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162FW Retiree News

August 2011

This newsletter is published by the 162FW Retirees Office for the sole purpose of providing information relevant to retirees. Photos in this publication are from Retirees Office files or public domain, unless otherwise noted. Questions or comments regarding this publication should be forwarded to the address listed in the upper left-hand corner of this page.

The Tucson ANG was born 55 years ago. On May 18, 1956 the 152nd FIS was federally recognized as a new unit of the AZANG.

Annual White Mountain Retirees Picnic draws a happy crowd



On June 23rd an enthusiastic group of retired Arizona ANG (and family) members attended the 7th Annual AZANG White Mountain Retirees Picnic. Former members of the 162FW and 161ARW mixed it up and shared stories from their military careers. A balmy day, great food and a host of quality door prizes contributed to the success of this event.

Retirees and their families are invited to October UTA events recognizing past and present 162nd members

Retirees and their families are invited and encouraged to attend festivities during the UTA weekend of Oct. 1-2. Events are planned on both days. On Saturday the annual Awards Ceremony / Hometown Hero Salute will recognize award recipients and unit members who have deployed in service to their country. This year's ceremony includes a celebration of the unit's 55th anniversary. It is requested all guests be seated in Hangar 10 by 11:30 a.m.

On Sunday a "Family Appreciation Day" will be held on-base. Events will include a briefing for retirees by the base commander Col. Mick McGuire, to be held in the base auditorium at 10 a.m. The briefing will provide information on unit status and give some insight into the future of the 162nd. For more information call (520) 295-6192.

After the retirees briefing, several family-friendly events will take place and lunch will be available. Retirees can buy lunch tickets for \$1.00 per person. Since 2011 is the 55th anniversary of the Tucson ANG, these weekend events have significant meaning for unit retirees. This is a great opportunity to come back and visit the unit, meet with old friends, and see what has changed at the Tucson Air Guard.

Upcoming Retiree Events September - November 2011

Notice: There are new changes to our events schedule. The following schedule was revised as of Sept 15, 2011.

Sept. 26, Monthly Flightline Luncheon, Skybox Café, in the shopping center at NE corner of River Rd and Craycroft, 12 noon. Everyone welcome.

Oct. 1 - 2, Recognition Weekend: Saturday - Awards & Hometown Hero Ceremony. Sunday - Family Appreciation Day. Includes a Commanders Briefing for retirees at 10 a.m. in the base auditorium.

Oct. 12, Semi-Annual Luncheon in Tucson, Golden Corral at 4380 E. 22nd St., 11:30 a.m. (Note: Lunch will be held in lieu of the breakfast on this date.) **This is a new location and a revised time from the previous schedule.**

Oct 31, Monthly Flightline Luncheon, Skybox Café, NE corner of River Rd and Craycroft, 12 noon.

Nov. 9, Monthly Breakfast in Tucson. Location to be determined.

Retiree Remembered



Bennie Cruz recently passed away. A former Marine, Bennie chose to continue his military career at the 162nd. He served as a drill status Guardsman in the sheet metal shop. We extend sincere condolences to the family and friends of this dedicated unit member.



BEWARE the unforgiving ladder!

In the past couple of months two 162nd retirees have had bad mishaps involving falls from ladders. One suffered four broken ribs and is mending nicely. The other one suffered a fractured heel bone, dislocated knee and compression fractures of the spine, requiring multiple surgeries. Rehab will take time and require extensive therapy. Fortunately, these retirees expect to recover from their injuries.

Time works against us. As we age several things happen. We slow down, muscles deteriorate and bodies get more fragile. The mind is ageless and willing; however, the body doesn't respond like the old days. Keep this in mind before deciding to climb a ladder for any reason. Ladder mishap statistics show about 165,000 emergency room visits each year; and about 300 people die. Another unfortunate fact is that the older we get the greater chance of serious injury or death.

All we ask is that you, our friends and former coworkers, think twice before deciding to climb any ladder. Rules for ladders are simple: Always have an assistant hold the ladder and stand by while you're climbing; ensure your ladder is in good condition, know safety rules for your particular ladder (printed on the side of every ladder sold in the last 20+ years), stay focused and proceed with caution.

It's a sad day when we hear about our retirees getting hurt. Most mishaps are preventable so there's always something to learn from others mistakes. Be smart and stay safe - Don't become our next statistic!

bs - Retired Safety Guy

tp - Retired Graphics Guy



**Don't bother me.
I KNOW what I'm doing!**

