

67th Intel Wing enjoys safest year ever

By 1st Lt. Matthew Mayberry

HQ AIA/PA

Kelly Air Force Base, Texas

Fiscal year 1998 was the safest in the 67th Intelligence Wing's history.

Reportable accidents decreased by 45 percent, saving the Air Force \$168,153 in lost work time, hospitalization and other expenses.

The wing had a clean record in May and June and continued with dramatic decreases into the final quarter.

"Mishap prevention efforts are proving effective. With each wing member's intervention, this became a banner year. The challenge of protecting the wing's most valuable asset -- our people -- was accepted and vigilantly pursued," said Henry Podufaly, 67th IW chief of safety.

Unit safety representatives helped workplace supervisors examine how their operations could be done more safely, followed up on sports accidents to see if conditions could be improved, and educated people on safety issues, according to Podufaly.

The key to the 67th IW's success was operational risk management was made a reality and not just another buzzword, explained Podufaly.

"Manning strengths have not increased; however, every member of the wing was actively involved in mishap prevention, accomplishing everyday tasks with safety in mind," he said.

Thanks to a solid suicide prevention program and

solid awareness training in the workplace, the wing hasn't experienced any fatalities or any accidents causing an employee to be disabled since FY '96.

Lunchtime and evening sports activities continue to produce the majority of lost time mishaps, according to Podufaly.

"When our people get injured, it doesn't just affect others in their workplace. Much more importantly, it is traumatic for their families. When planning how we go about our work or recreational activities, we need to keep in mind the impact that a person's injury will have upon their family," said Podufaly.

Podufaly recently challenged his unit safety representatives to, "have your people step back and honestly approach their daily routine with a fresh look, asking, 'How can the job be done safer?' Get your young folks involved and make them part of that team effort."

The 67th IW plans to reduce mishaps even further during FY '99.

"Our goal is to continue the downward trend of mishaps. A further mishap reduction of 10 percent for FY '99 is achievable if every member of the team thinks safety," he said. "We can't assume our successful past will continue automatically -- it is a result of constant drive and extra effort." ■

Lance P. Sijan

Two AIA members earn Air Force leadership award

Two Air Intelligence Agency members were recently named 1998 recipients of the Lance P. Sijan USAF Leadership Award.

Capt. Juan Crawford and Tech. Sgt. Robert Sealey were two of four members chosen to receive the award.

Assigned to the 390th Intelligence Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan, Crawford streamlined the base's supply acquisition process by uncovering a costly mistake, saving the Air Force more than \$115,000 this year alone, an enormous savings over the long-term.

According to his nomination package, Crawford is trusted and respected among his peers and was elected to serve as the Company Grade Officer's Council spokesman in articulating CGOC views to 18th Wing senior leaders.

Previously assigned as the Chief of Security Forces, 390th IS at Kadena, Sealey, now assigned to Headquarters, Air Intelligence Agency, Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, "led a hard-charging team of professionals, far exceeding requirements in all areas, teamwork, adaption,

innovation, and strong customer focus to make them the best seen to date," according to a 1997 Mission Effectiveness Inspection report.

According to the nomination package, as a result of his security office being selected the "1997 HQ AIA Outstanding Security Forces Section," it was also recognized as the "showcase" of AIA.

Sealey is also dedicated to his faith in the church. He was elected deacon of a local church congregation and oversaw all business and financial aspects of the church budget.

The Lance P. Sijan USAF Leadership Award was created in 1981 to recognize people assigned to organizations at wing level and below who demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities. Sijan, an Air Force captain, died while a POW in Vietnam.

Prior to his capture, the Air Force Academy graduate and posthumous Medal of Honor winner evaded the North Vietnamese for six weeks after being shot down in November 1967. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service) ■