



AMARG prepares historical Balad CASF walls for display

As though opening an ancient tomb with an undiscovered cache, a historical Air Force treasure was revealed to AMARG wood mill workers as the humble drab-colored container's doors were gently opened.

Their only clue to the findings inside was the shipping label affixed to the outside of the protective steel box that arrived at AMARG for storage in late 2011.

With their eyes adjusting to the dark, dry accommodations, noticeably evident was the impressive effort taken to secure and protect the extremely delicate objects inside.

Examining the contents closer, the workers as they studied the signatures, tributes and farewells to service and family members. It soon became apparent they were reading the Facility's Contingency Aeromedical Staging (CASF) lounge walls from the Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

From 2005, until July 2011, messages were written on these walls to memorialize those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, the injured and the hospital caregivers who helped them. A door also bears the autographs of a former Air Force Secretary and an Army General.

Wishing to preserve the inked messages that captured so many emotional moments during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the walls were removed, turned over to the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and subsequently shipped to AMARG where they were to remain in storage until permanently placed.

However, realizing what a rare opportunity it is to have the CASF walls here in Ariz., Col. Patrick Kumashiro, AMARG Commander, gained approval to place a portion of these artifacts on display during Davis-Monthan AFB's upcoming Open House.

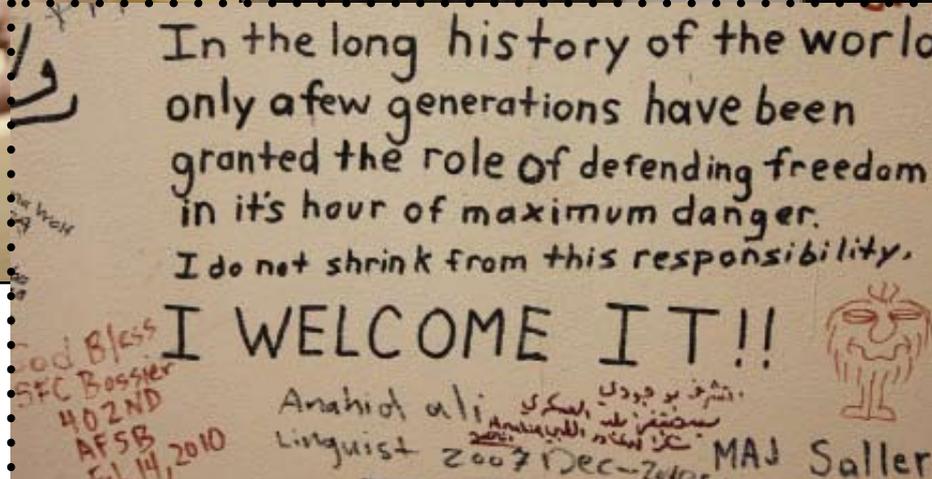
"The arrival of the walls to AMARG coincided with the President's announcement of the end of the Iraq war in December 2011," said Colonel Kumashiro. It's a privilege for the Air Force to share the legacy of the walls that solaced so many wounded warriors in their recovery," he added.

Excited to prepare these legendary walls for public display, craftsmen from the Wood Mill at AMARG have worked steadily for three weeks to encompass 5 distinctive pieces of the wall into a viewable creation. These professionals took special care of the walls to make sure they were not damaged in the process.

"Though skilled wood workers, these guys had to expand their repertoire beyond the construction of a support fixture or a shipping platform for an aircraft," said Mr. Gerald Spears, worklead on the project. "But they're known for their versatility," he continued with a smile.

Rarely seen, these CASF walls may be visited in person on April 14 & 15 when Davis-Monthan AFB opens its gates to the public.

AMARG Wood Mill craftsmen, Mr. Jeff Webster (l), Mr. Wayne Renaud, and Mr. Jesse Nava, work to prepare the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF) lounge walls from the Joint Base Balad, Iraq, for display at the Davis-Monthan Open House next weekend.



AMARG's 577th Commodities Reclamation Flight achieves VPP Bronze level

A reclamation flight within the 577th Commodities Reclamation Squadron (577 CMRS/MXDPA) is the very first at AMARG to meet bronze level requirements in the Commander's Safe Site Challenge.

The Safe Site Challenge is an Air Force program designed to break down the many requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) into manageable and measurable achievement stages. The process is closely related to the three stages of maturity identified in the Air Force's VPP CONOPS and provides opportunities for all Air Force personnel and civilian employees to embrace excellence in day-to-day safety and health related behaviors.

Pursuit of silver and gold levels follow the bronze. Once the entire Group achieves the gold level, an application is submitted to OSHA for the highest honor in the program, the coveted STAR.

Some of the Flight's bronze accomplishments include completion of courseware; training in hazard identification and abatement; and active participation in the Flight's continuous vigilance for

safety.

Playing a key role in receipt of this bronze level were supervisors, Mr. Ken Armstrong, Mr. Pete Paganini and Mr. Vince Turner who empowered their employees through open communication, responsive management and attention to safety and health regulations.

Squadron VPP manager, Sam Ayun, led the Flight to

bronze by planning and implementing a campaign of education and safety practices that provided the Flight's 50 employees with the motivation to engage with the OSHA and AF safety goals.

Other workplaces at AMARG are expected to follow MXDPA with their own Bronze accomplishments soon.

Story by Janet Germano, AMARG VPP Manager.



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309 AMARG recognizes 66 years of service to nation's warfighters

April 1, 1946 - April 1, 2012

Established by the Army as the 4105th Army Air Base Unit on April 1, 1946 to store post WWII B-29s and C-47s, AMARG's varied aerospace fleet provides a unique savings account from which U.S. and foreign allied militaries and government agencies throughout the world may withdraw parts and aircraft now and into the future.

Occupying 2,600 acres of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base real estate, the Group stores slightly less than 4,000 aircraft for the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Coast Guard (Department of Homeland Security), and other agencies including NASA, the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, the State Department and the U.S. Forest Service. Canadian Forces, the Royal Norwegian Air Force and NATO, Germany also store aircraft at the facility.

In 1964, the Secretary of Defense directed the consolidation of all military aircraft storage and disposition facilities into a simple entity, resulting in the organization's conversion to the Military Aircraft Storage and Disposition Center or MASDC. In 1985, the Group's name changed to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC). Prompting the name change was the facility's growing capability for restoring aircraft to flying status.

In May 2007, AMARC aligned under the 309th Maintenance Wing at Hill AFB, Utah transitioning from AMARC to the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group or 309 AMARG.

For more than six and a half decades, 309 AMARG has evolved with the Air Force into a modern, high-tech industrial facility, providing its customers with a broad range of aircraft support services.

As 309 AMARG moves into the future, its mission will continue to evolve, embracing new and innovative techniques necessary to sustain American, allied and coalition warfighters by providing a quality product.

Happy Birthday AMARG!

Colonel Kumashiro thanked AMARG employees for their continued dedication to the mission, reiterating his confidence that their resolve and persistence will pave the way for a successful future. Tenured and new employees Bob Foley, Taylor Clarke, Wilma Buzzard, Joe DeVos and Tony Carrillo share the moment.



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