

SKIVVY NINE *tips the spear*

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SKIVVY NINERS: Members of the 303rd IS excel in an environment of funding shortages and personnel cuts.

Affectionately known as "SKIVVY NINE," the 303rd Intelligence Squadron at Osan Air Base, Korea, is a benchmark unit that's truly embedded with the 7th Air Force warfighting team.

Located at the tip of the spear, only 45 miles from the Korean Demilitarized Zone, the squadron conducts information operations in support of the United States Forces Korea Command and Headquarters, 7th Air Force.

Today's joint warfighting posture recognizes the importance of logistics requirements in developing any operational plan.

As demonstrated during the Gulf War, timely logistical support is the key to mission success.

This fact also applies to the 303rd. Without the daily logistical support the squadron enjoys from its LG team, the unit's success as information warriors would be at risk.

Since the normal tour length for Korea is 12 months, one might expect it would be easy to develop a "just fill out the year" mindset. This is not case at the 303rd.

When Col. Jack Warner, AIA di-

rector of Logistics, visited the squadron recently, he noted the division's morale was very high.

Our people stay busy and stay involved. We expertly execute our mission in a very difficult environment that the 67th Intelligence Wing commander has called his "most difficult logistics challenge."

Funding shortages and a yearly 65 percent personnel turnover put extra pressure on the work centers. Members facilitate

robust training programs and improvise daily to fill gaps that don't exist at stateside bases. Thousands of miles from home, there is nowhere else to turn.

During the past year, the LG division has worked numerous mission upgrades. Chief among them

was decommissioning of the Tactical Ground Intercept Facility and the installation of the state-of-the-art \$22.5 million Deployable Ground Intercept Facility. This system stood up two weeks ahead of schedule and drew high praise from General John Tilelli Jr., USFK commander in chief, for providing enhanced warfighting support quickly.

Besides major upgrades, Main-

tenance control provides 24-hour coverage for \$250 million in operational equipment and more than 1,900 preventive maintenance inspections yearly. Maintenance support provides quality assurance and logistics support requirements.

The Senior Year work center maintains ground systems supporting U-2 missions. Responsible for maintaining critical single point of failure nodes, this work center contributed greatly to an incredible zero mission aborts due to ground system failure during fiscal year '98. The Secure Communications/Computer Maintenance work center was equally responsible for zero ground system aborts.

This work center arranged for outside intelligent hub training with the U.S. Army at Camp Humphreys, saving approximately \$30,000 a year in associated TDY costs.

The Radio/Power Maintenance work center provided secure C2 contingency support during a number of JCS directed exercises.

Satellite Supply has been cited by the 692nd Intelligence Group's 1998 Self Assessment Visit team as having the "Best Supply in the Pacific." Satellite Supply absorbed \$1.6 million of critical parts from the 607th Air Intelligence Squadron (our operational sister squadron) and now provides critical spares to the imagery sides of the Senior Year program, the most important intelligence program on the Korean peninsula. ■