



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM, DAVID-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE AND THE 309<sup>TH</sup> AMARG WORK TOGETHER TO OFFER THE SECOND EVER SATURDAY “BONEYARD” GUIDED TOURS FOR “WORKING” TUCSONANS!

Pima Air & Space Museum, who operates the often-sold-out bus tours of the “Aircraft Boneyard” aka the 309<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG) on the Davis-Monthan (DM) Air Force Base, announces the second ever Saturday tours created specifically to show support for working Tucsonans on Sat., Aug. 30th.

The 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group—commonly referred to as the “Aircraft Boneyard”—operates to sustain U.S. and allied warfighters. Instituted in April 1946, immediately after WW II, AMARG has grown to become the storage, regeneration and “recycling” center for all U.S. military branches’ and federal agencies including NASA’s aircraft. The group, located on the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, currently has more than 4,000 aircraft on a 2,600-acre (or 4-square-mile) facility. Five elements make up their overall mission; those elements include:

- *aircraft reactivation (also called “regeneration”)* – meaning returning aircraft to flying status,
- *aircraft overhaul—or limited depot-level maintenance,*
- *aircraft storage*—perhaps the most visible mission,
- *aircraft parts reclamation,* and
- *aircraft disposal.*

Having a closer “inside-the-fence” view of the vast array (for comparison, at AMARG there are more planes in one location than exist on the entire continent of Australia) has always been in high demand. In 1999, D-M in conjunction with AMARG awarded operation of tours to the Pima Air & Space Museum. These tours run during normal business hours: Monday through Friday, not including federal holidays. However, “normal business hours” are when many Tucsonans work.

Thanks to the coordination of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, AMARG and the museum, with volunteer airmen manning the security gates, on “Labor Saturday” —the Saturday of the Labor Day Weekend—Pima Air & Space Museum is offering docent-guided air-conditioned-bus tours of the “Boneyard.” Prices will be:

- \$7 for non-Pima-County adults
- \$4 children ages 12 & under.

Admission to Pima Air & Space Museum—only \$12.25 for Pima County residents—is not required however per U.S. Air Force security requirements, all persons 16 years of age and older must present their government-issued identification (driver’s license, passport or military ID) at least one hour before

the tour start time at the museum admission area. Additional security procedures for entering a U.S. Air Force Base include:

- No carrying of firearms, weapons, illegal substances, backpacks, camera cases, and other non-essential items on the AMARG tour.
- Carry-on items may include a small camera without the case, and a small purse or fanny/belt pack.
- **All carry-on items will be visually inspected before boarding the bus.**
- The bus will stop for photo opportunities on base however everyone will remain on the bus and all photos taken through the windows.

The air-conditioned bus tours, to be offered at 10am, 11:30am, 1:30pm and 3pm, take approximately 75 minutes. The museum recommends advanced purchase at [pimaair.org/visit/buy](http://pimaair.org/visit/buy) (click on the BUY TICKETS photo, an email address with a printer or a smart phone/tablet is required to print out/display purchased tickets). A limited number of walk-up tickets will be available for purchase on Sat., Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> beginning when the museum opens at 9am.

This event was designed to thank the local Tucson community for their support and for embracing the "Boneyard" as a local icon for more than 68 years. It is hoped that this outreach opens the door for many hard-working neighbors to take advantage of a rare opportunity to view the broad range of aircraft and items of interest the Aerospace Regeneration and Maintenance Group workforce maintains, and experience firsthand this nation's past and present airpower display.

"It's always wonderful to respond to one of our most frequent visitor requests: to have "Boneyard" tours on a Saturday," stated Yvonne Morris, Executive Director of the Arizona Aerospace Foundation that operates the Pima Air & Space Museum. She continued, "We are extremely grateful for the extra effort DM, AMARG, individual airmen, museum staff and volunteers put forth—especially giving up their Labor Day Weekend—to make this possible for Tucsonans. It's a great example of Tucson's cohesive caring community."

These Saturday tours were previously offered only once before, on "Labor Saturday" 2013, and sold out. Public service announcements were graciously provided by the generous community partners: the *Arizona Daily Star* and Cumulus Radio (K-HYT 107.5). Tucsonans with questions can call the Pima Air & Space Museum's general information line 520 574-0462 Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday.

#### **ABOUT 309 AMARG**

309 AMARG is a modern, high-tech industrial facility providing a broad range of aircraft and aerospace vehicle support services to the U.S government and foreign allies. Services include aircraft and aerospace vehicle storage, parts reclamation, regeneration (restoration to flight capability), limited aircraft depot level maintenance) and aircraft disposal. AMARG's primary mission or role is to provide maintenance and asset regeneration for sustainment of the warfighter.

#### **Attachments:**

PASMSatAMARGtourRADIOpsa = :60 radio PSAs



PASMAMARGtourCBentleyKHollett.jpg = Pima Air & Space Museum docents Christina Bentley and Ken Hollett checking ID and inspecting "Boneyard" bus-tour passengers' small carry-ons as they board



PASM\_AMARG\_C-130column = Cargo planes/C-130s at AMARG as seen on the "Boneyard"/AMARG tour



PASM\_AMARG\_F-16noses = Line up of fighter planes noses/F-16s at AMARG as seen on the Pima Air & Space Museum tour

PASM\_AMARG\_F\_16Rows = Rows of F-16 fighter planes as seen on the tour

PASM\_ = Walk-up line at the Pima Air & Space Museum at 9:00am on Labor Saturday 2013 for the Saturday "Boneyard" tours. (All available seats sold out.)