TUCSON AZ 85706-6052
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