



EL TIGRE NEWS

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



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Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Wing earns NGB “Excellence in Diversity Award”

Tucson’s Ballet Folklórico Los Mextucaz, take a souvenir photo in front of an F-16 static display at the 162nd Fighter Wing here, Oct. 3, 2008. The dance team demonstrated Mexican folk dancing at the wing to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The wing-wide observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, as well as other months such as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, were factors in the National Guard Bureau’s recognition of the wing’s diversity initiatives that impact the National Guard, state and local community.

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'Commander's Action Line' your link to the front office

by Col. Greg Stroud
Commander

With *El Tigre* transitioning to a quarterly publication this year, and increased emphasis on the wing's public Web site as a communication tool, I'd like to introduce a new site feature - the "Commander's Action Line."

The Action Line is a new tool on the 162nd Fighter Wing public Web site that gives all Airmen, retirees, families and community members a direct link to me.

The Commander's Action Line can be used to express constructive points of view on the policies and procedures of the base; discuss safety and security issues; and address problems, concerns, or suggestions after other avenues have been exhausted. The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely, and perhaps definitive response.

Action Line queries may be submitted electronically through the Web site; or they can be mailed to:

162FW Action Line
Attn: Public Affairs
1650 E. Perimeter Way
Tucson, AZ 85706

I want your input and I encourage you to use this tool after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, first sergeants or commanders.



The Action Line page at 162fw.ang.af.mil

If you're unable to resolve the issue, the Action Line is for you.

From the Web-based form, or in your letter, state the issue or concern, action already taken to resolve it, and as many details as possible.

If an Action Line submission and response is of general interest to wing members or our local community, they may be published on the Web site Action Line page. In such cases, submissions may be edited for grammar and length.

Submissions must include a name, an e-mail address or an alternative method of contact so we can follow up with a response to your question. The requestor's contact information will not be posted on the site in compliance with Privacy Act restrictions. The submitter's name may be used unless he or she requests to remain anonymous.

Action Line submissions should be written in a courteous or profes-

sional tone. Examples of letters that will not be addressed include personal attacks, insults or sarcasm; personal messages to a group or person; and those that advertise a product, group or Web site.

Depending on your question or issue there are numerous offices on base suited to help. Here are some key telephone numbers to keep in mind when trying to resolve an issue:

- Inspector General:** 295-7770
- Equal Opportunity:** 295-6186
- Medical and Dental:** 295-6172
- MPF:** 295-6612
- Services:** 295-6077
- Law Enforcement:** 295-6209
- Lodging:** 295-6121
- Legal:** 295-6223
- Chaplain:** 295-6217
- SARC:** 295-6568/6102
- Wing Safety:** 295-6107
- Finance:** 295-6882
- Civil Engineer:** 295-6170
- Family Readiness:** 295-6566
- Public Affairs:** 295-6192

Whether performing the mission as a drill status Guardsman, AGR, Technician, civilian or contractor, everyone must have a voice, regardless of rank, to ensure 100-percent mission success.

On that note, success is not possible without support from our families, neighbors and community. They too have a voice and are welcome to use the Action Line.

EL TIGRE NEWS

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NGB selects wing for top diversity honors

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

National Guard Bureau Chief Gen. Craig R. McKinley announced the 162nd Fighter Wing here as the recipient of the "Excellence in Diversity Award," March 26.

The award recognizes the international F-16 training wing for its contributions to mission readiness and diversity initiatives that impact the National Guard, state and local community. The wing was singled out for its leadership commitment, outstanding nationwide results, recruitment and retention and multiple partnerships with civilian organizations.

"As Citizen Airmen it's vital that our Guardsmen reflect the diverse community we serve. It's an honor to be recognized by the National Guard Bureau for our diversity efforts," said Col. Greg Stroud, wing commander. "Since sharing culture and diversity are an integral part of our international pilot training mission, it's nice to know that our programs and workforce are at the forefront of diversity issues."

The 162nd mission establishes strong ties with international partners from 23 nations that fly the F-16. Within that role, the wing's International Military Student Office (IMSO) strives to enhance relationships and minimize difficulties such as culture shock and other cultural barriers. It not only educates foreign student pilots about the American way of life but also provides education to Airmen about the cultures of foreign students.

In 2008, the wing's IMSO staff brought home the IMSO Team of the Year award in the small activi-

ties category for their superior service out of 24 IMSOs Air Force wide.

Diversity education is the cornerstone of the wing's programs. In addition to annual briefings and individual mentorship, Airmen here are exposed to the value of multi-cultural experiences through wing-wide observances of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, African-American History Month and Women's History Month to name a few.

"We know that diverse teams can produce more innovative ideas and a wider range of solutions to problems," said Colonel Stroud. "For that reason our education and mentoring programs are designed to address diversity as an important part of every Airman's professional development."

As a result, Airmen from assorted backgrounds are finding their way to leadership positions.

"At the 162nd, women and minorities occupy high-visibility leadership positions ranging from first sergeant, to fighter pilot, to group commander," said Maj. Sandy Wilson, wing equal opportunity officer. "Merit and exemplary qualifications are the most important factors in every decision we make, and diversity is certainly part of every equation. In addition, our work force make up is reflective of the community's civilian labor force. We're proud to say that almost 30 percent of our Guardsmen are Hispanic."

According to the major, it all begins with recruiting. In 2008, wing recruiting brought a total of 197 new accessions comprised of 23 percent Hispanics, 8 percent African Americans, 3 percent American Indians and 5 percent

Asians. Wing leaders work closely with recruiters to identify areas of under representation and seek new initiatives to fill positions with the best-qualified employees.

Often, reaching under-represented groups means establishing partnerships within the community.

As an example, the wing provides base tours to interested groups of potential recruits including the Civil Air Patrol, local high schools and YMCA teen centers.

The 162nd invites hundreds of local students to participate in the annual Holocaust survivor remembrance day where Holocaust survivors tell their stories first hand. Through this effort, the wing hopes to educate students about the horrors of genocide to ensure that it will never happen again.

"We help with Freedom Academies, Drug Demand Reduction Youth Camps and Drug Education for Youth programs," said Major Wilson. "They offer education on goal setting and positive lifestyle choices while building leadership skills and self-esteem. Wing members volunteer at these events as instructors based on their Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC), as logisticians or as camp staff to monitor program security and safety."

The 162nd has an ongoing partnership with the Veterans Administration Hospital, Chicanos Por La Causa and has participated in various activities with the governor's office and the Tucson Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

"I'm proud of our wing and its ability to foster environments on and off base where every individual's contribution is valued and respected," said Colonel Stroud.



Memorial Day – history and meaning

by Valerie Davis
AMVETS Post 770

Memorial Day, which was originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance to commemorate the U.S. servicemembers who have died while in military service to our country.

There are many stories as to its actual beginning. Following the end of the Civil War many communities set aside a day to mark the end of the war or as a memorial to those who died. It was first enacted to honor Union Soldiers, but there is evidence that organized women’s groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War.

The official “birthplace” of Decoration Day is Waterloo, N.Y. The village is credited with being the place of origin because it observed the day on May 5, 1868, and each year thereafter. The alternative

name of “Memorial Day” was first used in 1882. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day and honored their dead on separate days until after World War I when the holiday was changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring all American casualties of any war or military action.

It did not become common until after World War II. Memorial Day was declared the official name by Federal law in 1967. On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill, which moved three holidays from their traditional dates to a specific Monday. Memorial Day was moved from May 30th to the last Monday in May.

Traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years. Many Americans today have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning

of Memorial Day, the “National Moment of Remembrance” resolution was passed in December 2000, which asks that at 3 p.m. local time for all Americans “to voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to ‘Taps’.”

If you fly a flag, it should be flown at half-staff from dawn until noon, and then raised to full-staff.

On Monday, May 25, the American Legion post 102, AMVETS Post 770, and the Tucson Estates Property Owners Association (TEPOA) will be hosting their annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony in Tucson Estates. Come join us to remember, reflect, and honor those who have given their all in service to our country. The Parade starts at 8 a.m. and the Ceremony starts at 9 a.m. For more information, contact the Memorial Day Parade Chairperson at AMVETS Post 770, at 520-908-0774.

Peruvian Air Force introduced to international F-16 training wing

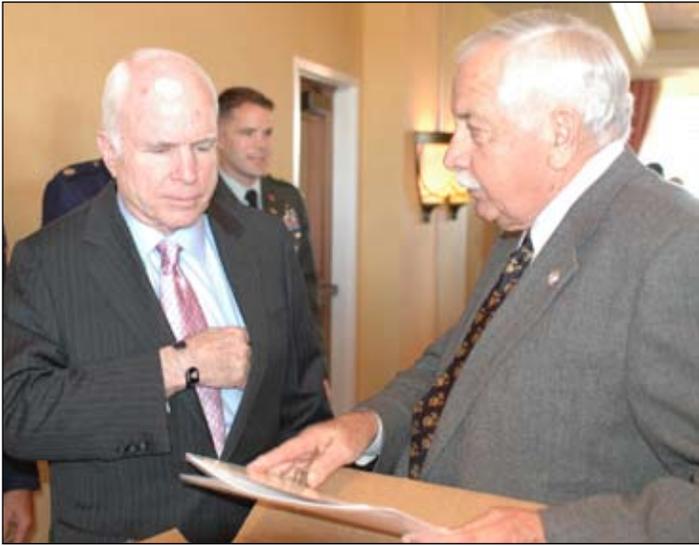


Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Neve

Lt. Gen. Norman Seip, right, the Twelfth Air Force (Air Forces Southern) commander, talks about F-16 phase maintenance with General Pedro Minaya Torres, Peruvian Air Force commanding general, in a 162nd Fighter Wing maintenance hangar here, April 1. Staff Sgt. Raul Quiroz, an aircraft maintainer at the Air Guard unit and a native of Peru, translates the conversation. Twelfth Air Force introduced General Minaya to the 162nd for its international pilot training mission. “I’m inspired by all the United States has done for its allies and I hope Peruvian Air Force pilots will one day train with U.S. pilots,” said General Minaya.



Arizona's ESGR, 162nd FW honor Senator McCain



Bill Valenzuela presents an ESGR certificate of support to U.S. Senator John McCain April 16. Valenzuela is a veteran of the Korean War having served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Today he continues to serve the military as Arizona State Chair Emeritus for the National Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Through ESGR, he promotes understanding and support between employers and their National Guard and Reserve member employees.

**Story and photos
by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs**

In partnership with Arizona Guardsmen and Reservists the state's chapter of Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) recognized U.S. Senator John McCain for his support of America's Citizen-Servicemembers, here April 16.

Bill Valenzuela, Arizona State Chair Emeritus for ESGR, and Col. Greg Stroud, the Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing commander, presented the senator a framed certificate of support and a medallion from ESGR during the Tucson Chamber

of Commerce National Issues Forum luncheon at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort where McCain was the guest speaker.

"This certificate is in appreciation for all he has done for the Guard and Reserves," said Valenzuela. "When we presented it to him we could see in his face how thrilled he was."

As a member of ESGR and the Army Reserve Ambassadorship, Valenzuela worked with Senator McCain to introduce several bills designed to ben-

with the dozen Guardsmen and Reservists in attendance and thank them for their service. Arizona Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines were all represented at the presentation.

"Not since World War II have our Guard and Reserves been so heavily relied upon and they are performing superbly," said Senator McCain. "Of course, I am very proud to have members of the military here today. I'm always proud to be in their company."

To Valenzuela he added, "I want to thank you for your support of the military and continued efforts on behalf of the men and women who are serving."

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.

efit the Guard and Reserve.

"My experienced from working with him is that he is 105 percent with the Guard and Reserve; helping us pass our bills, getting us what we need, he's always been there for us. He helped me with every bill that I took him and made sure that his colleagues helped him pass it. He's quite a guy," he said.

The senator made it a point to shake hands



Col. Greg Stroud, left, 162nd Fighter Wing commander, and Lt. Col. Ed Maxwell, vice wing commander, present U.S. Senator John McCain with an ESGR certificate of support, April 16, for his work in Congress to pass legislation supporting the Reserve component.



Expeditionary entertainer returns to Tucson

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

For one Arizona Air Guardsman a year-long tour with the 2008 Tops in Blue team wasn't about talent, it was about a mission.

In mid March, Tech. Sgt. Chandra Smith, a personnel specialist assigned to the 162nd Fighter Wing's Alert Detachment at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, returned home to family and friends.

"I went into this thinking I would sing and dance my way around the world, but it ended up being way more than that. In the end it was about the mission," said Sergeant Smith. "We raised the morale of troops and communities around the world for nine months. And that, to me, was the mission - the job."

During what Smith calls the most "incredibly challenging and most rewarding" year of her life, she and her team of 27 dancers, singers and musicians performed about 140 shows at virtually every U.S. air base around the world.

Afghanistan, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Greenland, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Germany, Italy and Spain were just a few stops on the Tops in Blue tour.

"We saw Chandra with Tops in Blue while we were deployed to Baghdad International Airport last



Courtesy Photo

Tech. Sgt. Chandra Smith visits with children in Honduras during Tops in Blue's January performance at Soto Cano Air Base. The team's visit to three Honduran orphanages was the highlight of Smith's personal experience with the Air Force's expeditionary entertainment group.

year," said Maj. Steve Weatherford, who led the 162nd's Security Forces Squadron from Tucson to Iraq on a six-month deployment. "The show was great, and Chandra was terrific. It meant a lot to us to see one of our fellow wing members in that show. You almost forget where you are

when you see them perform."

Smith had several encounters with 162nd members during her travels. The wing's medical group watched her perform in the 4th of July show and she ran into wing maintainers in Kuwait. "It's a small world. It was comforting to see all those people from home," she said.

In January, Tops in Blue visited Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. It turned out to be the source of Sergeant Smith's most memorable experience on tour.

"We were able to visit three orphanages there. It was a very touching experience," said Smith. "The kids didn't know who we were

"It meant a lot to us to see one of our fellow wing members in that show. You almost forget where you are when you see them perform."

**- Maj. Steve Weatherford
Tops in Blue Audience Member
Baghdad, Iraq, 2008**



or even that we had candy in our pockets. They just wanted to hug us. We were able to interact with them and sing songs for them. And even though they didn't speak English, they had a great time. I wish I could have brought home 10 of them."

As the Air Force's expeditionary entertainers, the team found themselves in extremely remote locations. The most distant of all was Shemya, Alaska, the outermost of the Aleutian Islands. It's the most western part of the United States and home to roughly 150 U.S. government employees. "You could almost see Russia, we were so far out there," said the sergeant. "It ended up being one of the best places we visited. The people were the most welcoming and appreciative."



Courtesy Photo

Tech. Sgt. Chandra Smith tries skydiving during Tops in Blue's visit to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. According to Smith, one year with Tops in Blue gave her countless experiences that were just as thrilling.

Now with enough memories and stories to last a lifetime, Smith is easing back into the life she lived only 12 months ago.

"I'm enjoying time with family and friends right now," she said. "I definitely missed my husband Adam incredibly... first and foremost. I also missed my Guard family at the alert detachment. There were times when I was on the road that I couldn't imagine having a normal work routine again, but now that I'm home I'm ready for a normal life."

"I want to give a huge thank you to the unit and everybody who supported me through this process," she added. "While I was away, the love, support and prayers from all of the people at my unit really meant a lot."

As a former member of the performance team, Sergeant Smith is part of Tops in Blue Priors, the group's alumni association. They hold reunions every 10 years and

often help at the World-Wide Talent Competitions held annually at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"These are my brothers and sisters they are going to forever live in my memory. We'll see each other again. We're part of a legacy now. We were all given goblets, a Tops in Blue tradition. So when future teams come to play at Davis-Monthan, I'll help them however I can and I'll toast the team after their show."

Smith's advice to the 2009 Tops in Blue team is to take care of each other, do the best they can, keep a good attitude and cherish every moment... it will be gone before they know it.

As for Sergeant Smith's singing career, she says she will be around to sing for the 162nd any time. "I do want to continue to use my voice... not on such a large scale, but maybe in the community. Musical theater would be great. Maybe I can join a band," she said.



Courtesy Photo

(From the left) Tech. Sgt. Chandra Smith, Capt. Darci Day, 1st Lt. Rhoda Alzo and Tech. Sgt. Bridgette Johnson sit in a Bagram Air Base bunker in Afghanistan. The Tops in Blue team members visited virtually every U.S. air base around the world.



Exchange officer reflects on Air Guard experience

Story and photos
by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

The Pentagon's effort to develop partner nation air forces is sometimes accomplished one exchange officer at a time, and the Air National Guard is lending one of its best assets to the exchange program - experience.

At the Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing here, Chilean Air Force exchange officer 1st Lt. Cristobal Desmaras recently wrapped up a two-year assignment in F-16 maintenance as part of the 12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern) Personnel Exchange Program.

He served as a maintenance officer, or 'engineer,' in his nation's air force since 2001 and worked on numerous aircraft in the Chilean inventory ranging from the Mirage M-50 fighter-bomber to the Bell 412 helicopter. When Chile added the F-16C/D block 50 as part of the Peace Puma program in 2006, Desmaras was selected to learn how the United States maintains the multi-role fighter.

"The F-16 is our 'first-line' fighter and the future of our air force, so the exchange officer program is of great value to us," he said. "I've been given an opportunity to learn from great people while making my own contributions to the 162nd mission."

The 162nd, a designated international F-16 training wing, is a primary training destination for



Staff Sgt. Bryon Best, left, an F-16 crew chief assigned to the 162nd Fighter Wing in Tucson, goes over maintenance issues with Chilean Air Force exchange officer 1st Lt. Cristobal Desmaras. The lieutenant spent two years with the Arizona Air Guard unit to learn F-16 maintenance practices.

many foreign fighter pilots. In recent years, the wing has trained pilots from Chile, Greece, Italy, Singapore, Norway and Poland to name a few.

However, Desmaras wasn't sent here for the international flavor of the mission, but rather for the time-tested know-how of Guardsmen assigned to the wing.

"I was sent to the Guard because maintainers here average 18 years of experience on the F-16," said Desmaras. "This wing has developed many programs over 24 years of flying several versions of the jet, and I will bring back to Chile many of the lessons I've learned here."

He's also bringing back a Guard perspective.

"I was truly impressed with the

Guard," said Desmaras. "Since people work here for many years they develop close working relationships which help in the long run to accomplish the mission. I've seen that they work very hard, they're focused on their jobs and they're responsible for their actions."

During his exchange, he rotated through several distinct maintenance roles, spending up to six months in each. In all, he was exposed to quality assurance, maintenance operations, phase docks and back shops. He also served as officer in charge of the 152nd Aircraft Maintenance Flight, responsible for 24 jets and a compliment of crew chiefs, weapons troops and avionics technicians.

Desmaras' supervisor, Lt. Col.



Mike Knutson, noticed early on that he was taking full advantage of his time as an exchange officer.

“While here, Cristobal also was attending Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in his off duty time studying toward a master’s degree,” said Knutson. “Through his research there he provided valuable recommendations for the reduction of pilot reported discrepancies for radar systems on the F-16 aircraft.”

He was selected as the 162nd Maintenance Group’s Outstanding Officer of the Quarter in January of 2008 not only for his intellectual contributions, but also his willingness to

take up tools and fix airplanes.

In Chile, maintenance officers work shoulder-to-shoulder with enlisted maintainers. They administer engine runs, they fly on functional check flights and they troubleshoot, says Desmaras who applied a hands-on approach to maintenance issues at the 162nd.

“He’s a very knowledgeable officer, and very easy to work with. He even taught me a few things that I forgot,” said Senior Master Sgt. Doug Stidvent, phase element supervisor. “He’s a great representative for his country and for international relations.”

Upon his return to Santiago in

April, Desmaras was assigned to his air force’s materiel command where he is expected to implement improvements to F-16 maintenance practices across the Chilean Air Force.

“I’ll miss golf, my soccer league and all the outdoor sports here in Tucson. But most of all, I’m going to miss the people at the base, their experience and the resources. I’ve worked with so many supportive people here. It will be very easy to stay in touch.”

“Lieutenant Desmaras is truly and outstanding officer,” said Knutson. “It has been an honor working with him.”



First Lt. Cristobal Desmaras, left, a Chilean Air Force exchange officer, monitors maintenance operations on the 162nd Fighter Wing flightline from the wing’s maintenance operations center with Senior Master Sgt. Bill Peterson.



Security Forces get pepper sprayed



Senior Airman Joe De Vos gets sprayed in the face with pepper spray at the 162nd Fighter Wing in Tucson, Ariz., April 7. All Security Forces members who have not experienced the non-lethal agent are now required to learn its effects according to a new Air Force manual on the use of force.

**Story and photos
by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs**

Security Forces members at the 162nd Fighter Wing here are learning the effects of pepper spray first hand in compliance with new Air Force directives.

Across the service, active duty and Reserve component Security Forces Airmen are getting sprayed in the face with the non-lethal law enforcement tool to learn its effects and gain awareness of what they have to contend with should they be sprayed by an attacker.

Published Feb. 18, the new Air Force Manual 31-222, which governs the use of force, states that all Security Forces members must experience the spray at least once in their military career.

“When they get hit with pepper spray, their eyes are going to involuntarily shut, they’re going to get a really intense burning sensation in their skin, and they’ll have difficulty breathing,” said Senior Master Sgt. Mark Milbourn, a Security Forces supervisor at the Air Guard unit.

“It was the worst 45 minutes of my life,” said Milbourn who experienced the active agent earlier in his career. “It is the worst, intense pain I’ve ever felt – ever. You feel like you can’t open your eyes or breathe, and then you start to hyperventilate.”

While feeling the effects Airmen have to fight against a simulated perpetrator while taking voice commands and retaining their weapons and control of the situation.

Senior Airman Joe De Vos and Army Specialist Jose Zavala, a Security Forces augmentee, were sprayed here April 7. They were the first of many in their squadron who will experience the spray within the next month.



Senior Airman Joe De Vos, left, fights off Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Wallace after being sprayed in the face with pepper spray. De Vos had to maintain control of his weapon to keep it from getting into the hands of his simulated perpetrator.



Army Specialist Jose Zavala, left, fights off Tech. Sgt. Michael Royval after being sprayed.

Blinded, burning and out of breath both trainees shouted, "Get back!" and held off their simulated attackers who pushed and jabbed them with striking pads.

"I think they did really well. They just took it. They didn't run off. They fought through it, maintained control of their weapons and the situation and that's all we can ask for," said Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Wallace, a Security Forces member who served as a simulated assailant.

"It's good training to get the effects and see how it is," said Airman De Vos. "My strategy was to stay calm, and do what I had to do. This is my job, this is my life, and I'm going to defend it."

Help soon came in the form of an open fire hydrant where the trainees began to wash the pepper spray out of their eyes. De Vos and Zavala took turns standing in front of a powerful stream of water.

"Soap wouldn't even help them now. Cool rushing water and time – that's the only way to find relief," said Milbourn.



Senior Airman Joe De Vos finds relief after being sprayed with pepper spray in an open fire hydrant.



Army Specialist Jose Zavala tries to ease the burning sensation caused by pepper spray.



NCO volunteers for 'Tucson Monsoon' season



Photo by Master Sgt. Hollie Hansen

Tucson Monsoon linebacker Deanna Grimstead, #24, tackles California Quake runningback Tami Singletary, #24, during a round robin scrimmage held in Southern California, March 21. The Monsoon's assistant coach, 162nd Fighter Wing aircraft maintainer Staff Sgt. Mike Holly, volunteers his time to help lead the new women's professional football league.

by Staff Sgt. Desiree Twombly
Public Affairs

Tucson Monsoon season is approaching and promises to bring a different kind of storm – and it has nothing to do with the weather.

In his spare time, Staff Sgt. Michael Holly of the 162nd Fighter Wing here is the assistant coach for the Tucson Monsoon, a women's full-tackle football team and part of the Independent Women's Football League (IWFL). Holly is in his second year as an assistant coach in this growing national sport.

"The IWFL is equivalent to the Women's National Basketball Association. It's considered a pro-

fessional league. It's women's tackle football. We started practicing in January for our eight game season which started April 11," said Sergeant Holly.

He spends three days a week training the team alongside Coach Vincent Smith, a former offensive lineman for the Arizona Wildcats and the Los Angeles Raiders. With more than 30 women on the team, Holly uses the 9G Force Fitness program as part of their fitness routine; a program developed by Maj. Windy Hendrick, an F-16 instructor pilot assigned to the wing.

"Knee and ankle strains are common injuries we see every season. The women are very strong and are hard hitters. As part of a conditioning routine to prevent these injuries we use the 9G method of physical

training," he said.

The 9Gs of Fitness include motivation and behavioral changes, basic nutrition, a walking program, basic exercise, objectives and lessons learned, a cardio resistance program, advanced nutrition, advanced exercise and putting it all together.

The average height of an IWFL football player ranges from 5 foot 4 inches to 5 foot 6 inches. Size is no challenge for players as they are proficient tacklers, said Holly.

"The different elements of proper tackling and use of strategy can have positive results in a game. We teach these techniques, and the players are very good at implementing them during a game," he said.

Master Sgt. Hollie Hansen, base contracting officer for the 162nd, is the team photographer. As a former player she's watched them grow from a fledgling team to a recognized national team.

"It's changed quite a bit over the last few years," said Sergeant Hansen. "They won some games last season and a lot of the success is due to the new coaches and the dynamics of the team."

In addition to volunteering as a coach, Holly volunteers his time as an advocate for women's football. He maintains the team's booster Web site and works with local media to tell their story.

It's through the sport that this Guardsman is making an impact on his community.

"I'm always looking to challenge myself and this is my way of making a contribution. It's all for the love of the game," he said.

Another one of Holly's goals is to establish a youth flag football league through a grant from the National Football League.

To read more about the Tucson Monsoon visit their website at www.tucsonmonsoon.com.



Wing safety chief earns top Air Force safety award

by Capt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

The 162nd Fighter Wing safety chief made the greatest individual contributions to safety within the Air Force last year according to the service's top safety office.

Lt. Col. Doug "Odie" Slocum, an F-16 pilot and safety chief assigned to the Arizona Air Guard unit, was recently awarded the Air Force Chief of Staff's Individual Safety Award for 2008.

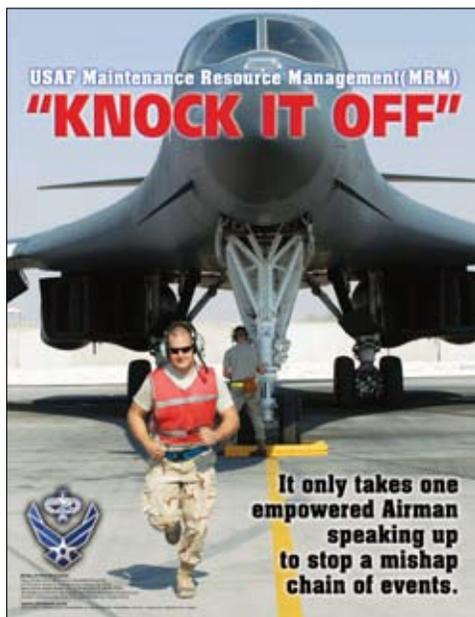
The award primarily recognized his work as the creator, developer, instructor and principal advocate of Air Force Maintenance Resource Management (MRM) – a program that empowers every Airman to speak up in the name of safety.

"Our wing has enjoyed a great safety record due, in part, to Odie's work in MRM and as our chief of safety," said Col. Greg Stroud, 162nd Fighter Wing commander. "We're very proud of his accomplishment. He is the second consecutive award recipient from the Air National Guard."

Slocum's initial call to action in the safety community was born from necessity.

An Air Force study of aircraft mishaps showed that nearly 20 percent of Air Force aviation mishaps are due to maintenance preventable human factors. Some common errors ranged from failure to follow published instructions to forgetting to inventory tools after completing a task.

Colonel Slocum's MRM program improves flightline safety and diminishes maintenance mistakes by encouraging maintainers in all ranks to point out potential problems and employ a "rule of thumb"



Air Force poster by
Lt. Col. Doug "Odie" Slocum

Under the Air Force Maintenance Resource Management (MRM) program, all Airmen are empowered to call "Knock it off" if they witness an action that could lead to a mishap. Lt. Col. Doug "Odie" Slocum, an F-16 pilot and the 162nd Fighter Wing chief of safety, recently earned the Air Force Chief of Staff Individual Safety Award for his work to bring the MRM program to Air Force units around the world.

application of basic error reduction principles – a stark contrast to previous 'top-down,' supervisor-driven safety programs. MRM emphasizes a team approach to reducing human error through improved communications, situational awareness, problem solving, decision making and teamwork.

Last year saw a 79 percent reduction in Class A and B mishaps related to maintenance error across the Air Force – saving taxpayers more than \$86 million. "In 2008, there were no major accidents

linked to maintenance human error at units where MRM is practiced," said Colonel Slocum who spent much of the year teaching the program to more than 25,000 aircraft maintainers across all of the Air Force major commands.

To help spread the MRM message; he authored a 'train-the-trainer' syllabus to ensure standardization across the Air Force. To date, more than 210 instructors have been trained and are helping to expand MRM's reach.

"Understanding how to utilize the principles is key to its success," said Slocum. "Since we believe that everyone must have a voice in safety, we have to change our mindset as supervisors and leaders – encouraging and accepting inputs from every Airman when it comes to safety."

In addition to instructing, he published an MRM newsletter for thousands of maintainers, stood up an MRM Web site for the exchange of information, and published numerous MRM articles for Air Force-wide safety magazines.

Underneath the many layers of his program, he employs a common-sense approach to safety.

"Our safety culture means a willingness to change the 'This is the way we've always done it,' mentality," he said. "Instead, everyone should stop and think 'Is this the smart way to do it?'"

Colonel Slocum is a command instructor pilot with 24 years and more than 5,400 mishap-free flying hours in the F-16. He was recipient of the 2006 Air National Guard Director's Safety Award, for creating and implementing safety programs which have significant, direct application to other Air Force and Joint Service organizations.

For more information on MRM visit www.afmrm.org.



Gates: Guard connects military, American people

by Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. - The National Guard is one of the best connections between the armed forces and the public, the secretary of defense said April 15.

“Our best connection to the American people and to communities is in fact the Reserve component – the National Guard and the Reserves,” Robert M. Gates told an audience at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. “The fact that they have been turned into an operational reserve and have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and go back to their communities ... has had a huge impact. ...

“All you have to do is read about what happens in towns and cities when our fallen come home, where the whole town turns out ... with flags and lining the streets and so on.”

Gates was responding to a question that suggested that Americans are more likely to know who won “American Idol” than who earned the Medal of Honor.

Some people were concerned that an all-volunteer force might create an elite force unconnected to the country, Gates said. But, in fact, “the all-volunteer force is the best military the United States has ever had” – and the National Guard is a vital link between men and women in uniform and civilians.

Calling the all-volunteer force “America’s greatest strategic asset,” Gates talked about changes in the direction of the Department of Defense.

“Starting with the roll out of the Iraq surge, my overriding priority



DOD photo by
Air Force Master Sgt. Jerry Morrison

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates talks to students at the U.S. Air Force Air War College on Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., April 14, 2009. Secretary Gates was on the start of a four-day trip visiting all of the branches’ war colleges.

has been getting troops at the front everything they need to fight, to win and to survive, while making sure that they and their families are properly cared for when they return,” Gates said.

Among key changes Gates cited: Fixing outpatient care, getting better armored vehicles and sending more intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability into theater.

Discussing his proposed fiscal year 2010 Department of Defense budget with Air War College stu-

dents, Gates said that, “While the military has made great strides in operating jointly over the last two decades, procurement remains overwhelmingly service-centric. ... It’s so important to look across the services for joint procurement and joint capability so that a single service doesn’t bear the full burden of completing a mission that actually will involve all of the services.”

Gates also stressed the importance of building partnership capacity with other countries.

“One of the major themes in the Department of Defense ... that is codified in my ... budget recommendations – and probably will be as well in the [Quadrennial Defense Review] and in a number of plans that have been put forward by the combatant commanders – is how do we build partnership capacity?” Gates said.

A key difference between dealing with piracy in Southeast Asia and dealing with it in Somalia has been partnership capacity, Gates said.

“There was a huge piracy problem in the Strait of Malacca and hijackings were almost as frequent as they are now off of Somalia,” Gates said. But partnerships with other governments had significantly reduced piracy there, he said.

“The problem is that in the Somalia area, we don’t have governments like we had in Southeast Asia to be able to deal with the problem,” he said. “That’s what makes Somalia a particularly difficult issue.”

Building partnership capacity is a key goal of the National Security Strategy.

The National Guard contributes to building partnership capacity through its State Partnership Program, which pairs 61 countries worldwide with states and territories.



State Partnership Program activities include exchanges by high-level military and civilian leaders. Military-to-military contacts bring state National Guard members together with foreign troops. Military-to-civilian activities focus on homeland defense, homeland security and military support to civilian authorities, including disaster preparedness, emergency response and consequence management.

The partnerships can address a wide variety of shared security issues, including border security and migration, combat medical training, computer and financial crime, defeating improvised explosive devices, disaster response, humanitarian assistance, illegal drugs, military support to civilian authorities, peacekeeping operations, port security and weapons proliferation.

Civilian security exchanges often grow from the State Partnership Program, with increased contacts between U.S. and foreign businesses, educators, farmers, doctors, lawyers and scientists.

Partnerships are created through discussions among countries, defense ministers, the U.S. ambassador, regional combatant commanders, adjutants general, governors and the chief of the National Guard Bureau, who administers the program.

The State Partnership Program started in the Baltic region of Europe in 1993 after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and focused on matching U.S. states with former Soviet satellite nations. The program later expanded to South and Central America, Central Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific and Africa came next.

No State Partnership Program relationship has ended and none has failed since its inception 16 years ago.

ALERT DETACHMENT: “MISSION READY!”



A 162nd Fighter Wing F-16 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base sits ready for alert. During a no-notice NORAD Alert Force Evaluation April 14, the wing's Alert Detachment earned the highest possible marks. Based on the new three-tier rating system the alert force was rated overall "Mission Ready" with zero findings. Of particular note was the outstanding effort and performance of maintenance at the det which the IG team lead stated, "is the best F-16 maintenance in NORAD."

"The pressure of performing superior actions or procedures on a no-notice inspection, for a can-not-fail mission is just outstanding!" said Col. Greg Stroud, 162nd Fighter Wing commander. "My thanks go out to all wing personnel who help our ASA Det accomplish the mission."





NGAAZ, EANGA

Annual Conference

May 29-30



Visit

www.ngaaz.org

for information and registration forms

Mark your calendars for the 60th annual combined National Guard Association of Arizona and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Arizona State Conference.

It will be held in Tucson, May 29-30, at the Westin La Paloma Resort.

Friday begins with a golf tournament and culminates with a professionally-run, country-themed casino night and buffet with live entertainment by the *Gary Bonnett Band*. There will be prizes for casino winners!

Participation in the entire weekend's activities is \$95. However, anyone may attend the business session on Saturday at 7:30 a.m. for free.

Saturday culminates with the greatest enlisted honor bestowed upon former Arizona Adjutant General Maj. Gen. (ret.) David Rataczak, the "Order of the Sword."

The dinner reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30.

E-4s and below pay only \$20, E-5s and E-6s pay \$30, E-7s pay \$45 and E-8s and above pay \$65. One non-military guest may attend at the same price as their military escort.

Uniform for the banquet is formal Mess Dress or Service Dress/Formal; formal cocktail attire for civilian guests.

Conference registration forms are at www.ngaaz.org. Mail-in registrations will be accepted until May 8. Also, hotel reservations made by May 8 will be booked at a significantly discounted rate.

If interested in volunteering for this event, please e-mail dean.miller@aztucs.ang.af.mil.



www.ngaaz.org

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA

Enlisted Association National Guard of Arizona

*60th Annual Conference & Golf Tournament
Westin La Paloma Resort
Tucson, Arizona • May 29th - 30th, 2009*



www.eanqa.org

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 29th

1000	1200	Golf Registration - Randolph Golf Course	
1200	1800	National Guard Golf Tournament - Randolph Golf Course in Tucson <i>Report to golf carts at 1200. Shotgun start at 1230.</i>	
1600	2000	Registration Desk Opens - Canyon Foyer	
1600		La Paloma Resort Check-in - <i>A limited number of rooms will be available before 1500</i>	
1800	2100	Opening Reception & Western Dinner - Grand Ballroom	
		<i>Exhibitors & Displays Reception, dinner & casino games provided from 1800-2100 Golf awards and prizes announced</i>	
2000	2300	Hospitality room open - NGAAZ & Enlisted will be in Grand Suites: Room #'s to TBA	

Saturday, May 30th

We are honored to have the 108th Army Band perform during the conference!

0730	1030	Registration Desk Open - Canyon Foyer	
0730	0830	Continental Breakfast - Grand Ballroom	
0730	1300	Exhibitors & Displays Open - Grand Ballroom <i>Special vendor hour from 0730-0830 - food provided</i>	
0830	0845	Presidents Opens Conference - Grand Ballroom <i>NGAAZ President: Lt Col Michael Morgan EANGA President: SGM Michael S. Sojourner</i>	
0845	0900	Welcome by Tucson Mayor - Grand Ballroom <i>Honorable Bob Walkup</i>	
0900	1000	Parade of Colors/Roll Call - Grand Ballroom	
1000	1030	Refreshment & visit Vendors Break	
1030	1100	TAG's State of the Guard Address - Grand Ballroom	
1100	1130	Governor Jan Brewer - Grand Ballroom	
1130	1330	EANGA Break-out Session - Palo Verde Room	
1130	1200	Resolutions - Grand Ballroom	
1200	1230	Install new BOD - Grand Ballroom	
1130	1300	Spouses Luncheon - Cottonwood Room	
1830	1930	Cocktail Reception - Arizona Deck & Foyer	
1930	2345	Annual Banquet - Canyon I & II <i>Dinner & entertainment</i>	



Outstanding travel orders can curb future travel plans

by **Capt. Melissa Jackson**
Finance Office

There is a saying that "procrastination saves time." Unfortunately, members who put off filing travel vouchers after going TDY do not save time or help the Air National Guard or the 162nd Fighter Wing maintain accurate financial obligations.

Outstanding travel orders become unresolved obligations under the watchful eye of the Air National Guard, Department of Defense and Congress. All members who receive a travel order must file their travel claims or vouchers within five work days of returning from the travel.

Like the Government Travel Card

program, those who exceed 60 days are considered seriously delinquent. These severely delinquent orders must be limited to less than 5 percent of the total outstanding travel orders. The 162nd's current rate is at 26 percent.

To help remedy this long standing problem, the finance office has provided each overdue member and their commander monthly written notification. Effective April 7, the finance office will no longer certify new orders for those who have outstanding orders older than 90 days.

It takes every unit member and commander to make this program successful. Please contact finance at 295-6080 if you have already filed or been paid, and contact our Customer Service at 295-6882 for travel voucher assistance.

Tig Bits

Thanks to all...

My family and I would like to thank everyone who donated leave on my behalf to cover the time needed to recover from both of my heart surgeries. Knowing that so many people care enough made my recovery a lot easier. Again, thank you so much.

-Staff Sgt. Chris Olson

April Blood Drive Results

First-time donors: 4
Goal: 35 units
Total Units: 24
Percent of Goal: 69

NARFE Meeting

Current and retired Federal employees, spouses, guests and visitors are invited to join the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), Chapter 1874, at the Home Town Buffet at 5101 N. Oracle Rd., just north of River Rd. on the northwest corner. The May meeting will be Monday, May 18. Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. (\$9.50 per person). The meeting will be from noon to 1 p.m. The speaker will be Mrs. Ann Day, member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor of District 1. Contact Valerie Davis at (520) 908-0774 for more information. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) has been safeguarding and improving the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal employees since 1921.

All in the EL TIGRE Family

Military Promotions:
To Senior Master Sergeant
Terry Oliver

To Master Sergeant
Robert Labonte
Daniel Barry
Mark Kelleher

To Tech. Sergeant
Philip Giarraputo
Jeremy Gundlach
Keron Watson
Sean Jack
Eric Baker
Todd Stuve
Michael Janton

To Staff Sergeant
Jeff Shea
Oscar Corrales
David Smith
Paula Dietrich
Eric Shelton

To Senior Airman
Travis Wilson

To Airman First Class
Sylvia Camelat

New Hires:

Staff Sgt. Rod Landis selected as a newly hired Air Technician in the Metals Technology Shop.

Staff Sgt. Ty Goeken selected as a newly hired Air Technician in the Aircraft Inspection Element.

Staff Sgt. Stacey Morris selected as a newly hired Air Technician in the Aircraft Inspection Element.

Senior Airman Tom Berezny selected as a newly hired Air Technician in the Aircraft Inspection Element.

Senior Airman Marcus Moss selected as a newly hired Air Technician in the Munitions Storage Area



TFL – A unique military medical benefit!

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

When approaching the magic age of 65 there are some important changes in available benefits. For military retirees and spouses an important new benefit at 65 is Medicare, supplemented by TriCare For Life (TFL). Note: People with certain disabilities or end-stage renal disease may be eligible for Medicare and TFL prior to 65. If you have questions about these conditions affecting you or a dependent, contact Medicare and TriCare now for guidance.

If you are already in the TriCare system, and have already begun collecting Social Security benefits prior to 65, transition to Medicare and TFL may be automatic. Regardless, it is recommended you contact the individual agencies to update your information and confirm your status and eligibility.

For all former military members preparing to sign up for Medicare and TFL, personal and dependent information should already be available in DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System). DEERS confirms eligibility for TriCare. DEERS information should always be current, so

whether already a TriCare member, or signing up for the first time when approaching 65, contact DEERS to ensure your information is accurate and up-to-date.

Medicare and TFL work together, so when becoming eligible for Medicare, enrollment in Medicare Part B is required to be eligible for TFL.

To enroll in TriCare, visit the TriCare Service Center (TSC) at Davis-Monthan AFB (DMAFB), located in the clinic, building 400. A TriCare representative will be able to answer all questions. Some information is also available by making a phone call or accessing the web site. TriWest is the TriCare provider for the west region, which includes Arizona.

Proper enrollment in TriCare is critical to securing medical benefits for the individual and dependent family members. Recommend contacting DEERS, Social Security, Medicare and TriCare a minimum of 3 months before your 65th birthday. These contacts will ensure there are no questions unanswered and any necessary changes can be made before reaching 65 to prevent delays in benefits. Medicare supplemented by TFL is one of the best benefits earned during a military career. Ensure proper enrollment to take advantage of it.

Former federal employees who have Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) may want to evaluate the continuing need for this insurance when transitioning to Medicare and TFL. Decisions made need to address not only personal requirements, but also the needs of spouses and other dependant family members. Contact representatives at TriCare and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for available options on this subject.

Contact information:

DEERS: (1-800-538-9552, www.tricare.mil/deers/)

TriCare (TriWest): (1-888-874-9378, www.tricare.mil or www.triwest.com)

Medicare: (1-800-633-4227, www.medicare.gov)

Social Security: (1-800-772-1213, www.ssa.gov)

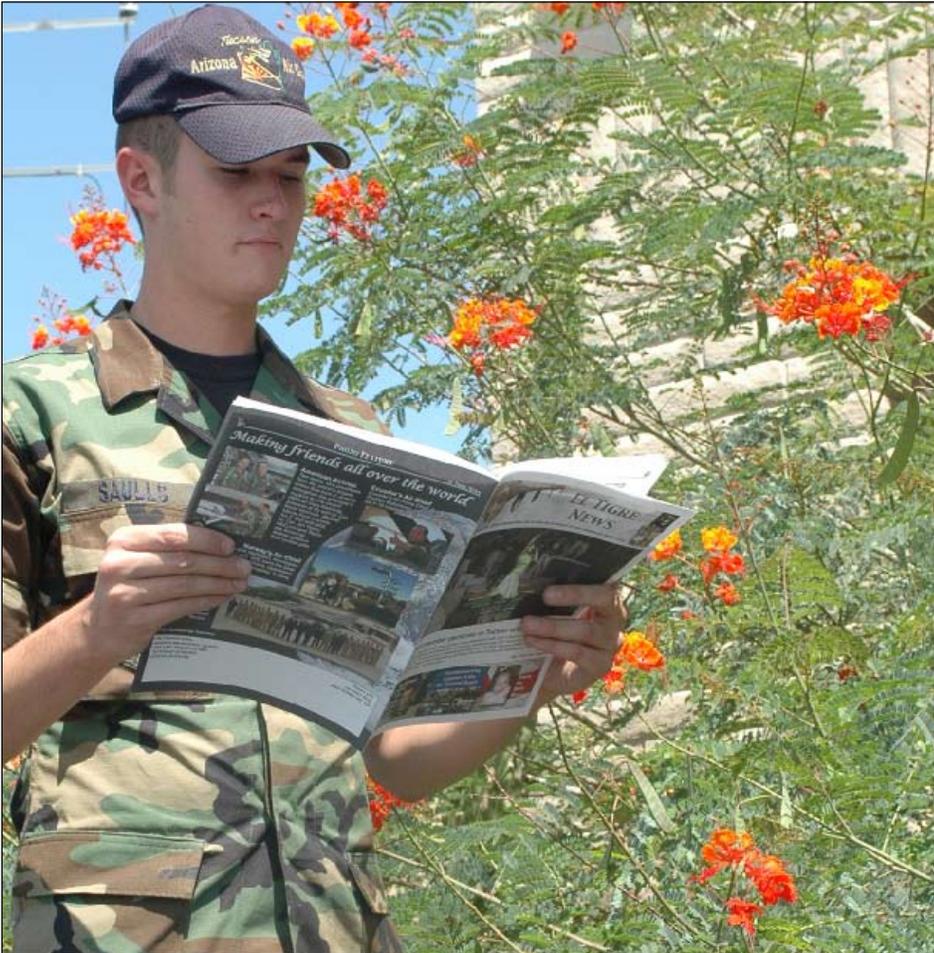
OPM: (1-888-767-6738), www.opm.gov/retire)

One more thing! At age 65, medical care related changes to the military ID card become necessary. A new ID card is required, not optional. New cards may be obtained at military personnel offices on DMAFB, at the 162nd, or at other military bases.

We have sad news. Dale Smith, one of the original members of the 162nd Fighter Wing, recently passed away. Our sincere condolences go out to Dale's family and friends.



More than 80 162nd Fighter Wing retirees convened at the Hometown Buffet at Wilmot and Broadway for the Retirees' Luncheon, April 8.



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

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

**DESERT ROSE
 DINING FACILITY
 MENU**

Cost for AGRs & Officers \$4.25

SATURDAY

- Chicken Fajitas
- Shredded Beef
- Mexican Rice
- Pinto Beans
- Mexi-Corn
- Peas w/ Mushrooms
- Simmered Squash
- Flour Tortilla
- Carrot Cake
- Sugar Cookies

SUNDAY

- Meatloaf
- Herb Baked Chicken
- Mashed Potatoes
- Rice Pilaf
- Brown Gravy
- Mixed Vegetables
- Fried Cabbage
- Steamed Carrots
- Coconut Cream Pie
- Chocolate Chip Oatmeal cookies

**SHORT ORDER &
 STANDARD ITEMS**

- Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers
- Chicken Strips
- Tuna Sandwich
- Pizza
- Baked Beans
- French Fries
- Onion Rings
- Baked Potato Bar
- Assorted Breads
- Jell-o
- Salad Bar w/Condiments
- Fresh Fruit
- Frozen Yogurt
- Soda, Milk, Coffee, Tea, & Juice

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

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

That Guy.com



A message for U.S. Military
 from the Department of Defense.

That Guy (['th]at 'gɪ), n.

1. Anyone who, after drinking excessive amounts of alcohol, loses control of self or situation with humiliating or compromising results:

a. Used to suggest shameful or embarrassing behavior: What is *That Guy* thinking? or, No way am I hanging out with *That Guy*.

b. Used to imply an unpleasant transformation/metamorphosis: Everything was great until my friend drank a few too many and turned into *That Guy*.

2. A negative example, often used to mock someone: Don't be *That Guy*.

162ND FIGHTER WING
ARIZONA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
1650 EAST PERIMETER WAY
TUCSON AZ 85706-6052
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRSRST STD
US POST PAID
ANG PERMIT NO. 394
TUCSON, AZ

162nd Fighter Wing Picnic, 2009



Maj. Gen. (ret.) Mike Shira, former Arizona Air National Guard commander, holds his granddaughter Emma Johnson at the wing picnic, April 5.



(From the left) Master Sergeants Terri Laguna, Brandy Watkins and Di Aragon enjoy the Tucson weather.



Children play on jumping castles and slides at the picnic.



Retirees Chico Bigham, left, and Senior Master Sgt. (ret.) Jim Masters, catch up at Udall Park.

Your suggestions wanted...

Picnic organizers will conduct an event "hotwash" in the wing auditorium Saturday, May 2, at 10 a.m. All unit members are welcome to attend to give constructive feedback and suggestions about the future of the annual wing picnic. Interested unit members that are unable to attend the hotwash are encouraged to call the Protocol Office at 295-6877 to offer suggestions.

Photos by Master Sgt. Dave Neve