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Desert Lightning News

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Serving Southern Arizona's military community, including Davis-Monthan Air Force Base

JUNE 6, 2008

AN AEROTECH NEWS AND REVIEW PUBLICATION

Tops in Blue *member makes Tucson show a memorable homecoming*

Story by Capt. Gabe Johnson
162nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Photos by Shelly A. McGuire

Davis-Monthan Airmen and Tucson community members packed the Tucson Convention Center Wednesday night when Tops in Blue, the Air Force's premier entertainment group, performed — featuring Tucson's own Tech Sgt. Chandra Smith, from the 162nd Fighter Wing's F-16 Alert Detachment on base.

Among the 30 performers from around the country, Sergeant Smith took center stage to sing for her hometown crowd.

Cheers, whistles and applause from the audience said all eyes were on her, when she sang solos during the group's sixth performance of the 2008 season, and Sergeant Smith's first-time performing for her hometown crowd.

"I feel great!" She said after the show. "I was a bit nervous for this performance, because I wanted it to be perfect for the people from my church, my unit and all of the friends that came out to see us.

"Our mission is to enhance the morale of servicemembers, and to strengthen ties between military bases and their surrounding communities, so it was really exciting for me to do that for my community here in Tucson," she said.

Those in attendance saw a two-hour program covering several styles of music. The 2008 Tops in Blue theme, *Déjà Blue*, compiled performances from past seasons and included music from movies, pop, country, Latin and patriotic genres.

Sergeant Smith had two solo performances during the evening. She sang Sugarland's country hit "Something More," and Gloria Estefan's "Rhythm Is Gonna Get You."

"I can't put into words how proud I am



Tech. Sgt. Chandra Smith, 162nd fighter Wing's F-16 Detachment, performs at the Tucson Convention Center Wednesday night for her hometown crowd. See Pages 10 and 11 for more photos.



Tech. Sgt. Chandra Smith stands on stage at the Tucson Convention Center Wednesday, performing for her hometown for the first time. The audience cheered and applauded her.



Tops in Blue drummer performs for a full house at the Tucson Convention Center Wednesday night.

AEF evolves to reflect dwell-ratios stressed career fields

By Tech. Sgt. Russell Wicke

Air Combat Command Public Affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) — Air Force officials here will soon implement an amendment to the air and space expeditionary force deployment cycle that will better reflect the deployment-tempo of stressed career fields.

Currently more than 45 percent of the 35,000 Airmen fighting in the war on terrorism are deployed out of their scheduled AEF deployment cycle because of high demands and minimal manning.

“We have been living under the current circumstance with

many exceptions to policy, and if you’re going to live with an exception to policy for a very long time, it should at that point be a part of your policy,” said Col. Matt Erichsen, the Air Combat Command operations division chief.

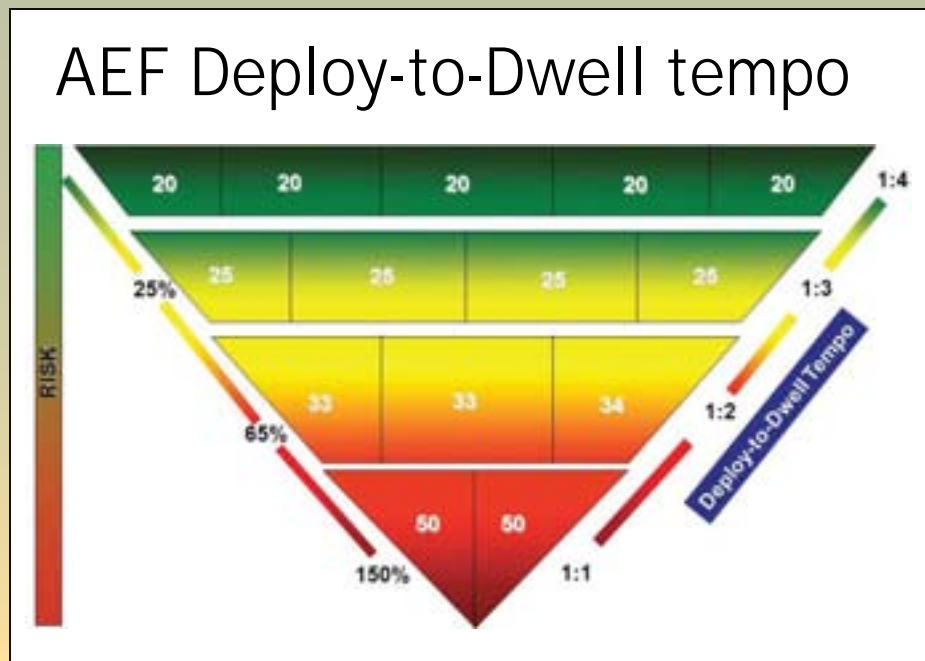
The original AEF cycle is divided into five pairs designed to have all Airmen on a 1:4 dwell ratio for deploy-

ment. In other words, during contingencies, Airmen should expect to deploy for 120 days and return home for 480 days. Manning for almost half of the Air Force career fields make it impossible to maintain the 1:4 ratio in current circumstances.

Under the new construct, called AEF Evolution, each career field will fall into a different category of deploy-

ment cycles. Career fields in higher demand will have smaller dwell ratios (or more frequent deployments). The deployment categories are called tempo bands. Air Force officials have created five tempo bands: A through E. Tempo Band A reflects the original AEF cycle of a 1:4 dwell ration based on 120-day deployments.

Bands B through E are



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Staff

- Publisher.....Paul Kinison
- Business Manager.....Lisa Kinison
- Managing Editor.....Stuart Ibberson
- Advertising Representative.....Diane Hasse
- Subscriptions and Delivery.....Chris Ramos
- Editor.....Shelly A. McGuire

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D-M captain leads Airmen up highest peak

By 355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

When Capt. Mark Uberuaga hits the fitness center's treadmill, he wears five pound weights around his ankles and a 50 pound expedition pack on his back.

"I prefer the old gym at Davis-Monthan because the treadmills have fans built right into them. I get really hot during these training sessions, and the fans help quite a bit," said Captain Uberuaga, a Pavhawk pilot with the 55th Rescue Squadron here.

Captain Uberuaga's training is intense, but so is the challenge that lies ahead of him. A journey, which began May 28, will ultimately end at the highest point in North America as Captain Uberuaga has started lead a group of Airmen to scale Mount McKinley, Alaska, to raise money for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Mount McKinley, also known as Denali, will be the fourth summit on the way to completing the U.S. Air Force Seven Summits Challenge.

The Seven Summits Challenge was the brainchild of Captain Uberuaga and his climbing partner, Capt. Rob Marshall, 8th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field Air Force Base, Fla., while they were roommates stationed at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

"We had just become roommates in March 2005 when Wrath 11, an MC-130H Combat Talon II, crashed killing nine Airmen from the 352nd Special Operations Group. It was a very difficult time for the families as you can imagine," said Captain Marshall.

It was during the aftermath of the Wrath 11 crash that the captains first learned about the Special Operations Warrior Foundation (www.specialops.org), which provides free scholarship grants to the children of military personnel who were killed in the course of military duties.

As avid mountain climbers, the roommates saw an opportunity to channel their sadness over the loss of their friends and co-workers into something good.

"This challenge has evolved from just a fundraiser into a mission to foster a positive awareness around the globe of the United States Air Force and the United States military in general," said Captain Marshall.



Courtesy photo

Capt. Mark Uberuaga, a Pavhawk pilot with the 55th Rescue Squadron here, scales Mount McKinley while working as a guide for Rainier Mountaineering Incorporated while in college. Captain Uberuaga began leading a team of Airmen up Mount McKinley again May 28.

The "seven summits challenge," according to Dick Bass, the first person to successfully summit the highest peaks on every continent, includes Mount Elbrus (18,510 feet), Europe; Mount Kilimanjaro (19,340 feet), Africa; Mount Aconcagua (22,834 feet), South America; Mount McKinley (20,320 feet), North America; Mount Kosciuszko (7,310 feet), Australia; Vinson Massif (16,067 feet), Antarctica, and Mount Everest (29,035 feet), Asia.

Captains Uberuaga and Marshall climbed the highest peak in Europe, Mount Elbrus, Russia, in July 2005; and they lead a group of Airmen and civilians up the highest peak in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro, in July 2006. Captain Marshall climbed to the summit of the highest peak in South America, Mount Aconcagua, in February 2007. In total, the U.S. Air Force Seven Summits challenge has raised nearly \$20,000 for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation.

With each climb, Captain Marshall said, the team tries to raise more money. This climb's goal is to raise \$30,000 more than all the past climbs combined.

While fundraising efforts are in full swing, Captain Uberuaga's focus as of late has been on the overwhelming coordination and preparation required to lead a team up Denali. Fortunately, Captain Uberuaga is well qualified for the job. He was a mountain guide during

college and has guided others to the summit of Mount McKinley four times.

"This is an intense climb, and it could take us up to a month to make the summit and return safely," said Captain Uberuaga. "We have a strong, young, healthy team though, and I am confident that we all have what it takes to make it to the top."

Along with Captain Uberuaga, other members of the Mount McKinley expedition include: 2nd Lt. Timothy Gannon, 354th Civil Engineering Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska; Capt. Tavis McDevitt, 33rd Rescue Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan; Capt. Erin VanOosten, 40th Airlift Squadron, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas; Airman 1st Class Christopher LaBerge, 97th Security Forces Squadron, Altus Air Force Base, Okla.; and Capt. Graydon Muller and 1st Lt. Andrew Ackles, both of the 40th Helicopter Squadron, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.

"The decision to participate in this climb takes dedication, personal sacrifice, and a spirit of adventure. We want to honor all acts of bravery and generosity by Airmen that go unnoticed across the globe every day," Captain Uberuaga said.

Editor's note: Anyone interested in donating money to the cause or being a part of the challenge can visit <https://www.usaf7summits.com>.

Financial Peace

By 2nd Lt. Mary Pekas
355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

In just more than three months, 34 Davis-Monthan community members saved \$31,775 in emergency funds, eliminated \$64,142 of debt and dodged \$1.7 million worth of credit cards offers, and they did it with hard work, commitment, and the lessons they learned from the Financial Peace University.

The base chapel offered the 13-week video-based program, which promotes debt-free living and building wealth, for the first time here at Davis-Monthan in January. The course concluded last month with incredible results, according to Chaplain (1st Lt.) Doug Hess, 355th Fighter Wing chaplain and FPU coordinator.

"The overwhelming response was ex-

remely positive," Chaplain Hess said. "Many people lamented over the classes they did missed. Some even offered to finance an Airman to go through the course."

The program is a product developed by and featuring Dave Ramsey, New York Times best-selling author, nationally-syndicated radio host and personal money management expert. According to Ramsey's Web site, <https://www.daveramsey.com>, more than 500,000 have attended the FPU courses, and that on average, families eliminate debt, with the exception of mortgages, in 18 to 24 months.

Course participants paid a discounted fee, based on rank, for course materials, which included Ramsey's book, Financial Peace Revisited, a workbook, lessons on compact disc, and other course aids.

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University saves D-M members

"This course more than pays for the tuition with the materials and resources given," haplain Hess said.

The students also committed to attending a weekly class that featured a DVD lecture by Ramsey on lessons including budgeting, debt, investing, retirement and home-buying. Meeting weekly enhanced students understanding of the materials, as well as creating accountability amongst class members.

"One of the life changing dynamics of FPU is the class interaction," said Staff Sgt. Brian Cravo, 355th Fighter Wing chaplain assistant. "In that environment real behavior modification happens as participants support, assist and challenge one another to get their finances on track"

Although students were expected to attend the weekly lecture, the objectives of the course were laid out for participants to achieve at their own personal pace. Ramsey repeated in his lessons a series of six "baby

steps" that lead participants toward the end goal — to "build wealth and give."

"Even though we only have the (first) baby step done, the fact that we have a legitimate and viable plan gives me an overwhelming sense of confidence," said Master Sgt. Chris McKinney, 612th Combat Operations Division.

For many of the participants, the class offered a great sense of stability, both financially and in their personal lives.

"FPU has given us a good platform to set ourselves up for a financially safe future and a healthy marriage," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Mayo, 355th Contracting Squadron, and his wife, Gwen Mayo.

"The class has been very instrumental in aligning my household under one common viewpoint as to how we need to handle our money in both the short and long term," Sergeant McKinney said.

"I have been married for one year and I be-

lieve that taking this class has helped us to navigate around many pitfalls associated with money management or lack thereof."

The chapel will offer the course again beginning June 12 for the first 30 volunteers. The encore is, in part, thanks to the resounding advocacy for the first course's students.

"Take it! Take it again! Get your friends to take it," said Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Replogle, 355th Maintenance Operations Squadron. "I wished I had taken or had the chance to get this class when I first came in (the Air Force). Imagine if Airmen today could actually retire after 20 years of dedicated service and not have to depend on his or her retirement with ease."

"This course is a must whether you are a E-1 or O-6. All have much to gain," Sergeant McKinney said.

For more information about Financial Peace University, call the base chapel at 228-5411.

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From AEF Page 2

based on 179-day deployments. Tempo band B is a 1:4 dwell ratio — or six months deployed 24 months home.

Tempo band C is a 1:3 dwell, band D is a 1:2 dwell and band E, reserved for the most stressed career fields, is a 1:1 dwell, or six months out, six months in.

Tempo bands B through E have been added to provide predictability, structure and rule sets for the nearly 50 percent of functional areas currently operating at a tempo greater than 1:4 or for a duration greater than 120 days.

Airmen can expect the tempo banning to go into effect as early as October. They will be able to see what tempo band they fall under by viewing their profile in the Air Force Portal. Informa-

tion on the Portal is scheduled to be in place by December.

These changes were recommended by the AEF Steering Group to provide increased predictability of tour length and tempo for Airmen. The improvements are not intended to change how often or how long Airmen deploy, but instead they will synchronize the AEF with the joint-planning process and allow the Air Force to meet combatant-commander requirements more efficiently.

“You can think of it more as truth in advertising for our Airmen,” said Lt. Col. Ed Swanson, the ACC AEF provisioning branch chief. “What we want to do is create these tempo bands to reflect what the career fields

are presently doing — so they have better predictability and know when their rotations will be.” Colonel Swanson said it enables Airmen to make life plans accurately for their families.

It also aligns the Air Force deployments and planning with the rest of the military services.

“When we plan out (deployments and operations) ... we’re planning 20 months out,” Colonel Swanson said. “The rest of the (military) community is planning 24 months out. So we’re off cycle with them, and have never aligned correctly.”

Air Force Reserve members will not be placed in tempo bands like active-duty Airmen.

Tempo banning allows Air Force warplanners to more ac-

curately identify when a career field is approaching a 1:2 dwell ratio, which may trigger mobilization for Reserve components. If Reserve Airmen are mobilized, they will fall into a standard 1:5 tempo-band ratio.

This evolution of the active duty “will be the new description of the air and space expeditionary force,” Colonel Erichsen said. “If we pull out of the Middle East, ideally everyone will come out of those tempo bands and we’d (all) be in Tempo Band A.” But the tempo band structures would remain in place for potential upcoming surges and crisis.

Additional AEF information can be found at the AEF Web site, which is linked from the AFPC “Ask” site.

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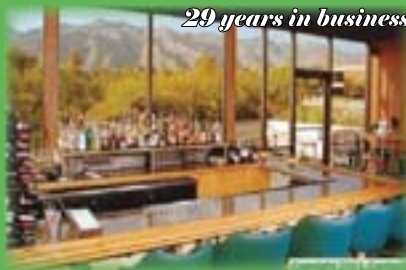
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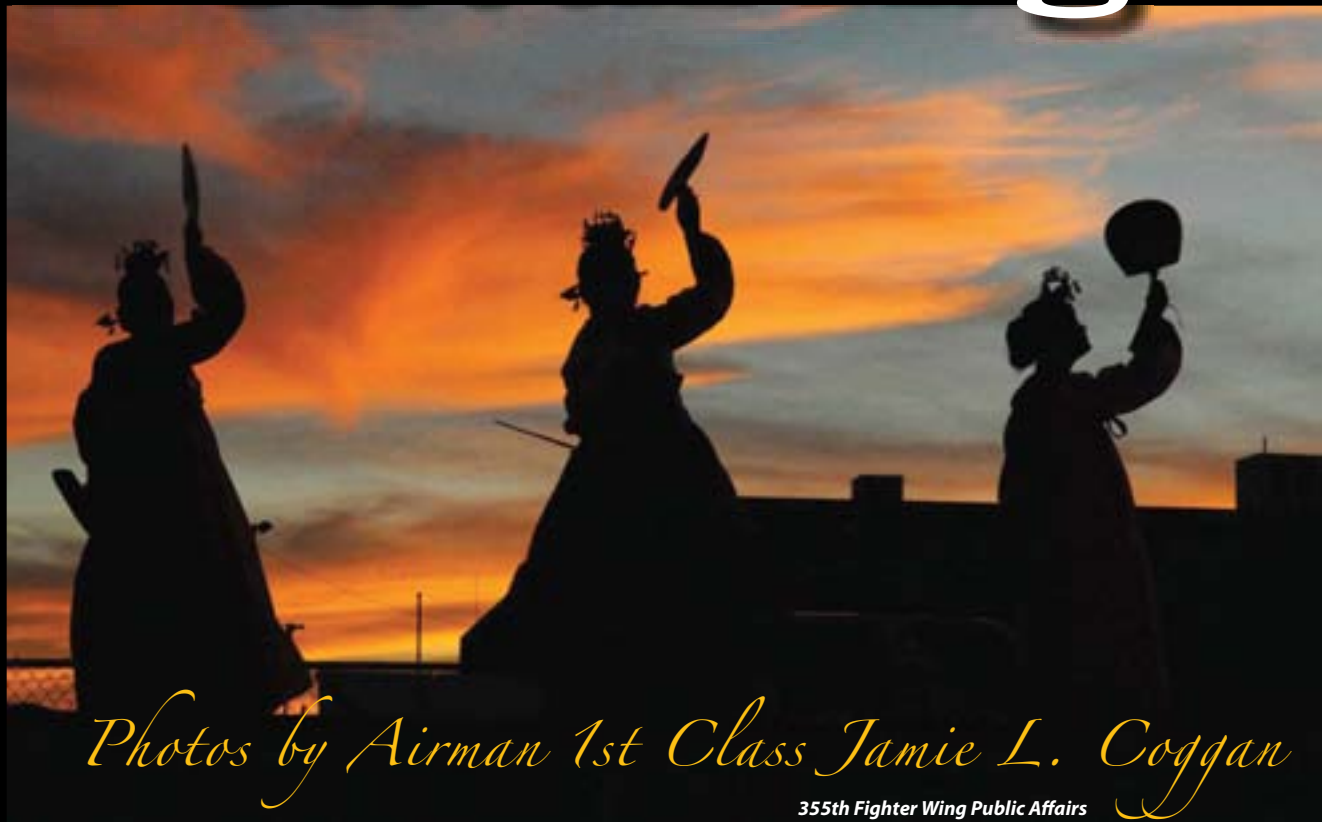
Davis-Monthan: Scenes from a luau



Left: Members of the Arirang Korean Dance group perform a traditional Korean dance on stage at the Asian/Pacific American Heritage Luau at Davis-Monthan's Bama Park May 30.

Bottom: Members of the Na Wahine I Ka Nani O'Tucson are silhouetted as they perform Tahitian dances during the luau.

Featuring



Photos by Airman 1st Class Jamie L. Coggan

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- Tombstone & Trail Ride - June 14. Cost of \$25 includes transportation and guided trail ride. Departs at 8 a.m., returns at 5 p.m. Register by 5 p.m. today.
- White Mountains Camping and Fishing - June 27-29. Cost of \$40 includes transportation, camping site, fishing and camping gear (if needed), canoes, and breakfast, lunch and snacks on Sat. and Sun. Departs at 9 a.m., returns at 5 p.m. Register by June 20. All trips depart from the ODR parking lot, building 4430. For more info, call 228-3736.

Youth Programs

- There will be a Tween and Teen Family Luau tonight from 5 to 8 p.m. at the base pool. There will be lots of fun and games and cardboard boat races.
- There will be a Teen Camping and Fishing Trip at the Dead Horse Ranch State Park June 19-20. Enjoy fishing and canoeing. For more information, stop by the Youth Center or call 228-8844.

Blanchard Golf Course

- Women's Month Golf Specials in June. Ladies get half-price golf all day on Wednesdays plus free bucket of range balls all month.
- Father's Day Specials, Sat. June 21. Bring

Dad out to play and kids play for free!

- The Blanchard Golf course offers reduced rates all week long during the summer. Come by and check out our fantastic rates! For more information, call 228-3734.

Holiday party lottery

The Mirage will hold their annual holiday party lottery June 30 at 2 p.m. in the Saguaro Room. Groups or organizations who are interested in holding their holiday party at The Mirage in Dec. 2008 must have a representative present at the lottery. You must also register for the lottery no later than June 25 by calling 228-3301 or e-mailing danda.anthis@dm.af.mil.

D-M Lanes Bowling Center

- Youth ages 18 and under receive free bowling clinics and fifty cents off games and shoes every Wed. in June from 1 to 2 p.m.
- The D-M Lanes youth and adult "Have a Ball" League runs from June 2 to July 14. Receive a White Dot ball at the end of league play. Cost is \$10 per week. For more information, call 228-3734

Library Summer reading Program

The Base Library introduces their 2008 Summer Reading Program "Book to the

Future". Parents and children ages preschool to 14 are invited to attend the below activities every Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. Prizes will be presented for the most books read and recorded for each of the following categories: preschool to 6, 7-10, 11-14. The library will offer preschoolers 5 and under book reading, crafts and other activities throughout the summer. Presentations include:

- The Nature Conservancy - June 19
 - DMAFB Fire Department - June 26
 - Tucson Water Department - July 3
 - Birds of Prey - July 10
 - Kitt Peak Observatory - July 17
 - Experiencing Nature Senses - July 24
 - Skulls and Tracks - July 31
 - Reading Awards and Party Aug. 7
- For more information, stop by the Library in Building 4339 or call 228-4381.

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of her," said Adam Smith, Sergeant Smith's husband, after watching her perform. "She has a true gift, and for her to be able to share it in this way is the best thing that could ever happen for her.

"She's been singing in talent competitions in Tucson for years and sings the National Anthem and other patriotic songs at Tucson's Air National Guard base during ceremonies," her husband said. "I've always known that she has an amazing voice."

She also performed during several group numbers consisting of 12 costume changes over the course of the show. "Some changes take only a minute," she said. "These days I can put my mess dress on in 1 minute, 20 seconds."

According to Sergeant Smith, the performance is only one aspect of Tops in Blue that's a matter of military precision. Since reporting to Tops in Blue headquarters at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in March, every minute of her training and preparation has been planned, and each member of the team is challenged to fill several roles as Tops in

Blue members.

The Airmen are divided into four distinct flights: personnel, operations, logistics and technical.

"We're a self contained unit," Sergeant Smith said. "I'm the personnel flight chief and I'm responsible for seven people. We all have additional duties that range from promotions, to protocol, to technical crew," the sergeant said, who doubles as a member of the lighting crew.

The typical routine for the team consists of six hours to set up the stage, a rehearsal, the performance, and four hours to pack the stage and move on to the next venue.

It's a ritual they will perform in 30 Countries at 150 shows until the season concludes in March 2009.

In addition to touring the United States, Europe and Asia, Tops in Blue will spend three weeks in Southwest Asia performing for deployed troops.

"I'm looking forward to going to the desert. I heard the crowds get really excited," Sergeant Smith said.

The team of goodwill ambassadors made a special trip to her unit at Davis-Monthan Thursday to present the

commander with a plaque in appreciation for unit support. They also sang a few songs for Sergeant Smith's co-workers. It's a courtesy the team extends to each member's home unit.

"We are very proud of Chandra," said Lt. Col. Moon Milham, 162nd Fighter Wing Alert Detachment commander. "Talent aside, she's an excellent example of today's Airmen and she represents the Air National Guard and our unit as a true professional.

At her detachment, Sergeant Smith is a personnel specialist and an information manager maintaining computers, accomplishing administrative work, processing orders, keeping records and managing several additional duties.

"She is certainly missed around here," Colonel Milham said, "but after watching her perform with Tops in Blue it's easy to see that she's right where she belongs. She's a credit to our country, an important part of troop morale, and exemplifies Air Force values."

For more information about Tops in Blue, visit <https://www.topsinblue.com>.



Tech. Sgt. Chandra Smith sings with her group Wednesday the the TCC.



Tops in Blue performer entertained the audience Wednesday night with her Minnie Pearl impersonation.



One Tops in Blue member dresses as Tina Turner, performing a high-energy number Wednesday.



Photos by Shelly A. McGuire

Tops in Blue members sit on stage at the Tucson Convention Center Wednesday night, performing for Davis-Monthan Airman and a large Tucson crowd.



309 AMARG: Three years of change

In a sense, the past three years at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (309 AMARG) have been like the computer and digital electronics industry – one monumental and positive change after another.

Perhaps the most obvious change came only one year ago when the Group transformed itself for the first time in 30 years – shifting from a stand-alone Center to become a Group of the 309th Maintenance Wing at Hill AFB, Utah. Four squadrons replaced the old center divisions. That change has brought tremendous benefits to the Group by clearly establishing 309 AMARG as a partner with the three Air Logistics Centers (ALCs), available to support ALC overflow requirements and small-scale work projects as a partner – not a competitor – since 309 AMARG has many of the same capabilities as the ALCs albeit on a much smaller scale.

Many of 309 AMARG's changes have taken place at the squadron level. For example, the 576th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Squadron (576 AMRS), which replaced the old maintenance division, has dramatically changed the F-4 regeneration cycle through a Lean process improvement. Gone are the days of a division of workers swarming over seven aircraft – replaced by a cellular concept in which cells of workers complete a specific series of tasks relinquishing their aircraft to the next cell and moving on to another jet. This process improvement has cut an average of 500 man hours off the time required to

regenerate each full-scale aerial target – a significant savings to our Air Combat Command customer.

The squadron has also applied the F-4 lessons learned to other elements – resulting in improvements in the A-10 service life extension program (SLEP) and in the regeneration of F-16s for foreign military sale (FMS).

The 576 AMRS' medium-sized aircraft branch applied lessons learned in their P-3 Orion regeneration program to increase from two (in the first year) to 10 P-3s regenerated in their third year – applied those lessons learned to the regeneration of five C-130Es for the FMS program, and reapplied lessons learned on C-130s to become key partners in the C-130 programmed depot maintenance (PDM) – directly supporting the vital workload for both

ALCs and operators needing the aircraft in the field.

The 576 AMRS team also converts B-1Bs from strategic nuclear capability to pin-point conventional strike through the addition of a target pod modification in accordance with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Other squadrons have also seen significant changes and upgrades in the past three years. The 578th Storage and Disposal Squadron (578 SDS), which replaced the old storage and disposal branches, also underwent a major Lean transformation in the past year. The process improvement has helped the team review storage procedures and make improvements to better in-process, store and preserve aerospace assets in their charge. Their efforts haven't gone unnoticed. Members of the Sierra Army Depot, charged with storing and preserving tanks and other heavy equipment for the Army, have visited twice in the past three years, each time seeking to gather information and lessons learned about desert storage and preservation. Likewise, two allies have visited 309 AMARG, one to gather lessons for potential aircraft storage, and a second with an interest in taking advantage of the 578 SDS team's knowledge to store allied aircraft at the Group facility – for the first time in about 10 years. Even NASA, tasked with retiring the Space Shuttle Orbiters in 2010, has visited 309 AMARG to gather ideas and best practices for storage and preservation.

The 577th Commodities Reclamation

See CHANGE Page 2



Oldest operational KC-135E retires, joins others in Arizona desert

KC-135E, Serial No. 55-3145, having been replaced by the KC-135R, retired here on May 28 from Forbes Field, Kan. after a long Air Force career taking it to destination stops all over the world.

The airframe is fondly remembered by former crewmembers according to SMSgt Cheryl Orr, USAFR, the plane's assistant crew chief for 11 years. In fact, she and Mr. A.J. Ford, 3145's crew chief for 21 years, have requested to "visit" the refueler as it sits in the Arizona desert for one more photo op with the plane.

"She was a very special aircraft, one-of-a-kind, always ready to go," said Mr. Ford. "The flight crews loved to fly her," he added.

"We (crew chiefs) flew all over the world with her, with hardly any maintenance problems," SMSgt Orr said. "The crews loved to fly her because A.J. kept her immaculate as well as in perfect mechanical condition."

In the same manner this aircraft made lasting memories for those who crewed 55-3145 since

rolling off the Boeing assembly line in 1955, so did other major world events occurring that same year. The same year this aircraft took flight for the first time, Disneyland opened its doors in Anaheim, Calif.; Ms. Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus; and the Salk polio vaccine was introduced, all forever making an historical impact.

Former flight crews of 55-3145 can rest easy as this aircraft will be placed in the highest level of storage at 309 AMARG, and preserved for flight should future duty call.



309 AMARG Commander's Fond Farewell

From CHANGE Page 1

Col Tony Panek,
309 AMARG
Commander



I came to 309 AMARG three years ago holding an opinion of the Group like that of many in the Air Force – the place is a boneyard where old airplanes go to sit in the desert. My eyes were quickly opened to the tremendous capabilities this Group brings to the table – aircraft regeneration – and not just drone aircraft, literally *any* aircraft for any customer, any time. Depot maintenance is no problem for this Group, either – something demonstrated from day one with the A-10s, and still demonstrated daily with the B-1Bs, and soon with C-130s.

The Group reclaims tens of thousands of parts every year, in support of every aircraft operated by the Air Force, Navy/Marine Corps, Army, Coast Guard, a number of federal agencies, and our foreign allies. Not only does 309 AMARG reclaim the parts, they ship them worldwide at the customer's request.

Group disposal technicians remove hazardous materials from aircraft and clean them for recycling.

I quickly learned that 309 AMARG does not store junk. If an aerospace object resides here, it has value

either as something that can be regenerated, reclaimed, and even recycled to save vital resources and costs.

The most important thing that struck me about this Group, was the 309 AMARG team. Since I joined this tremendous group of people three years ago, we've seen many changes. High marks on a UCI, on an LSET, we've transitioned from a stand-alone Center and incorporated into the 309 Maintenance Wing at Hill. We've become an AS9100/ISO9001 registered organization – marking 309 AMARG among the top aviation organizations in the country. Yet the essential driving force behind all of these positive changes within this incredible organization is people. I was truly amazed with the get-it-done attitude the entire team exhibited on every challenge faced. You always delivered.

Today, I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve with more than 650 dedicated civil servants, contractors, and active duty personnel. *You* make this command the national asset, the National Treasure, that it is. I am very honored to serve as your commander — Commander of the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group – *The Boneyard!*

Col Tony Panek, USAF

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Squadron (577 CMRS) recovers tens of thousands of preserved, reusable spare parts annually. The squadron returns parts, potentially worth millions of dollars, to operators at a cost of the man hours required to remove, package and ship them. Frequently, the most vital parts move from customer's request to shipping dock in as little as 24 to 48 hours.

The 577 CMRS team also turns out A-10 wings – rebuilding more than 11 wings annually in support of both A-10s undergoing SLEP both at 309 AMARG and at Hill AFB, Utah.

Finally, the 309th Support Squadron (309 SPTS) manages critical supply functions such as packaging, crating, shipping and warehouse, among others. The squadron's woodmill section creates shipping containers used the world over, aircraft modules, and containers for aerospace production tooling. Likewise, the shipping branch is world-renowned, its knowledge sought-after, for its ability to ship massive components, seemingly with little effort.

The Group has undergone many changes and improvements during the past three years. Some of those changes have come about through Lean events, others have resulted from the Group's registration as an AS9100 organization, still others have come about simply because members of the team recognized a better way to accomplish the task and forward-thinking leadership recognized the value of the modification. All resulted in an upward, ever-improving spiral. Although three years may not seem like a long time, for 309 AMARG transformation, change, like the Group's Phoenix logo, is the name of the game.

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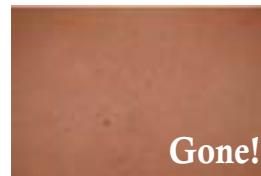
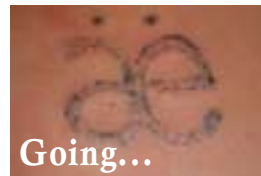
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Last F-4E delivers to Mojave for QF-4 drone conversion

F-4E, Serial No. 73-1167, an AMARG resident for the last 18 years, was delivered Monday to BAE Systems in Mojave, Calif., where it will be the last F-4E to undergo the QF-4 drone conversion.

The RF-4C, first making an appearance on the regeneration line here in 1992 during the developmental phase of the RF-4C drone conversion program, will assume the drone roll.

This final F-4E delivery brings the total number of F-4Es delivered in support of the QF-4 drone program to 149.



309 AMARG's flight test crew, Mr. Rick Nelson (left) and Lt Col Jon Wendell, pause during an aircrew walkaround prior to launch. Don Mitchell, 73-1167's crew chief (right) verifies flight control movement before taxiing.



Photo by Pamela L. Reed

Only a portion of the very talented regeneration team were on hand prior to the launch of 1167 as it made its first functional check flight since retiring in June of 1990. Pictured above, from left are Jim Summers, Stephen Merz, Andy Stockel, Lt Col Jon Wendell, Rick Nelson and Mike Alexander.



Brazilian television visits 309 AMARG

Reporter Rodrigo Alvarez (left) and cameraman Sergio Telles, both from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, recently discovered AMARG's unique and very diverse mission while filming a special segment for TV Globo, one of the largest broadcasters in South America with 30 million Brazilian viewers.

Both A-10 aircraft depot maintenance operations and wing shop modifications are expected to be highlighted in the documentary that will also feature the regeneration of the F-4 Phantom in support of the full-scale aerial target (FSAT) or QF-4 drone program, and the importance of the aircraft preservation process prior to desert storage.

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Tops in Blue members performs one of its many numbers at the Tucson Convention Center Wednesday night. The fast-paced show entertained the audience for more than two hours.



One Tops in Blue member takes center stage to perform.



Sergeant Smith dances on stage Wednesday night.



The group performs one of its country music selections for the audience.

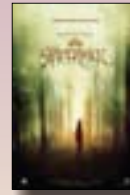
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Saturday
Deception
(R) • 7 p.m.



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The Spiderwick
Chronicles
(PG-) • 2 p.m.

Admission is for those with base access and is \$3.25 for adults, \$2 for children 11 years and younger and for Sunday showing. Call 228-5694 for movie theater listings.

D-M NEWS NOTES

D-M power outage

A power outage is scheduled at Davis-Monthan Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon.

Outages will effect the following buildings: 4102 (vacant), 4201 community center, 4300 CECS, 4100 dining facility, 4000, 5101, 5111, 5301, 5303, 5313, 5319, 5320, 5305, 5315, 5314, 5307, 5309, 5405, 5406, 4701 TRNS, 4711, 4706, 4702, 4703, 4704.

Smoking cessation classes

Want to quit smoking? Visit <https://www.ucanquit2.com>.

For more information about D-M tobacco cessation programs, contact Laurie Krupski at laurie.krupski@dm.af.mil or 228-2294.

School, sport physicals

Enrollee school and sport physical appointments are available at the 355th Medical Group until Sept. 1. There will be no weekend clinics during the summer, so appointments must be scheduled now and throughout the summer. To schedule, call the central appointment line at 228-2778, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The clinic can provide a list of providers in the community who can provide school/sport physicals for a cost of \$35 to \$70. While school physicals for children five to 11 are TRICARE covered benefit; sport physicals are not and will not be reimbursed. Call the clinic at the above listed number for more details.

Other Health Insurance

All retired military personnel and dependents must complete a DD Form 2569, which are available at all medical clinic reception areas and at the clinic/base exchange pharmacies.

The Department of Defense still requires annual completion of the form even if Medicare or TRICARE are the only insurance providers.

This form must be updated annually or whenever insurance information changes.

For more information regarding the Third Party Collection Program call 228-1564.

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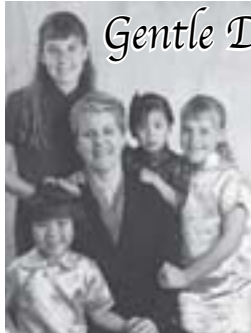


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MILITARY Appreciation Night at TEP

**By 355th Fighter Wing
Public Affairs**

The Tucson Sidewinders will hold its annual military appreciation night June 13 at 7 p.m. at Tucson Electric Park, where they will face the Colorado Springs Sky Sox.

Admission is free and gates open at 5:30 p.m.

D-M members can get their tickets

through their first sergeants.

Other events include:

- Military Working Dog demonstration
- D-M fire department HAZMAT vehicle display
- EOD bomb-detection demo
- A-10 Thunderbolt II flyover
- Post game fireworks show

For more information, call the 355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office at 228-3378.



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Thunderbirds announce 2009 officer selections

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFPN) — Officials of the Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, commonly known as the Thunderbirds, announced incoming officer selections for the 2009 demonstration season June 2.

Maj. Derek Routt, an F-15 Eagle pilot stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, will become the operations officer and serve as the second in command for the squadron as Thunderbird No. 7.

Maj. Sean Gustafson, an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot stationed at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., will take over as slot pilot, Thunderbird No. 4.

Maj. Richard Goodman, an F-15E Strike Eagle pilot stationed here, will join the team as the opposing solo, Thunderbird No. 6.

Capt. Jacob Hammons, an F-15 pilot currently stationed at Laughlin AFB, Texas, as a T-38 instructor pilot, will become the new left wing as Thunderbird No. 2.

Capt. Petrina Hansen, a personnel officer stationed at Misawa Air Base, Japan, will become the executive officer and Thunderbird No. 10.

Capt. Jamie Rempel, stationed at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., will join the team as the maintenance officer and Thunderbird No. 11.

"Each person and position is carefully selected based on the individual's record of performance, capabilities in their particular field and a demonstrated commitment to excellence that matches the Airmen we represent every day," said Lt. Col. Greg Thomas, the squadron commander/leader and Thunderbird No. 1.

The 2009 selections include a National Guard and Reserve pilot (Majors Routt and Gustafson, respectively) to serve on the Air Force's premier demonstration team.

"Each year we have dozens of highly capable Airmen apply for each position," Colonel Thomas said. "We select the most qualified individuals to join the team based on their overall capabilities and ability to represent all Airmen."

The public affairs officer position will be selected later in the summer, due to deployment operations and an extended interview process.

The Thunderbirds are currently touring in their 55th year as the Air Force's premier jet demonstration team. The 130-person squadron represents the more than 500,000 active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen serving at home and abroad. The Thunderbirds deliver the Air Force story at air shows around the country and the world each weekend from March through November.



Photo by Cailynn Houlihan

The Air Force Thunderbirds perform a pass across airshow central during the 2008 "Wings Over Charleston" Air Expo at Charleston Air Force Base April 26. More than 136,000 people visited the base during the one-day expo highlighting the Airmen and aircraft of the world's most dominant air, space and cyberspace Air Force.

Harry Schlosser, M.D.

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From left to right: Master Sgt. Joel Ambion, 355th Civil Engineer Squadron, Col. Lee DePalo, 563rd Rescue Group commander, Capt. Carrie Dally, 563rd Operations Support Squadron, Col. Kenneth Todorov, 23rd Wing commander, and Col. Kent Laughbaum 355th Fighter Wing commander, cut the ribbon for the new 563rd Group building at Davis-Monthan May 30. The new building will be used by the 563rd Maintenance Squadron, 563rd Operations Support Squadron, 48th Rescue Squadron, 55th Rescue Squadron and the 79th Rescue Squadron. Their mission is to ensure success in flying operations and combat search and rescue missions. "That Others May Live"

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Two-time Oscar winner presents film at Air Force Week

By Tech. Sgt. Ben Gonzales
Air Force News Agency

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) — Military medicine and wounded warriors took center stage in the “Fighting for Life” documentary produced by Terry Sanders shown during Air Force Week in Philadelphia May 28 at the Levitt Auditorium of the University of the Arts here.

Directed by two-time Academy Award winner Terry Sanders and presented to hundreds of community leaders and Airmen, the film documents today’s military medical professionals and the challenges of saving lives every day in the war zone as well as the learning process of becoming doctors for the military.

The opening sequence silenced the audience as “Fighting for Life” shows the harsh realization of all the behind the scenes efforts of medics to save wounded warriors in the battle zone.

“Nothing was staged. Nothing was rehearsed. Everything was real and captured as it was happening,” said Mr. Sanders, who has produced or directed more than 70 award-winning dramatic features, theatrical documentaries, television specials and portrait films. He also co-heads the American Film Foundation.

“The Air Force had a tremendous part of this film because we filmed at the Air Force hospital in Balad (Air Base in Iraq) and the whole way of caring for the wounded by moving them out of Iraq is a trademark of care in this war,” he said. “The passion and dedication of everybody — medics, doctors and nurses — is what we were filming.”

Mr. Sanders and his film crew worked more than three years on the film and followed the process of wounded warfighters as well as future doctors as they progress through the Uniformed Services University, which prepares scientists and health care practitioners for careers in service to the nation.

“This film is apolitical; neither left nor right,” Mr. Sanders said. “The film captured life as it happened. I wanted to make a film to reach the people who are turned off by anything to do with the Iraq war. This is about human drama and the realities of what is happening.”

What is happening is that Americans are fighting the war on terrorism and the business is dangerous. The Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad Air Base sees up to 10,000 patients a year making it one of America’s busiest trauma centers. In the film, military medics explained they have treated up to 17 patients an hour.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bennie J. Davis III

Film Director, Terry Sanders, a two-time Academy Award winner, premiered his film ‘Fighting for Life’ to nearly 300 Air Force Airmen and city civic leaders during Air Force Week - Philadelphia May 28. The film is a feature documentary telling the stories of doctors and nurses fighting on the front lines of battle to save lives. The Air Force Week program is part of a proactive initiative to increase communication with the public. Air Force Week includes community visits and talks by Air Force officials, flight demonstration team performances and displays highlighting the Air Force men and women serving on the front lines.

Treating and caring the wounded is not discriminatory. In the war zone, the majority of patients are locals injured and American medics treat each patient with respect and without favoritism.

Saving lives sometimes requires moving patients to larger medical facilities. In past wars, battle-wounded troops would be treated and kept in field hospitals. “Fighting for Life” shows how aeromedical evacuations quickly transport casualties and how an American servicemember can be wounded in Iraq, initially treated and then taken to Landstuhl Regional Medical Facility in Germany in as little as 11 hours.

The more than 300-member audience gave the director a standing ovation at the end of the film.

“We have 30,000 men and women that are medics in the Air Force,” said Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Byron C. Hepburn, the command surgeon for Air Mobility Command from Scott Air Force Base, Ill. “They are serving in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and serving around the world.”

“The film captured the spirit of the patients and also the courage of our men and women in uniform,” General Hepburn said, who has served at a forward-deployed hospital during

the war. “You see our theater hospitals doing tremendous work and you see our aeroevacuation team — pilots, loadmasters and aeromedical teams — doing incredible lifesaving efforts. It is a serious film and we can all reflect on the courage displayed here. It shows true service before self on the part of Soldiers wounded and on the part of men and women caring for them.”

“I didn’t expect to see so many tears in the theater,” said Tech. Sgt. Steven McLane of the 305th Maintenance Operations Squadron from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. “It was a very moving film. It really opened my eyes. It is something every American needs to see.”

“Fighting for Life” may be seen at movie theaters throughout the country at selected cities. For more information on the film, visit the American Film Foundation Web site.

The Air Force Week program is part of a proactive initiative to increase communication with the public. Air Force Week includes community visits and talks by Air Force officials, flight demonstration team performances and displays highlighting the Air Force men and women serving on the front lines. There will also be an Air Force Week Aug. 9 through 17 in Omaha, Neb., and from Nov. 14 through 21 in Los Angeles.

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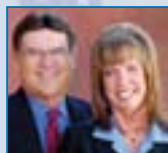


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The **ONLY** Classified ads that are available as free ads to above listed personnel are:

- Pets - Free To Good Home
- Roommate Wanted
- Lost & Found
- Cars & Trucks (Except RV's)
- Furniture & Appliances
- Misc. For Sale
- Garage & Yard Sales
- Motorcycles
- Misc. Wanted

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- Work Wanted
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- MOBILES FOR RENT
- MISC. FOR RENT
- ACREAGE
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- SERVICES
- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
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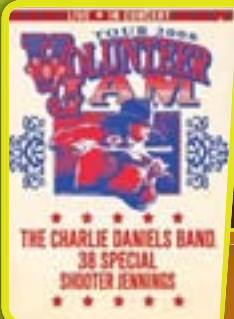
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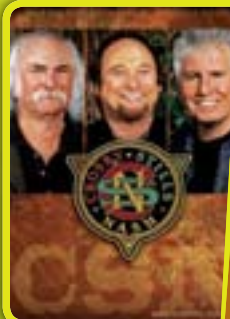
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