

USF Surface Preparation Group

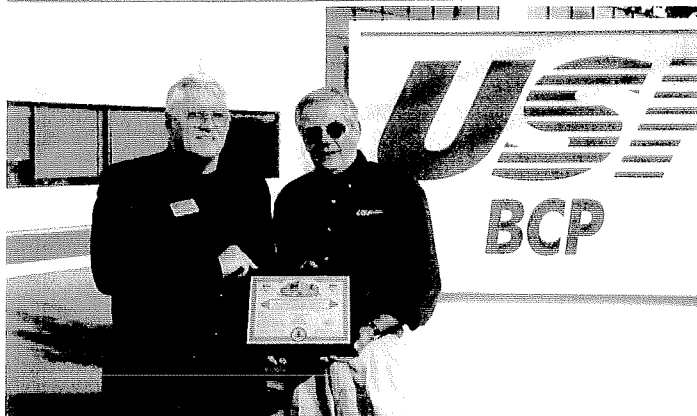
USF Surface Preparation Group Provides Total Solution for McEntire Air National Guard Base

Denver, CO. As one of only a handful of 'stand alone' National Guard bases in the country and the home of South Carolina Army and Air National Guard, McEntire Air National Guard Base in Eastover, SC requires numerous maintenance services to support both regular and reserve Army and Air Force units. McEntire's total solutions partner for its Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) is USF Surface Preparation Group. The USFSPG and McEntire relationship encompasses a variety of services and solutions including sales of consumable finishing media, upgrading of facilities, and replacement of equipment.

The relationship began through a capabilities presentation to key leadership personnel at CSMS, during which USFSPG was able to identify obstacles to attaining optimum productivity in each shop and to indoctrinate Guard personnel with USFSPG capabilities and resources. USFSPG representatives then conducted a facility-wide tour and productivity audit, focusing on the paint and blast facility, engine and transmission rebuild bay, radiator cleaning, and equipment wash down bays. USFSPG and McEntire CSMS teams conducted detailed surveys, evaluations and equipment demonstrations to identify the best possible solutions for McEntire's maintenance productivity.

As a result of the meetings held with CSMS staff, USFSPG was able to present products and recommended solutions that have helped to improve the maintenance operations of McEntire Air National Guard Base. USFSPG converted the blast room operation from garnet to aluminum oxide, upgraded all ducting throughout the blast and paint facility, and replaced outdated equipment and hand tools with state-of-the-art Graco applicators, Dynabrade tools, and Accu strip equipment. In addition, USFSPG provides consumables such as coated and non-woven abrasives, sodium bicarbonate, and aluminum oxide medias as well as MPF cartridge filters for dust collectors. Many of these services are provided through a special General Services Administration (GSA) supply program.

Effective for five years, USFSPG participates in the GSA Federal Supply Service program. The USFSPG contract with the federal government is only the 11th corporate contract awarded by the GSA. Among the qualifications reviewed by the GSA were satisfactory manufacturing and business history; quality standards, service and warranty for its products; as well as its human resources policies such as equal opportunity employment. In addition to its efforts in the maintenance area, USFSPG participated in a major aircraft hanger floor restoration, replacing an existing and ongoing sand blast operation that was contaminating aircraft maintenance efforts. Visit the web sites at www.usfilter.com for more information on the company.



Jack Champaigne presents plaque to Dan Diverty

Patent plaque given to BCP in honor of Perry Elliott

Perry Elliott, Regional Manager for BCP, a division of USF Filter, applied for a patent for his "Rotatable Blast Cleaning Conveying Surface and Apparatus" in 1998. Sadly, Perry died in 1998 before he saw his patent granted in 2000.

Jack Champaigne, President of Electronics Inc., worked with Perry on several projects. When he learned that the patent had been granted, he decided to have a plaque made commemorating the patent and honoring Perry's work. He presented it this summer to Dan Diverty, BCP's Territory Manager.

According to Dan, many of Perry's rotary mesh table machines have been made at BCP. He added that the plaque is on display at the BCP facility.

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