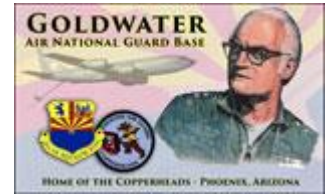




The 161 ARW flies the KC-135R.

**“WILLIE” FLIGHT 82**  
**Order of Daedalians**  
P.O. Box 11261, Chandler, AZ 85248  
<http://www.willieflight.org>  
Volume 37, Issue 6, September 2019



The 161 ARW is on the Goldwater ANG Base.

**FLIGHT CAPTAIN'S CORNER:**



Welcome back from our scheduled summer break. We hope everyone had a safe and rewarding summer. Our Willie Flight 82 dinner meeting on 12 September 2019 is sure to please with our guest speaker, COL Pat Donaldson, commander of the 161<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, in Phoenix. He will be discussing the topic of the current status of the wing, and current plans in the works for the future at the Goldwater Air National Guard Base. The 161<sup>st</sup> ARW consists of 800 of the finest airmen found anywhere, and eight KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft. Col Donaldson's biography can be found by way of the Willie Flight web site (<http://www.willieflight.org>) or on page 2 of this newsletter.

Be sure to bring any new prospective members and guests with you have made contact with during the summer. Our flight is a good size that averages around 97 to 105 members. Let's do everything we can to get more. There are many former and perhaps current qualified military folks in our valley who can be part of our organization. See you at the September meeting.

V.V. -- [Frank Stookey](#)

**The 161<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing:**

The 161 ARW was first established as the 197th Fighter Squadron on December 12th, 1946. It's members were, and are still, known as the "Copperheads." Their mission transitioned to air refueling in 1972 and the unit eventually grew to be the wing it is today. The 161st evolved into a powerhouse for mobility operations and a primary source of air refueling support in the Southwest. It is organized to transition smoothly between state and federal missions. The crews and equipment are seamlessly interchangeable with any active duty unit. The KC-135 is the core air refueling platform for the United States Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 50 years. The 161st operates the KC-135 "R" model, the latest version of the aircraft. Depending on the fuel storage configuration, the KC-135 can carry up to 200,000 pounds of JP-8 fuel, and 83,000 pounds of cargo, or personnel. Between aeromedical evacuations, disaster relief efforts, and delivery of cargo and personnel, the 161st is one of the busiest tanker units in the Air Force and the Air National Guard. The wing deploys the tanker globally, landing and operating in both foreign and domestic soil in order to support multinational military and humanitarian missions, flying an average of 3,800 hours annually.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 12 September at *The Dobson's Restaurant*, at the Dobson Ranch Golf Course, 2155 South Dobson Rd, Mesa -- [click for a map](#).

**Speaker:** *Col Patrick Donaldson, Commander of the 161<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing, ANG (biography on page 2).*

**Topic:** *The 161<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Sky Harbor Airport.*

**Time:** *1800 Social Hour, 1900 Meeting/Dinner.*

**Dress:** *Dressy Casual (slacks & shirt with collar).*

**Menu:** *Meat Loaf Wellington, Panko Chicken, or Sea Bass.*

*(All served with vegetables, salad, rolls, dessert, and coffee.)*

**Price:** *\$30.00 per person. (Includes toasting wine).*

**Note:** *Please pay with a check (raffle tickets are 6 for \$5).*

**Reservations:** To make a reservation, please contact your Element Leader (page 2), by Saturday, 7 September. For questions, please call Pat Dooley (480-802-9914).

**Cancellations:** If you've made reservations and you can't attend, please contact Pat Dooley (480-802-9914) as soon as possible, so he can notify the restaurant.

**Need a ride?** Call Pat Dooley or Art Stark for help.

**MEETING CALENDAR:**

<b>12 Sep:</b> General Meeting	16 Sep:	Staff Meeting
<b>10 Oct:</b> General Meeting	14 Oct:	Staff Meeting
<b>14 Nov:</b> General Meeting	18 Nov:	Staff Meeting
<b>12 Dec:</b> Christmas Meeting	16 Dec:	Staff Meeting
<b>9 Jan:</b> General Meeting	13 Jan:	Staff Meeting
<b>13 Feb:</b> General Meeting	17 Feb:	Staff Meeting
<b>12 Mar:</b> General Meeting	16 Mar:	Staff Meeting

**OFFICERS & STAFF:**

Elected Officers:

Flight Captain:	<a href="#">Frank Stookey</a> , USA	480-985-4561
Vice Flt Capt & A-V:	Art Stark, USAF	480-288-9301
Treasurer:	Bill Follette, USAF	602-619-5445
Scholarships Chairman:	Gary Zettl, USAF	480-415-6854
Provost Marshal:	Ron Diedrichs, USAF	602-908-3496

Appointed Staff:

Flight Adjutant:	Arlan Allen, USA	602-283-5862
Elements Coordinator & Chaplain:	Tom Waldron, USAF	602-743-3661
Asst A-V Support:	Kurt Gearhart, USAF	480-329-1936
Biographies:	Gary Klein, USMC	480-650-5522
Asst Scholarship/Awards:	Gerry Homewood, USAF	480-496-9879
Membership & Publicity:	Pat Dooley, USAF Ret	480-802-9914

**Dobson Restaurant Management & Price Changes:**

Over the summer, Mesa's Dobson Restaurant and the golf course had a management change. Our menu options will stay the same for now. Also, most of the cooking and some of the serving staff didn't change. However, as expected, they did increase their prices, so we now must charge \$30.00 per person to break even. We hope all of you will understand.

