

309TH AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AND REGENERATION GROUP
A NATIONAL-LEVEL AIR POWER RESERVOIR

Mission

- The 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG) is a one-of-a-kind specialized facility within the DoD; it is the largest aircraft storage and preservation facility in the world.
 - The lack of rainfall, low humidity, and extremely hard caliche-based soil makes Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (AFB) an ideal location for aircraft storage and preservation.
 - The aircraft are stored on dirt, saving millions annually by not having to maintain 2,600 acres of concrete and asphalt surfaces that are traditionally required to hold the weight of aircraft.
- AMARG is world-renowned as the “Boneyard,” a place where military aircraft are stored and parts are reclaimed. Although the Boneyard is a catchy, memorable nickname, it doesn’t paint the full picture of the awesome spectrum of capability AMARG provides and has provided for decades.
- What many people do not realize, in addition to storage and reclamation, is that AMARG is a key force-multiplier for the Department of Defense (DoD). At this moment, it is enabling the nation to fight terrorism, conduct humanitarian relief, fight forest fires, conduct drug interdiction, and defend the Nation.

History

- AMARG has a great legacy that has endured for 70 years and will continue into the foreseeable future.
 - AMARG (as it’s currently known) dates back to 1 April 1946 when, after WWII, there was a need to store excess B-29 bombers and C-47 cargo aircraft.
 - In 1964, the Secretary of Defense identified AMARG as the sole-location for all DoD aircraft Storage.
- As part of the Ogden Air Logistics Complex, AMARG is a key player on the Air Force Sustainment Center (AFSC) team; AFSC is the Air Force’s “numbered” AF for readiness.
- The AFSC Commander considers AMARG a “National-level Airpower Reservoir.” This statement can be backed up by looking at AMARG’s contributions during some significant milestones in United States (U.S.) history, following WWII all the way up to present-day operations defending freedom.
 - In 1948, the Soviets blocked all access leading into Berlin, which led to the initiation of the Berlin Airlift. AMARG immediately got the call to re-generate C-47s for the effort, as well as parts support to keep the air bridge alive until the Soviets gave up.
 - In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea, starting the Korean War. AMARG regenerated B-29 bombers, as well as C-47 aircraft to aid the effort to stop the expanse of communism.
 - In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, AMARG shifted from reclaiming B-47 bombers to “stand-by to regenerate in case of war” when President Kennedy ordered the AF on full alert when the threat of nuclear war was imminent.

- In 2015, the Air Force Global Strike Command needed an additional B-52 Bomber to aid in the War on Terrorism and to ensure the Nation's nuclear deterrence remains strong.
 - AMARG worked with an integrated AF Team and regenerated "Ghost-Rider," a B-52H that had been in storage for 7 years.
- When forest fires ravaged the western United States in 2013, Congress directed the Coast Guard to transfer C-130 aircraft to the Forest Service and stand-up two Coast Guard Units to fly C-27s, a smaller, newer cargo aircraft.
 - AMARG, working with the Coast Guard, has regenerated seven C-27s so far, and is currently in work regenerating four additional aircraft this year, which will allow full operational capability nation-wide.
- The QF-16 regeneration line provides aircraft to train our pilots in how to stay ahead of our enemies. Using the *AFSC Way*, AMARG has improved the quality of the end product and cut flow days by 52% from this same time last year, meaning aircraft are delivering faster than expected.

CONCLUSION

- As the DoD continues to adjust to national security threats and fiscal realities, AMARG will remain a key force enabler allowing the United States to rapidly adjust to the global environment and provide world-class aircraft maintenance and logistics support as part of the larger AFSC enterprise that supports the DoD and other Government agencies.