

The Kirtland Air Force Base

# NUCLEUS



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Photo by Todd Berenger

## Society reunion

The Air Force Escape and Evasion Society held a reunion May 11 at Kirtland Air Force Base. Events included an aircraft static display at the 58th Special Operations Wing. Attendees explored the wing's search and rescue aircraft, including an HH-60G helicopter. See story on page 7.

## Area Memorial Day events announced

The Albuquerque community will mark the Memorial Day weekend with multiple events.

The Albuquerque Isotopes baseball team military appreciation nights will be May 26 and 27. Games start at 7:05 and 6:05 p.m., respectively, followed by

fireworks.

Tickets are \$8 for active-duty military, retirees, veterans, ROTC cadets and family members.

The deadline to order is May 22. For more information, go to [www.abqisotopes.com](http://www.abqisotopes.com) or call Alex Tainsh at 848-3590.

A Memorial Day ceremony will take place May 28 at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial.

A musical prelude will begin at 9 a.m. and the ceremony will start at 10 a.m. Congressman Martin Heinrich is scheduled to be the guest speaker.

# Air Force Escape and Evasion Society reunites at Kirtland

By Christopher McCune

58th Special Operations Wing  
Historian

The 58th Special Operations Wing hosted a reunion of about a dozen Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society members May 11 at Kirtland Air Force Base.

While largely composed of World War II veterans, the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society includes flyers shot down during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. The late Ralph Patton founded the society in 1964, after reconnecting with his French helpers.

In the European theater, British intelligence estimated that the Nazis captured and executed one helper for each Airman who crossed Allied lines.

Decades after their evasion experience, society members remain grateful for the staggering price paid for their freedom. Their motto has always been, "We Will Never Forget."

As is their tradition, AFEES members invited some of the brave men and women who

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assisted them during their days in hiding, including "Helpers" from France and Holland. An air attaché from the Royal Netherlands Embassy took part in a flag ceremony recognizing the contributions of the veterans.

As part of their visit to Kirtland AFB, the veterans, helpers and their families toured 58 SOW aircraft on static display, witnessed the flag ceremony and toured the Combat Rescue Training Center and its heritage displays.

In the evening, individual evaders and helpers appeared at the MCM Elegante Hotel in Albuquerque, answering questions and telling stories about their experiences.



Col. Anton Den Prijver, an air attaché from the Royal Netherlands Air Force, participated in a flag ceremony May 11 at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

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Photo by Todd Berenger

Col. Anton Den Prijver, an air attaché from the Royal Netherlands Air Force, places one of five streamers as part of a flag ceremony May 11 at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

izing major commands' Services functions