

SAFETY GROOVING FOR SAFER RUNWAYS



Your Pavement Preservation Resource



Runway Rehabilitation at Dyess Air Force Base

>>> DIAMOND GRINDING AND GROOVING

KEEPING AMERICA'S AIR DEFENSE READY and flying safely has always been a national priority. But, in order to ensure readiness, it is crucial to keep downtime related to runway repair to a minimum. Such was the case for a repair project in the summer of 2001 at Dyess Air Force Base. Located outside of Abilene, Texas, the Base is home to the 7th Bomb Wing and 317th Airlift Group.

Years of wear and rubber deposits from landings by B1-B Lancer bombers and the C-130 Hercules aircraft had made the runways dangerously polished, due to the lack of texture. In response to these conditions, the Air Force awarded a rehabilitation contract to Hawkins Builders of Abilene, who subcontracted the project to American Civil Constructors (ACC) late that summer.

A very aggressive two-week runway closure window — Dec. 15-29, 2001 — was negotiated with the Air Force to complete the grinding and grooving of the 125,000-square-yard main

concrete runway, as well as the 25,000-square-yard asphalt auxiliary runway. However, with the tragic events of September 11th, the Base was put on full alert and the decision to proceed with the project was delayed. Despite the delay, ACC recognized the importance of being able to respond quickly once the project was approved to move ahead, so they continued their planning and scheduling efforts. Personnel, equipment, diamond head selection and mobilization logistics were arranged and the approval to move ahead was given in early December. Because of ACC's preparation efforts, as well as their decision to mobilize 50 employees from as far away as California, Ohio and South Dakota, the team was able to respond in rapid fashion. Six ACC-owned diamond grinders and four groovers were prepared and delivered to the site, and the team committed to working through the holiday timeframe in order to meet the needs of the U.S. Air Force.

After three days of frustration with equipment and cold, rainy conditions, the production set-

TEAM MEMBERS

- U.S. Air Force (Owner)
- Hawkins Builders (Prime Contractor)
- American Civil Constructors, formerly known as Pavement Specialties Inc. (Subcontractor)

led into a relentless pattern with two, 12-hour shifts working around the clock. Both the workers and the equipment were pushed to their full capacity. Six water trucks were in use nearly full-time, cooling down the diamond blades. In the end, the thorough planning, hard work and dedication of the ACC crews paid off. The job was completed on Saturday, December 23rd, a full six days ahead of schedule. The project came in within budget and without a single accident or injury.

The Air Force was thrilled with the timeliness of the work, the quality of the final product and the fact that their planes were available to respond to any unexpected event.