* **Biography:** Francisca Lopez-Ruiz, aka Frankie, born December 19,1948 in Florence, AZ. USAF Retiree w/ 20 Years in Service, serving during the Cold War and the Gulf War. Retired to Stanfield, AZ in 1995, the county of her birth. Single mother of three children. Matriarch of family for mother, father, two brothers, four sisters and her extended family. Frankie passed away June 13, 2013 on her modest horse ranch in Stanfield, AZ.
* **USAF Accomplishments:** Outstanding Airman of the Year 1978, Lockport NY. Outstanding Airman of the Year Finalist 1980, Lockport NY. Promotion to Sergeant 1979, four years after USAF Enlistment. Expert Marksmanship with M16. Frankie’s USAF Performance Reports stated Frankie was “the future of the Air Force” and that “her initiative and drive were limitless.”
* **Education:** B.S. Science, Management from Park College, AZ. A.A. in Applied Science, UASF Community College. Graduate in Portuguese from Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, USAF.
* **Personal Disposition:** Frankie was engaging, gregarious and outgoing, although by nature she was introverted.
* **Life Background and Interests**: Frankie grew up on a cattle ranch in Willow Springs, AZ, without running water, electricity, or heating. She did all the chores for her mother, while her six siblings played carefree outside. Her early life was a classic western style cattle ranch upbringing. She wasn’t allowed to date in high school and graduated top 10% of her high school class and enrolled in NAU. She enlisted in the USAF as a single mother of three children. She served 20 years and was Honorably Discharged. She was the founding capital partner of an equine business from 1984 through 1996 and maintained an interest in horses throughout her life. She started a dog and cat rescue on her ranch, in Stanfield AZ. At one time, Frankie had as many as 25 dogs and 50 cats rescued on her ranch. When Frankie passed away, she cared for seven horses, 10 dogs, and numerous cats. Her pride and joy were her two grandchildren, Ronan and Cassidy.
* **Life Challenges:** Suffered from Superior and Peer Persecution, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault throughout her USAF career. PTSD and MST Survivor. One Commanding Officer lowered her Performance Rating from the highest rating to average, in her first year of the Air Force. She contested this interference, and a formal investigation reinstated her stellar performance rating. She later went on to earn Airman of the Year, vindicating her abilities and the injustice wrongly inflicted upon her.