



“GROUP SPIRIT”

Published for the Employees of S&K Technologies, Inc.

I just returned from a personal holiday in Europe and England. While on holiday I read news accounts and watched some of the television reports on the financial concerns in the countries I visited. What I took away from those reports was the Herculean effort the governments in Europe and England are engaged in trying to solve the downturn in their economies. Because we here in the United States are such a large economy we tend to think that we can bring about an upturn in our economy by ourselves. What is clear, however, is that this is a worldwide financial problem.

Those countries in Europe that are part of the European Union and have adopted the Euro as their currency are wrestling with how to strengthen the weaker economies within the Union. Greece at the moment is the single largest dilemma for the Union. Should Greece default on the significant loans it has received it could bring about another banking crisis. The focus on managing the economic situation has been primarily to introduce strong austerity policies. While this approach in the long term should improve the balance sheet of troubled economies in the near term it has not brought about confidence in the public sector.

Businesses and the banks are sitting on the sidelines simply waiting to see what will transpire. They are not reinvesting nor are they expanding their respective businesses. This lack of initiative is reflected in the weakness of the stock market and of course in the performance of your 401K plans.

Until governments inspire the banks and business entities that it is time to re-engage financially we will continue to struggle along for the next several years. Since we here at S&K are in the business of contracting with the federal government for services, the ongoing trend of reducing federal expenditures could have a detrimental effect on our business. To minimize this potential problem we will continue to diversify the scope of services our family of companies contractually provides. We will also continue to search out new opportunities both here in the United States and elsewhere in the world. The potential for some sort of contractual work with a company in Turkey continues to be pursued. Likewise, the work we have been doing in Saudi Arabia has allowed us to open an office in Riyadh.



A home base in Saudi Arabia

By James Schaan, V.P. of Business Development, SKA LLC

Is it feasible for a small, tribally owned company to successfully operate a branch office in a challenging environment overseas? The people within S&K Aerospace certainly believe so and are in the process of proving that it can be done. By establishing the S&K Aerospace – Middle East Branch (SKA-MEB) in the heart of the booming business district in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, SKA is positioning itself well to capitalize on its long experience serving Foreign Military Sales customers and gain new business supporting defense agencies in the Kingdom. SKA leadership made the decision to establish a permanent base of operations in Riyadh about 2½ years ago and has been marching steadily toward that goal ever since. The timing for such an endeavor was crucial, and SKA based its decision to establish a regional operating location in the Kingdom in 2011 based on four significant factors: Experience, Opportunity, Relationships, and Revenue.

Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Experience – Both SKA (as SKT before it) as a company and many individual SKA staff members individually hold a great deal of FMS aerospace and technical support experience. “While some U.S. companies see investment in foreign military business development as risky, SKA staff view pursuits in this arena as a normal course of business,” says Dave Rariden, former SKA Director of Air Force Programs and current President of S&K Logistics Services, “Having the experience and resources to obtain FMS business is a natural discriminator to competition in the increasingly competitive government contracting environment.” From 2001 to 2010, S&K companies enjoyed the desirable position of being the prime contractor to the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) for maintenance, repair, and overhaul services for the great majority of components and systems on the RSAF F-15 fleet. The Repair and Return Program crew at SKA’s Warner Robins operation firmly established SKA’s credentials in providing Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) and technical services with the RSAF and other regional military operators. Over the past few years SKA has expanded its service offerings to other directorates within the RSAF and is quickly coming to be known as a reliable provider of broad spectrum technical support throughout the agency.

U.S. / Saudi Foreign Military Sales Opportunities – Beginning in the early 1970s with purchases of Northrop F-5 fighter aircraft, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has become the largest operator of U.S.- built military equipment in the world. Over the past 40 years, Saudi Arabia has purchased a wide range of U.S. model fighter aircraft, cargo transport



aircraft, ground and air-based radar and control systems, rotary wing aircraft, and ground vehicles. The RSAF operates 130 late-model F-15 aircraft alone, including 70 S-model aircraft purchased under the Peace Sun IX Program. In 2010, Saudi Arabia initiated negotiations with the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense to purchase 60 new F-15's based on the Silent Eagle configuration, which would be modified to the SA configuration for RSAF operation. The deal also includes upgrading 60 F-15 S models to the new SA configuration, and three additional FMS cases for the purchase of AH-64D Block III Apache helicopters, 72 UH-60M Black Hawks, and 36 AH-6i light attack aircraft. Although the outcome of the SA deal is far from certain and there are a number of political obstacles that negotiators on both sides must overcome, there is no question in anybody's mind that the RSAF will need to maintain its existing fleet of air defense vehicles for many years into the future. This is the area in which S&K has excelled for the past decade and which provides SKA great opportunity to acquire new business from the RSAF.

Saudi Arabia / U.S. Relations – The special partnership between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the U.S. has always been strong and dynamic since King Abdul Aziz Al-Saud (father of current monarch King Abdullah) sold Saudi Arabia's first barrel of oil to the U.S. in 1939. Since then, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have enjoyed a unique business relationship. Saudi Arabia has been the largest single purchaser of U.S. weapons systems for the past 10 years. Last year alone, purchases from U.S. sources represented 40 percent of Riyadh's \$28.3 billion in overall spending on military procurement. Saudi Arabia and other Arab Gulf states (the UAE, Kuwait, Iraq) have more than tripled their

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purchases of American weapons over the last five years as they strive to protect themselves from external threats and continue to cement their place as the political, military, and cultural leader of the Middle East region.

While the strong political ties between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have provided an agreeable business environment between the two countries over the past 70 years, it is the personal relationships with Saudi government officials and teaming partner companies forged by SKA staff and leadership that offer the greatest promise for increasing revenue to the Tribes. S&K personnel have consistently proven to be extremely sensitive of and respectful to the cultural sensibilities of their Saudi customers. As a result, RSAF leadership recognizes the long commitment SKA employees have made to the security and stability of the Kingdom and will continue to reward that dedication with continued partnerships in the future.

Near Term Opportunities to Increase Revenue – Like all S&K companies, SKA was established to provide a sound return on investment to the Tribes. The final critical piece required to fall into place before establishing an office in the Middle East was a sound contract that provided the positive cash flow and business legitimacy to justify a local operating location to both our investors (the Tribes) and the Saudi government. “In December of 2010, SKA was awarded a six month contract to manage under FMS case printing and distribution operations for a section of the RSAF,” says Tony Amadeo, VP Operations. “The contract offered SKA the opportunity to establish a local operating presence in the Kingdom.” Thanks to masterful execution of the contract by Dave Rariden and John Sims, Director of Air Force Programs, SKA was awarded an additional eight months of contract extensions for management of the printing operations as well as ancillary support services. This is by any measure a tremendously big deal, providing the opportunity for SKA to apply for official licensing of an in-Kingdom branch office as a foreign investor already working in the Kingdom. SKA was able to capitalize on this rare set of circumstances by using this contract as a cornerstone of its application for official licensing by the Saudi government.

In 2000, Saudi Arabia implemented the Foreign Investment Act, which liberalized the foreign investment laws in the Kingdom. Under the Act, foreign persons and entities are permitted to invest in all industries and services except for those which are specifically excluded from foreign investment. As one example of the steps required to be completed to obtain licensing, each of the many documents required in the application package needed to be drafted according to the specific circumstances of SKA, reviewed, approved, signed, and notarized by S&K corporate leaders, authenticated by the Montana Secretary of State, authenticated by the U.S. Department of State, reviewed and authenticated by the Saudi Consulate in Washington, D.C., physically shipped to Saudi Arabia, and submitted for excruciatingly thorough review and approval by multiple Saudi ministries and agencies. The entire effort is an enormous exercise in organization for any size company. “The process SKA went through to obtain its official Saudi business license, known as Commercial Registration, was complex to say the least,” says Rariden. “The Saudi Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the final grantor of Commercial Registrations, has put in place an arduous application process designed to separate the companies who truly want to work in the Kingdom from those that only think they do.”



S&K Aerospace's new office is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in the Al-Aqaria Commercial Center in the Olaya District.

Thanks to the tremendous dedication and effort by everyone involved, S&K Aerospace was granted Commercial Registration number 1010315389 on September 6, 2011, by the Saudi Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Not only did SKA achieve its Commercial Registration faster than any other company known to have become registered since 2000 (seriously, they checked), it enjoys the distinction of being the only tribally owned entity in the U.S. holding Commercial Registration in the Kingdom. In addition to the official licensing required to operate as a business entity in the Kingdom, SKA was faced with the practical requirements of establishing a physical office in Riyadh. SKA-MEB Country Manager, Mr. Ahmed Krassi, was the key to success in this endeavor. Over the course of the last four months, Mr. Krassi secured space in the Al-Aqaria Commercial Center in the Olaya District of Riyadh, oversaw finishing construction of the office space, sourced locally all data and voice hardware equipment and installation, and acquired all furnishings for the office. Mr.

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Krassi did all of this while supporting contract obligations for the RSAF printing operation and conducting business development meetings in pursuit of new opportunities in the Kingdom.

Of course SKA received tremendous support from the S&K corporate staff and other “volunteers” throughout its pursuit of licensing. Although not a complete listing, the following personnel are to be commended for their unique and invaluable contributions: Tracy Schall – for organizing documents, signatures, authentications, executives, and everything else on the corporate front. Curt Marsh – for pushing a vast array of documents through the U.S. Department of State and the Saudi Consulate in Washington, D.C., perfecting and streamlining the process in the course of doing so. Heidi Rohrlach – for navigating the international banking system and getting everybody paid the right amount, on time, in a non-parallel workday schedule and in an exact opposite time zone. Scott Colton – for managing all aspects of the complex financial requirements associated with licensing, and providing financial guidance throughout the licensing process.

SKA-MEB is now officially a Saudi company with all of the rights and privileges afforded any other Saudi firm. SKA can hire Saudi and third country national employees in the Kingdom, buy and sell goods and services, import and export to and from the Kingdom, and most importantly, pursue and be awarded contracts directly from Saudi government agencies and other Saudi companies, all while operating in

the largest foreign military sales environment in the world. Not bad for a small Tribally owned company.

SKA leadership is planning a grand opening for SKA-MEB in January 2012. The event will provide a valuable opportunity to interact with key decision makers in multiple Saudi government agencies. As summed up by Jim Paro, President of SKA, “Establishing a regional base in the Middle East is an important and exciting step for S&K Aerospace and the S&K enterprise, and we’re pleased to bring our responsive management techniques to this growing marketplace.”

Ahmed Krassi, Country Office Manager with the S&K Aerospace-Middle East Branch, stands in the foyer of the office building where S&K Aerospace’s new office is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Adelos installed at Zelached Point

TerraEchos, Inc. has built a system that utilizes buried fiber optics for covert physical intrusion detection called Adelos S4. Initially developed and patented by Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport, the U.S. Government patents and general system capability are now licensed exclusively to TerraEchos. TerraEchos extended the Adelos Underground Sensor capability to new levels beyond a fiber optic array. An example of this evolution is its service oriented architecture with a massive computational capability. After spending the last two years working with Idaho National Lab, S&K Electronics, and GCS Research, they have delivered two v1.5 Adelos S4 systems to the Government. One of these new versions was installed at Zelached Point in Washington State.

The project was a great success and the Adelos 1.5 Alpha system was installed into a concrete building by the beach. This proved advantageous as it helped keep the sensitive S1 sensor unit away from normal, daily traffic. Human traffic was only seen when testing and evaluation occurred. The rest of the system (S2 signals – S3 streams) was installed in the control station at Dabob Bay. There the entire Adelos

S4 1.5 Alpha system was stood up and operated as expected. Included in the installation was an IP addressable camera (however this camera did not stay, it was for display and training purposes only). The Cat5 Ethernet cable attached to the camera was fed into a relay switch at the beach. From there it was piped up to the control station using the existing network. The camera seamlessly operated with the Adelos S4 1.5 Alpha system.

Multiple personnel from both the Navy and civilian sector were trained on the use and application of the Adelos system. Training was constructed around the use of two handouts; one operator’s manual and one instructional manual to make use easier. Personnel were trained on the entire installation layout to include how to find the zones of sensing fiber. Also, personnel were trained on how to manage the S3 streams component to allow for ease of use. Personnel trained included NUWC Keyport Navy civilian contractors, Navy NCIS, and various scientists within the Zelached Point, Dabob Bay facility. Each gave positive feedback on the system and the quality of training.

S&K Global Solutions awarded two contracts

S&K Global Solutions was awarded a new contract through the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** eFAST procurement vehicle for an expansion of their ongoing software development work for the Office of Aviation Safety (AVS). Under the new contract, S&K will provide critical software development to support the FAA Aviation Safety Knowledge Management Environment (ASKME) program team.

Within the Office of Aviation Safety, the Aircraft Certification Service is responsible for developing, administering, and ensuring compliance to safety standards that govern the design, production, airworthiness, and continued operational safety of civil aircraft and related components. The ASKME program is an AVS initiative that funds and manages information technology (IT) projects that directly support the mission of the Aircraft Certification Service through the development of 18 separate IT systems across two program segments.

Project development work is taking place in Houston, Texas with program support at the FAA's Northwest Mountain Region in Renton, Washington. The Northwest Mountain Region covers seven states.

S&K Global Solutions (SKGS) Communications Group won a competitive Small Business contract to provide telecommunications equipment and services for the **Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** Montana Region. This includes providing Mitel brand hardware and associated deployment support to multiple BLM field offices throughout Montana and North Dakota, as well as the Montana Regional Headquarters in Billings, Montana.

"We pride ourselves in being Montana's leader in Mitel equipment and support," reports Dave Mortensen, SKGS Senior Telecommunications Program Manager. The group was this year's recipient of Mitel's "Rookie Partner of the Year Award," and is a Mitel Channel Partner. "This is our first project for the BLM and we're excited to expand our customer base. The installation was a great success and we will continue to provide support for their new system," says Dave.

Honored by NASA



Houston, Texas – NASA has awarded Leslie Houk (left) and David Fretz, both employees with S&K Aerospace, the Elite Team Award and David Fretz the Superior Assistance Award for outstanding support to the Government Funded Equipment (GFE) Lab, a computer lab that provides computational support to a number of NASA projects. These projects include the Low Impact Docking System (LIDS) Project, a system for docking vehicles on the International Space Station and other spacecraft, and the Advanced Radiation Instrumentation (ARI) Project, a system for measuring radiation exposure on the International Space Station. Leslie and David are Systems Administrators for both the Intelligent Systems Lab (ISL) and the GFE Lab in the Software, Robotics and Simulations Division of Johnson Space Center.

BIA awards rangeland assessment contract

S&K Environmental will be conducting rangeland inventory work for the Blackfeet Reservation under a new 8(a) contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Blackfeet Reservation is located in north-central Montana and contains approximately 567,473 acres of range land held in trust that are contained in 486 grazing permits administered by the BIA at Blackfeet Agency.

An inventory was conducted in 2006-2007 and the new assessment will assist with the promotion of improved ecological health and long-term sustainability of the rangeland resources.

The assessment consists of GPS point coordinate capture, digital photography, soil observations, slope and aspect data, ecological site information gathering (like cover type, soil correlations, and trends), rangeland health, and noxious weeds and invasive plants. SKER technicians will primarily be working in mixed grass with coniferous and deciduous canopy cover.

"It's exciting to work as a tribe supporting a tribe," says Jed Whiteley, SKER President. "This is also our first award as an 8(a) certified company and we look forward to growing as a company with support from the SBA."



Frequently Asking Questions...

Learning to be a smarter patient

By Adele Vincent, SKT Inc. Benefits Coordinator

We are all consumers of products and services of all types. When we went out to buy a new car or that 56" big screen TV for the game, did we buy the first one the salesperson recommended? Probably not, we asked a lot of questions. How does it work? What kind of warranty does it have? How much does it cost? Do I really need a 56" TV, or can I get by with a smaller one (are you kidding, it's for the big game!). It is interesting that we ask more questions when we buy a new appliance than we do about our own health. We need to condition ourselves to remember that health care is a service we are buying from our providers.

Have you ever left the doctor's office a little confused? What did she say about the doohickey that's wrong with me? Oh, and what was that test thingamajig for again? We've all been there.

It's especially hard to remember what to ask. Here are some basic questions that can help you get the answers you need, and open up a dialog between you and your doctor so that you can be aware of any additional treatment options. They may bring up other questions you need answered so you can leave the office feeling confident that you have made informed choices.

Here are basic questions you should ask when you visit the doctor:

- How's my health overall?
- Are you concerned about any aspect of my health? Which one(s) and why?
- Are there any tests I should have based on my age or for other reasons?

- Do you have any recommendations about lifestyle modifications I should make?
- Also, you will need to prepare specific questions about any new condition or symptom you may have a concern about since your last visit.
- What should you ask when your doctor writes you a new prescription?
- What are those scribbles supposed to say?
- Can you write it for a generic version so I can save some money?
- Is this replacing the other pills I'm taking?
- Can I take this pill with my morning grapefruit juice?

These are all good questions. In fact, the answers could save your life. You could also save a decent amount of money over time. I mention grapefruit juice because it is dangerous to mix with some drugs. To metabolize grapefruit your body uses the same enzymes that you use to digest many drugs. If you eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice within eight hours of taking certain drugs—such as cholesterol-reducing statin drugs like Lipitor—those enzymes will be occupied by the juice and not be able to break down the drug. This means

more of the drug will reach your bloodstream which can increase its effect and chances of becoming toxic.

Say your doctor wants you to have an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), a CT (computed tomography) scan, or some other test that goes by another obscure name. Before you run off and have it, get the facts. In addition to taking a more informed role in working



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with your doctor, you might save yourself some nasty surprises and needless worry.

What should I be asking?

- Why do you think I need the test and what will happen if I don't take it?
- What does this test measure?
- Are there any test alternatives?
- How much will it cost?
- How accurate is the test?
- How is the test performed?
- What kind of pain or "discomfort" is involved?
- How should I prepare for the test?
- How will I feel after the test? Can I return to work immediately?
- When will I get the results?
- Which lab is processing the test, and why did you choose that one? Is it in the Blue Cross Network? (Check to see if the lab is accredited by The Joint Commission at www.jcaho.org or by the College of American Pathologist at www.cap.org)
- After taking the test and getting the results, what's the next step?

Should I get a second opinion? Research shows that only 20 percent of people who seek medical advice get a second opinion. Millions of people aren't getting second opinions – and they should. How often does getting a second opinion change treatment substantially? Answer: about one-third of all cases.

It's time to get a second opinion when:

- The doctor doesn't take your symptoms seriously.
- The doctor says you need surgery.

- You're not seeing a specialist in your disease.
- The treatment isn't working.
- You're not communicating well with one another.
- You want to try other treatment options.



Do healthy people smile more? Who knows. But if you're asking all the right questions with your doctor, things will only make more sense and you'll come away feeling better about the treatment and choices you have for your health care.

By taking more responsibility for our care, we ensure that our health care dollars are being spent in the best possible way, and we eliminate potentially unnecessary "just because" tests. The result is better relationship with our doctors.

When we are more informed about our health conditions, we can make sure that we are getting the right treatment as individuals and making the necessary behavior changes to be as healthy as possible. By being proactive in our health care, getting recommended preventative care screenings, and working towards being as healthy as we can be, we help to reduce our out-of-pocket costs, whether it is the premiums we pay for our health insurance, using the funds from our Flexible Spending or Health Savings accounts, or our personal accounts.

Find Benefits documents and FAQ's: <https://theportalto.sktcorp.com>



Good luck to all our employees taking part in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Weight Loss Challenge!

It's not too late to join. <https://weightlosschallenge.wellwithbluemt.com/>

Salish technology of the past shapes the future

By Brian Tanner, Business Development Specialist, SKT Inc.

Sx^wpaám (The one who makes fire) is a traditional role in the tribe as someone who is skilled in setting and maintaining fires for the camp and the land.

The elders of the Salish (Seliš), Pend d'Oreille (Qlispè), and Kootenai (Ksanka) pass on the stories of how the Creator (K^wIncutn) put the people on the earth to care for the plants, animals, water, and the land. Through this oral tradition we learned that the Salish had an extreme body of knowledge pertaining to the land and its many resources. As the stories from the elders detailed, the Salish knew which foods and medicines can be harvested at certain times and in certain areas. This delicate balance of land and wildlife was maintained by the Salish people through the use of technology. The most powerful of these technologies was the use of fire to sustain and nurture the resources, which were provided by the Creator.

The Salish were not simply wandering the land in search of food, but had a predictable cycle of life relying on the changing of seasons. The Salish year would begin in the spring with a ceremony to welcome the first foods of the season. The summer and fall months produced many fruits such as huckleberries and choke cherries. Throughout the year people would hunt and fish and dry the meat to store for winter. During the winter months the Salish people would gather around fires and pass down stories and knowledge to the younger generations, this became known as Nk^wusm x^wl qe Nuwèwištñ or “one fire, one family.” Throughout each season the Salish would use fire to maintain their traditional way of life.

There are many reasons why the Salish used fire as a means of land management. Brush and fallen trees would make travel difficult for the Salish so they would burn areas to clear trails. The trails were essential to the Salish as they mobilized quickly from area to area gathering food and medicine. Lewis and Clark mentioned that after meeting the Salish in the Bitterroot Valley, the Salish pointed them on a path to reach the other side of Lolo Pass (present day Montana/Idaho border west of Missoula). During the journey, Lewis and Clark became lost

and almost died on the pass. On the way back, they used a Nez Perce guide who was an ally to the Salish to bring them back over the Lolo Pass. Lewis and Clark were amazed at how easy the guide led them over the pass, since their first attempt was almost fatal. The Salish, and similarly the Nez Perce, maintained this ancient network of trails by using fire to keep the paths clear.

Huckleberries were a main staple of the Salish diet. To ensure they would grow abundantly, the Salish would set fire to huckleberry patches that grew too tall. A patch that grew too tall would not produce many berries, so they “pruned” these areas with fire.

“Any place where it’s been burnt a year or so ago...Boy, they just turn green and come right up wherever there’s been a fire,” comments Eneas Vanderburg, Tribal Elder, about the huckleberry bushes.

Although hunting was easy for the Salish, it wasn’t by chance. Hunting and drying meat was essential for the survival of the Salish people during the winter months. To make it easier, they would burn areas to cause the herds of elk and other game animals to move closer to camps in the valley. Not only would the herds be closer for easy killing, the fire would re-grow sweet grass that the next years herd would feed on. This cycle would bring the game herds back year after year.

Burning in the valleys served a few purposes. As we learned, burning grassy areas would bring sweet grasses back the next year for wild game and horses. The Salish would also burn in valley areas to signal to other bands of Salish that they were done harvesting an area and are migrating back to a central camp, usually in the Bitterroot Valley south of present day Missoula. These were not the stereotypical “smoke signals” Hollywood produced with Indian’s waving blankets creating billows of smoke. Many early settlers mentioned seeing columns of smoke rising from the different valleys. They knew the Salish burned the area intentionally to signify they were coming back to a central camp.

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By starting frequent controlled fires, the Salish were in fact using fire as a land management tool. These fires were low-intensity surface fires that kept brush at bay and reduced dangerous high-intensity wildfires that decimate large areas of wilderness. Essentially, the Salish were fighting fire with fire. This helped the white bark ponderosa to grow exceptionally high and made grazing and traveling easier. The fires also kept many insects and pests from destroying trees, like the bark beetle known across the west for infecting and killing large swaths of forest land. Keeping large areas free of encroaching brush and pine helped diversify the landscape by allowing grasses and roots to grow in meadow-like areas.

The removal of the Salish from many of their aboriginal territories showed an increase in the encroachment of Douglas Firs, which wiped out the white bark pines from lower-elevation areas. Most wilderness areas in the original territories of the Salish are now dominated by Douglas Firs. Many of today's wildfires are high-intensity types that catch the mature and densely overgrown underlying brush and wipe out large areas of forest land. This is opposed to the Salish-controlled period of low-intensity fires that kept the brush at bay while the pines grew tall.

It is interesting to note how the U.S. Forest Service's policies towards wildfire have changed over the last few centuries.

The Forest Service has managed wildland fire for more than 100 years. But how we do it - why, when, and where we do it - has changed. For decades, we fought fire. First with hand tools and strong backs, then with aircraft and engines, we engaged fire in the wildlands and put it out. We became good at it, among the best in the world.

But science has changed the way we think about wildland fire and the way we manage it. We still fight it, especially to protect communities and the resources people need—but we also use it to make forests and grasslands healthier and to protect communities and natural resources, especially clean, abundant water.

We still use hand tools and strong backs, aircraft and engines. And we are still the best wildland fire organization in the world. But we recognize the role of natural fire in the health of many ecosystems, and we continue to move forward through research and technology to understand and manage fire better, so when we need to put it out, we can. And when we need to use it, we can do that too—more safely, more effectively than 100 years ago, but not as well as we will 100 years from now. (Source: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>)

Learn more about CKST fire policy and find additional photos at this website: http://www.cskt.org/fire_history.swf



These photos are of the Mission Range on the Flathead Reservation and show how dramatically fire once shaped the vegetation.

Photos A and B were taken in the early 1900s when fire was prevalent, natural or man-made. Each patch of vegetation represents a different kind of forest habitat and species and greater spacing of trees. This variation made for low-intensity fires that encouraged ecosystem diversity after burning.

Photos C and D were taken in the late 1990s after 100 years of excluding and suppression of fires. They show tremendous loss of diversity and increasing density, which can lead to high-intensity type fires that can decimate the choked forest. Encroaching trees like lodge pole pine reduce grassland areas that are critical forage for elk and deer.

As nominated by their coworkers and managers:



S&K Global Solutions, LLC is proud to award Heather Goldstraw, ColdFusion Programmer, and Casey Frisbie, Multimedia Specialist, the Employee of the Quarter Award for Fall 2011



Heather and Casey have provided outstanding support of the FAA Lessons Learned library, a web-based accident information system that makes extensive use of animation, graphics, and other information technology tools to describe 62 aviation accidents. It is used by designers, operators, training organizations, safety managers, government agencies, academia, and others who make or influence decisions that impact aviation safety. The computer graphics and animated graphics with audio narration are used to illustrate each accident and are used in addition to other computer graphic images and videos which are provided by the FAA. The website is having an enormous impact on aviation safety and has over 10,000 regular subscribers who follow it via RSS feeds.

The project received a Safety Award presented by Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood at the U.S. Department of Transportation’s 42nd Annual Awards Ceremony for the website. Their superb performance has resulted in the expansion of work into other areas with the FAA. The Lessons Learned website is at: <http://accidents-ll.faa.gov/>

Outdoor safety focus of Annual Children’s Event

Because much of the work on the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project is conducted out of the office, the Technical Assistance Contract (TAC) team decided to make Outdoor Safety the theme for this year’s Take Our Children to Work Day event. On August 9, employees at the Grand Junction, Colorado, office brought 17 children and grandchildren in tow to the office.

As at some past events, the children decorated quilt squares with animals and flowers cut out of outdoorsy fabric and shapes used to create trees. Administrative Assistant Patty Wilson is sewing the squares together to make a beautiful commemorative quilt. The kids also created cool compass

necklaces and bracelets. A local TV weatherman demonstrated weather-related phenomenon by using such items as a balloon to show air pressure, and making a cloud chamber with a soda pop bottle. Mesa County Search and Rescue volunteers gave a “Hug a Tree” talk to the kids (and several adults). The volunteers used an educational video to teach kids some basic survival skills should they become lost in the wilderness. Each child received a sack with a large orange trash bag and a whistle like the ones used in the video.

Afterward, Grand Junction office employees and their guests enjoyed a barbecue lunch at a nearby park.

Left: Weatherman Scott Aldridge illustrates air pressure with a balloon. Middle: Numa Michel-Fuller and Brent Metzler decorate their quilt squares. Right: Frank James, a Mesa County Search and Rescue volunteer, uses members of the young audience to demonstrate how to keep warm and dry during the Hug a Tree presentation.



A growing team

We are proud to announce new members of the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) S&K Team based at Robins Air Force Base. This is the AFRC Defense Travel System (DTS) roll out team which will be implementing DTS throughout the Air Force Reserve command and will be traveling extensively during the next 12 months. The team is comprised of S&K and General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) employees. Front Row: (from left to right) Annette Cipra, Maureen Ryan, Magkeisha Jones, Delaware Lofton. Back Row: (from left to right) John Zunino, Sandra Jones, Erika Bueno and Gary Kehoe.



New and Transitioned Employees

Join Us in welcoming these new members of S&K's winning team!

S&K GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

- ALASKA**
Cingel, Caroline Technical Support Specialist
- MONTANA**
Schultz, Shelley CAD/CAM Operator II
Wood, Jeffery CAD/CAM Operator II
- GEORGIA**
Ellis, Terrance Administrative Support Level V
Hawkinson, Gregory Senior Program Manager
Marfell, Zachary S Logistics Specialist IV
- WASHINGTON**
Carroll, William N Logistics Specialist III
Coultas, Tracy Logistics Specialist V
DaBell, Susan J Financial Management Analyst
Johnston, Brandon IT Helpdesk Specialist
McCarty, Michael IT Helpdesk Specialist II-RMC
Rufe, Robert Ian Director of Corporate Development
Sibley, Bryan A IT Helpdesk Specialist III-Japanese Speaking
Tikunoff, Ann E Program Analyst Support
Wheeler, Leonard A IT Helpdesk Specialist I

S&K AEROSPACE

- TEXAS**
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Mareno, Elihu J Temp Guard
Payne, Michelle Administrative Assistant
Sevim, Ridvan Guard II
- GEORGIA**
Boire, David P Technical Data Engineer II
Bueno, Erika L Implementation Specialist
Cipra, Annette S Senior Help Desk Specialist
Fitts, Willis Logistics Specialist
Holcomb, Vicki R Senior Financial Analyst
Jones, Sandra D Implementation Specialist
McBride, Roy Senior Program Manager
Reid, Sharnarra K Contracts Administrator
Zunino III, William J Implementation Specialist

S&K TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

- CORPORATE OFFICE - MONTANA**
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Sheffield-Scroggs, Mary K Senior Bid and Proposal Manager

S&K SECURITY GROUP

- ALASKA**
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Pullen, Robert Lead Security Officer

TerraEchos

- MONTANA**
Allinson, Courtney Intern
Bahls, Bradley Software Developer

S&K TECHNOLOGIES

- GEORGIA**
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Raper, Joshua FMS TCTO-Op Supplement Monitor Editor II

S&K LOGISTICS SERVICES

- COLORADO**
Kenney, Allison Network Manager
Ryan, Ricky IT/Telecommunications Technician



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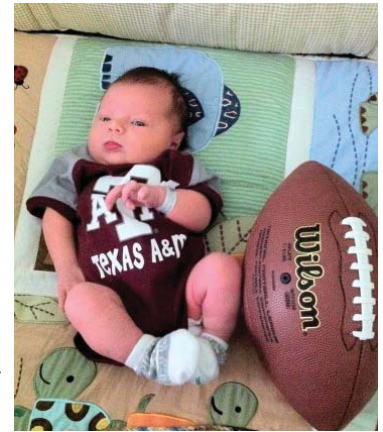
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Felex Jackson, SKA Logistics Specialist at our Warner Robins, GA, office would like to introduce his newest grandson and 8th grandchild, Lamont Cameron. Lamont was born on July 6th, weighed 8 lbs 9 oz, and was 21 inches long.

Baby News

K. W. and Cindi Thomas announce the arrival of their 2nd grandchild, Kaeden Daniel Thomas. The proud parents are Trey and Valerie Thomas. Kaeden was born August 22 and came in at 8 lbs 7.5 oz. K. W. Thomas is a Project System Analyst and Deputy Site Manager for SKA at Robins Air Force Base, GA.



“On a whim, I decided I would go skydiving. It was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had.”

Nervousness built up as it got closer to the date. I had to review four pages of release forms; initialing and signing in a gazillion places that myself nor my heirs could sue in the event of injury or death. I mean, if I wasn’t nervous enough! The plane ride was the worst part and I started to regret my decision. I REALLY wanted to tell the pilot to turn around. It didn’t help that I was sitting by the window and watched big buildings and trees start looking like monopoly board pieces. My stomach was in knots. Not 5 minutes later, I was jumping out of an airplane at 14,000 ft in the air. From the word “JUMP” my adrenaline was rushing! The freefall was fun as the cameraman made funny faces at me and I attempted to mimic him. It seemed like a short time before the parachute was pulled and the ride down from that point was very serene. I literally lost my shoes at landing. Would I do it again? YES!!! I am LaKeesha “Skywalker” Blasingame, Foreign Military Sales Distribution Manager/Tech Order Analyst with S&K Aerospace.



We’re not sure how the phenomenon started at the Warner Robins, Georgia, office, but every Friday during the summer Keith Whigham, Bruce Klingaman, Michael O’Malley, Andy Stones, Thomas Southerland, and Glenn Parkins (left to right) showed up to work wearing colorful **Hawaiian Shirts**. We do know they are fashionable and keep you cool during the hot months in Georgia.



The “Do” that made him a Legend

The Mad Mudder is a 6K course that includes 10 military-style boot camp obstacles with a huge mud pit at the end. It is a fundraiser for CASA of Missoula. There were 15 people on Charlie Blood’s (SKT Inc. Accounting Coordinator) team, named the “Mission Mudders.” The race is more fun than run and Charlie was one of two people who won prizes for the “Dirtiest Do.”

