



# GROUP SPIRIT

Winter Edition, 2021

**International Towers expands  
broadband coverage on the  
Flathead Reservation**

**Meet S&K's Enterprise  
Security Group Team**

**S&K Aerospace  
ramps up F-15  
support locations  
in Saudi Arabia**

**Going back in NFL History  
with a CSKT Pro alumnus**



# The evolution of S&K Technologies continues

Started in 1997, S&K Technologies (SKT) was originally a division of S&K Electronics (which is still active and doing well) and later spun into a company in 1999. The focus was to utilize the SBA 8(a) program to provide a diverse revenue stream for the benefit of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The next 24 years have been spent growing that company, having the original company graduate from the 8(a) program and in 2006 reorganize into a holding company that oversees multiple LLCs.

SKT's family of LLCs has changed almost as much as SKT itself. The original SKT LLC merged with S&K Engineering and Research. We purchased the assets of International Towers Inc., and those assets populated S&K Security Group, LLC and the newly formed International Towers, LLC. Most recently, SKT sold its shares of Adelos, Inc. In addition, we currently have four 8(a) companies under the holding company umbrella. Each change strengthened SKT, sharpening our focus, and I believe the sale of Adelos will be beneficial for both SKT and Adelos.

While the 2021 version of SKT will not look much like the original in terms of number of companies, employees, or offices, we continue to focus on the diverse revenue stream for the benefit of the Tribes.



Chad Cottet  
CEO, S&K Technologies, Inc.

## A little history...

Sitting a few miles from the base of the Mission Mountain Range is the headquarters of S&K Technologies, Inc. Originally built as a healthcare facility by Dr. Mary Stranahan, a family heir to the Champion Spark Plug fortune, SKT first leased and then purchased the building in 2003. As one might expect within a medical facility, the layout included a waiting room now converted to a meeting room, various nurse's stations reapportioned as copy and print stations, and a variety of exam rooms retro-fit into office spaces. Nearby, the small town of St. Ignatius has a supermarket, post office, and various small businesses that thrive on tourism and the local economy. SKT moved here from rented space at the headquarters of S&K Electronics in Pablo, Montana. The change was necessitated by the fast and furious growth SKT experienced during that time (and continues today).





## Army awards S&K Federal Services new EAGLE BOA

S&K Federal Services, LLC (SKFS) was awarded a new Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise (EAGLE) Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) by the U.S. Army Sustainment Command.

EAGLE is a contract acquisition program that enables SKFS the opportunity to support the U.S. Army in three main service areas: maintenance, supply, and transportation. The program has a global footprint and task orders are offered regularly. As a highly qualified prime contractor, SKFS can submit prospective proposals for FY21 task orders.

Since 2017, SKFS has provided aerospace maintenance support for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force.

"We have a rich history of dedicated contract management and execution at both the operational and intermediate levels for those branches of the military," said S&K Aerospace Business Unit General Manager, Dave Rariden. "It's a privilege to be a part of this program, and we look forward to expanding our support to the U.S. Army through future task orders."



## 11 Million Tons Moved

The Moab Uranium Mill Tailing Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project marked the removal of a cumulative 11 million tons of contaminated soil and debris away from the Moab, Utah site and the Colorado River.

S&K has been the Technical Assistance Contract (TAC) holder for the Moab UMTRA Project since 2007. The TAC provides administrative, support, and oversight services to Department of Energy, and conducts the environmental air monitoring and groundwater remediation programs.

"We're proud to serve as environmental stewards by supporting cleanup at the Moab Project. This milestone provided our team an occasion to reflect on our successes this year," said acting Senior Program Manager, Swaine Skeen.

*A gantry crane prepares to load a container onto the train. Mill tailings at the Moab site are excavated, conditioned, and placed in steel containers with locking lids for transport to the Crescent Junction disposal cell.*

## S&K provides safety oversight during smokestack demolition project at Brookhaven National Laboratory

On behalf of the Department of Energy, employees with S&K Federal Services, LLC are providing critical safety oversight for contractor work to demolish a smokestack at Brookhaven National Laboratory. What you see in the photos are some of the first stages of deconstruction as a mantis is being craned to the top of the stack. The mantis will perform the demolition, starting at the top of the stack and working down. Debris is dropped down the stack cavity and then removed.



# Ramping Up: How S&K Aerospace established multiple locations in Saudi Arabia to support the Royal Saudi Air Force's F-15 supply needs

In September 2017, S&K Aerospace, LLC (SKA) won the F-15 Supply Services Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract valued at \$559 million. This contract requires SKA to provide logistics support and deliver consumables for the Royal Saudi Air Force's (RSAF) F-15 fleet, as well as operate and maintain print plant and print-on-demand facilities under the contract.

In order to accomplish this complex mission, SKA needed to establish a large footprint in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) with warehousing in multiple cities on opposite sides of the country. Because SKA received no transfer of parts or equipment from the previous contractor, they started the contract with absolutely zero inventory. This posed a real challenge and required great determination and ingenuity to overcome.

Luckily, SKA has a Middle East Branch (MEB) office located in Riyadh and headed by Mr. Mohammed Samarah, General Manager. He and a small group of professionals were instrumental in finding the critical facilities and other assets that were needed to get the program up and running. Different time zones required many early morning and late-night meetings as they navigated through the details of establishing operations inside the Kingdom.

The MEB Team identified buildings and negotiated warehouse leases for facilities located in Dammam, Khamis-Mushait, Taif, and Tabuk. As seen on the map above, the operation is geographically dispersed. There are locations near international trouble spots like Iran, Sudan, and Yemen.

With the warehouse leases negotiated, SKA now had space to store F-15 parts, but the warehouses were completely empty and unimproved buildings. SKA started construction of office spaces, fire suppression systems, network wiring, security systems, racks, shelving, bins, forklifts, and any other furniture or equipment that

was deemed necessary to make the contract successful. The MEB Team also began hiring warehouse personnel consisting of Saudi Nationals and expats from a multitude of countries including U.S., India, Philippines, and Pakistan, to name a few. The team also identified and hired Saudi Nationals in the key positions of Site Managers to assist in getting each location set up and the new employees integrated and trained.

While all of this was happening in KSA, the U.S. based team, led by Mr. Will Carroll, F-15 Program Manager, was busy setting up DLA procurement accounts, shipping accounts, developing processes, and getting their management information system up and operational. SKA has teamed with S&K Logistics Services and PARTS, Inc. for the contract.

When starting a contract with zero transition stock or inventory, the U.S. Team was thrown into a buying frenzy trying to get initial lay-in stock procured. The contract required buying items to support the 18,000 NSN parts catalog. These items were delivered to SKA's Warner Robins warehouse where they were inspected by the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) prior to shipment to KSA. There were numerous hurdles that had to be overcome to get the items inspected and shipped to KSA, but the team managed to overcome them and get their first shipments sent to Dammam. That was the start of a massive material flow that continues today as SKA enters the second option period of the contract.

Back in KSA, SKA hired U.S. Expat, Mr. Danny Ortiz, as the F-15 Deputy Program Manager.

When he took over the coordination of the warehouses and manpower procurement in KSA, things really started to take off. Each Site Manager has prior relationships with the RSAF and knows how the RSAF supply system works. The actual warehouse locations were selected based on building



**“This small group of professionals were instrumental in finding the critical facilities and other assets that were needed to get this program up and running.”**



*2019 Site Survey Team and our RSAF counterparts in Khamis-Mushait*





2019 Site Survey with the S&K Aerospace Khamis-Mushait employees

availability, proximity to supported air bases, and accessibility. Each of the warehouse sites were equipped with state-of-the-art shelving and storage solutions, maximizing space utilization, and creating warehouse flow to optimize material movement. Their goal was to achieve the contract mandated 94% Bin Fill Rate (BFR) as quickly as possible.

The primary distribution warehouse is in Dammam. This warehouse receives, stores, and distributes items to its supported air base in Dhahran and distributes items to the other warehouses to support their assigned air bases. SKA's receiving sections are responsible for the receipt of all material arriving from local and international sources. These materials are inspected for kind, count, and condition, and processed for storage. Storage and Issue Teams store and inventory items and pull needed items on demand. Inventory Analysts consolidate air base shop inventories and establish pick tickets for storage and issue pick teams. The Shipping Section is responsible for material distribution and coordinating with transportation companies and/or bench stock personnel for air base deliveries. Bench Stock Personnel perform shop inventories and deliver material within the established performance objective of bin refill within 48 hours and an overall 94% BFR. It is thanks to the above process and the entire SKA Team that this contract was able to achieve 100% BFR's at all sites and can maintain an average of 98% BFR each day.

During the first contract year, the KSA staff established a great working relationship with their RSAF client. They worked together with their respective RSAF Base Supply staff and established a contract-wide standardized bin labeling convention. This clearly identified bins supported under the contract, bin contents, maximum bin quantities, and identified shelf-life items. Thanks to this labeling convention, KSA personnel were able to perform shop inventories more efficiently which, in turn, decreased bin fill wait times. SKA can now refill a bin in less than the required 48 hours.

S&K Program Management and the KSA Bench Stock teams

identified limiting factors in the original contract catalog. These limiting factors were presented to the RSAF, and these mission critical issues paved the way for a Base-wide site survey in September of 2019. It was during these site surveys that SKA leadership, along with the RSAF client, were able to establish new part requirements tailored to the real-world needs of the RSAF mission.

The KSA team is currently in the process of implementing the new catalog requirements which entail updating racks, bins, and labels at the bases to support over 5,000 additional bin locations. Bench Stock Teams have already completed these updates within 30 days of the new catalog being put on contract. KSA Teams inspected and updated over 90 air base shops, and almost 17,500 shop bins were updated or set-up to meet the new requirements. All new catalog material that arrived from local and U.S. sources have been distributed to their respective sites and are now being delivered to the air bases to support the new bin requirements. All of this was achieved six weeks ahead of the 90-day grace period provided by the contract.

The KSA team has worked extremely hard to achieve the goals and tasks assigned. Their ability to function as part of an international operation and to maintain outstanding relationships with the RSAF and the U.S. Government Program Management Office make this a total team achievement. The KSA Team's sense of ownership and enthusiasm is key to providing the high quality and exceptional service that exemplifies the S&K brand.

*KSA Warehouse Operations hard at work processing materials for storage and distribution. The cover image of two F-15's is courtesy U.S. Air Force (Flickr).*



# International Towers expands broadband service on the Flathead Reservation

High-speed internet access, or broadband, is critical to economic opportunity, job creation, education, and civic engagement. In urban areas, 97 percent of Americans have access to high-speed fixed service. Compare that to rural areas where that number falls to 65 percent. On Tribal lands, barely 60 percent have access. In total, nearly 30 million Americans cannot access the benefits of the digital age.

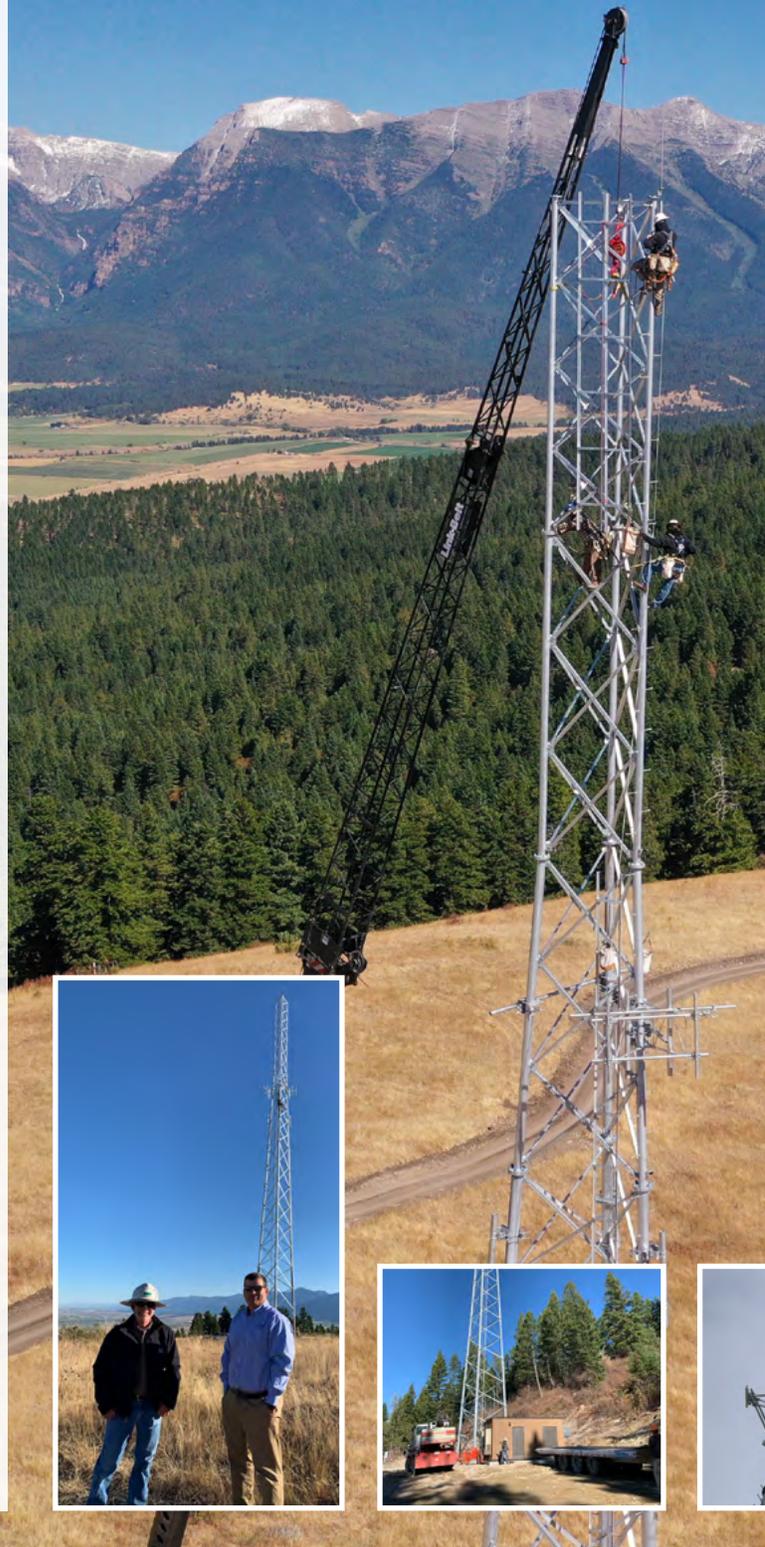
Recently, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) announced the granting of spectrum licenses to 154 Tribal Nations, including seven of the eight in Montana, through its Rural Tribal Priority Window. The spectrum licenses reserve a 2.5 GHz (gigahertz) radio frequency band to provide broadband services to chronically under-served Indian Reservations, many of which are in rural areas.

International Towers, LLC (ITL) supported the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) Infrastructure Administrator by performing the design, build, and install of four Network Expansion Communication Tower sites on the CSKT Flathead Reservation. ITL is a subsidiary of S&K Technologies, Inc.

In June, ITL personnel conducted site surveys of the proposed tower site locations that include Bolder, Jette, Oliver Point, and Pistol Creek. Beginning in July, 2020, ITL personnel, equipment, and materials were deployed to the tower installation sites where site access, clearing, foundation installation, tower installation, primary and backup generator power, and shelter installations were completed ahead of the end of December completion date. The success of this project was due, in large part, to the community effort of local contractors.

This effort was made possible through CARES Act funding and will improve communications coverage for the reservation in the 2.5MHz band. The installation of these four tower sites provides expanded communication coverage for 80% of the CSKT user area. ITL's design is such that it accommodates the communication antenna install requirement and affords the CSKT the future ability to accommodate cell carrier and microwave point-to-point antenna communications infrastructure.

*Background and side photos show the construction process of a tower above the Mission Valley of the Flathead Reservation in northwest Montana. Pictured are ITL Operations Manager Stuart Goettsch (left) with S&K Technologies, Inc. CEO Chad Cottet during a site visit.*



# Expert finance team manages dollars in the desert

The Finance and Accounting Department is one of the most intricate processes to manage. It is a continuous process of checks and balances to ensure all accounts and department expenses are correctly handled. Complicating this process further is having to comply with multiple policies and laws of the countries involved. Often there is only a small window in which to ensure compliance and address all guidance and laws—and frequently there is conflicting guidance.

Our S&K Aerospace Middle East Branch has been continuously adapting to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's daily shifting sands. And on the front lines is our MEB Finance Manager, Haroon Ahmed. The implementation of the Saudi Vision 2030 is bypassing state institutions and processes, creating a public policy crisis. In a recent Carnegie article, the crisis and challenges were examined. The article stated that policy formulation, a naturally lengthy and cumbersome process—from conducting thorough policy analysis, running consultations, developing sound policy instruments, and building frameworks for coordination—has become merely a brainstorming exercise used to present or formulate strategic documents.

This has been especially challenging in the financial area. As an example, the local Saudi government recently imposed laws completely dictating and controlling the financial process. The government has a direct link to each company's

bank account, and it can lock the company's account without prior notice if any of the government's requirements are not met. These changes do not come from a law that is drafted and debated with public knowledge and input. The laws are formulated and implemented with little or no public notice before implementation. And frequently conflicting laws appear across multiple government sectors, illustrating the ill-thought nature of policymaking in the Kingdom and the urgent need to enhance the process.

...the local Saudi government recently imposed laws completely dictating and controlling the financial process... Battling such constant changes requires an extremely well-coordinated and knowledgeable finance team.

Battling such constant changes requires an extremely well-coordinated and knowledgeable finance team. Under the leadership of Haroon, our finance team has done an exceptional job of keeping abreast of the continuous government changes while simultaneously fully complying with our corporate policy and U.S. laws and accounting principles.

Haroon is one of the most influential members of the MEB team. He is an outstanding leader and mentor and his team flawlessly carries out the incredible task of meeting the finance/accounting department's demands and fully complying with the changing laws of Saudi Arabia. From Government Monitored Payroll to meeting with external auditors and coordinating with U.S. corporate finance and our customers, Haroon has managed to keep the process flowing and on track; this is directly leading to the success of S&K programs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

*The S&K Aerospace Middle East Branch Finance Team. Left to right are Adnan Rafiq, Accountant, Ahmed Bhatti, Senior Accountant, Haroon Ahmed, Finance Manager, Shahzaib Khan, Accountant, and Taha Haroon, Accountant.*



The **Enterprise Security Group (ESG)** is a centralized security operations team that establishes a consistent and robust security program across the S&K enterprise family of companies.

## THE ESG TEAM



**Melinda Taylor**, Director of Security, located in Georgia; services the S&K enterprise family of companies.

- I have been with S&K for 20 years.
- Best security advice: Like oxygen, security is all around. We don't think about it, but we need it. Be proactive in security.
- When I am not working: I love being outdoors. Porch sitting, taking walks, camping, fishing, and enjoying nature's beauty with family and friends.



**Corey Badgley**, Corporate Facility Security Officer, located in Montana; services the Montana locations including SKT Corporate Headquarters and the Engineering & Security Solutions Business Unit. Corey also has oversight of the Department of Energy (DOE) security operations.

- I have been with S&K for 17 years.
- Best security advice: Our adversaries are always looking for easy access to our secrets. Don't get complacent.
- When I am not working: I was appointed to our County Television Board last year. I have been working with our other members to bring in a new TV translator to our small town.



**Eileen Smasal**, Facility Security Officer, located in Georgia; services the Critical Mission Support Services Business Unit.

- I have been with S&K for 7 years.
- Best security advice: Security is everyone's concern.
- When I am not working: I like to stay home with my family and chill with my 2 cats, Misty and Harley.



**Dede Martin**, Facility Security Officer, located in Georgia; services the Aerospace Services Business Unit.

- I have been with S&K for one year.
- Best security advice: Understanding the security requirements of a project or task before hitting "enter".
- When I am not working: I am a reluctant dive buddy for my husband but have come to enjoy how beautiful the world is below the waves. I also love a good book.



**“Know your customers and their needs to achieve the required mission”**



## Group Spirit (GS) caught up with S&K's Director of Security to learn more about her team and what they do.

### **GS: What is the importance of having an ESG at S&K?**

Melinda Taylor (MT): Federal agencies incorporate contract security classification specification and security clauses into contracts awarded to S&K. Compliance measures are critical to fulfilling the deliverables in each of the contracts awarded.

Essential missions for compliance include personnel vetting and critical technology protection, counterintelligence, training and awareness programs.

ESG plays a significant role in protecting America's trusted workforce and trusted workspaces by establishing internal policies and procedures, training, awareness, and collaborating with other stakeholders to ensure compliance and a secure infrastructure.

### **GS: Who do you primarily serve with the company?**

MT: ESG takes a holistic approach by serving the S&K enterprise which includes the business structure commonly referred to as the grandparent, parent, and children per the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM).

ESG services corporate plus all subsidiary companies. We also administer security awareness training to all new hires and annually thereafter.

### **GS: What goals did you achieve in 2020?**

MT: There have been a few hurdles along the way but ESG placed a substantial dent in our 2020 goals: Big on the list was quality customer service. We also tackled Risk Assessment for Compliance by organizing and centralizing employee security files.

We established the employee security portal for secure uploading of required documents for compliance and training. We also established a process with Human Resources to ensure Security stays in the know with employee changes such as new hires, positions changes, and terminations as this is key for accountability in security.

We facilitated the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) readiness assessment which was completed recently by key stakeholders and a summary report was delivered to the Executive Leadership Team with recommendations for achieving the required certification.

### **GS: What are common questions you get?**

MT: How can my company receive a facility clearance? How can my employee receive a personal clearance? Why is the process to receive a clearance taking so long?

The famous words of a Facility Security Officer are: "it depends". Attention to detail is critical when applying for a clearance and the steps to adjudication are fully involved. The investigation is extremely thorough and will typically take 30 to 90 days, at best, when there are no hitches.

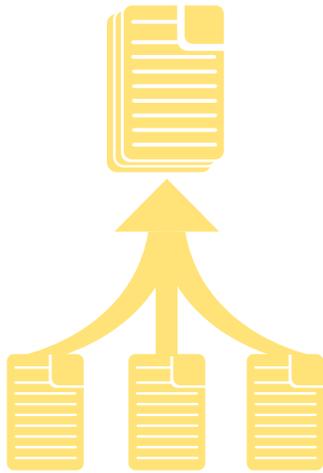
### **GS: What goals do you have for 2021?**

MT: Continue working security standards for policies, practices, and procedures to meet required compliance measures. First priority is the Insider Threat Program followed by Standard Practices and Procedures which will continue to set the scope for compliance and standardization. These documents will also support cybersecurity compliance (CMMC) requirements.

Security Awareness and Training is important for the overall success of a robust security program. It is essential that all employees receive security awareness and guidance in order to be the ambassadors of security regardless of their clearance status. ESG would like to implement a more mature and professionally sound security awareness training program that is an effective and positive learning experience for all employees while meeting all compliance measures.

**"It takes a team to be effective. When everyone believes they play an important role, we all succeed. When everyone does the right thing, we all WIN!! Customers will notice."**

# HR launched the new Consolidated Policies in December. Here's how to learn more from your colleagues.



S&K's mission is to become the preeminent service and construction firm in the country so that we enable opportunity and prosperity for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. We also strive to continue to create connections between each of our different companies. One of the ways we create connection is through our use of standard policies and procedures.

As part of this effort, Human Resources is working with a group of Super Users across the company to implement and train all employees on our newly approved HR Policies. If you have questions about this project, please contact one of the Super Users below for more detail:

- |                    |                    |                  |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| • Allyson Herrmann | • Jeff Sumrow      | • Melinda Taylor | • Sherman Rankin    |
| • Brian Blackmon   | • John McEntee     | • Mike Bearden   | • Shirley Gallagher |
| • Chris Halecki    | • Kathryn Brown    | • Mike Serrato   | • Steve Ahlfield    |
| • Corey Badgley    | • Ken Gray         | • Olin Wilson    | • Todd Smith        |
| • Dean Hendrix     | • Le'Roy Callender | • Rickey Zanders | • Troy Felsman      |
| • Eugene McMahon   | • Lloyd Blackmon   | • Shawna Adams   | • Wendy Wilson      |
| • Jared Brown      | • Lori Hufnagel    |                  |                     |

## HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

### HR renews their focus on Training and Development

Under the direction of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), comprised of all Presidents, General Managers, and Chief Officers, Human Resources is currently drafting a plan for a new Learning Management System to be implemented by mid-2021. The focus of the new training and development platform will be on skill learning or improvement, compliance training, and development education.

This is an exciting project that will offer all employees across S&K many opportunities for self-directed or virtual learning experiences that have not been available in the past. Our ELT is strongly supportive of this effort and most focused on selecting the best training and development program that allows all S&K employees to thrive and learn.



Contact your HR Business Partner for more information about training opportunities.

### Golf Sponsorship

S&K Global Solutions employees took part in the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership - Member Appreciation Golf Outing this fall. S&K went with a huckleberry theme and made frybread served with huckleberry jam. There were over 150 participants and S&K sponsored hole seven. The S&K golf team came in 4th place.



# Employee News

## AWARDS



### Employee of Quarter - Corporate

Shania Parker wears many hats at the corporate office in St. Ignatius, Montana. While her official title is Accounts Payable

Clerk, Shania stepped into a dual role as Front Desk Receptionist this year. She expertly juggles the two roles, not only doing both well, but also being a continued and positive presence in the office during Covid-19. She takes care of duties such as checking temperatures and greeting visitors. Shania taught herself how to do many things in regard to the front desk, like learning the mail machine, processing incoming and outgoing packages, and other procedures. She has been and continues to be a great asset to our company.

## NASA Excellence Award

Lana Rouse, xEMU PM Administrator with S&K Global Solutions, was recognized by NASA for her work to support the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (xEMU) Delta Preliminary Design Review amidst challenging circumstances, including remote planning and execution of the review due to COVID-19, and a last minute rescheduling due to Hurricane Laura. The xEMU Project is designing and building an exploration space suit for use on the International Space Station, in cislunar space, and on the lunar surface. The Design Review was held virtually September 8-9. The immense community interest led to 895 people invited with an average daily attendance of 462 people.



## Team-building during Saudi National Day!

In 2005, the King of Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah, designated September 23rd as Saudi National Day. It is a national holiday that commemorates the unification of all the Bedouin tribes, Sultanates, minor kingdoms, and Emirates across a large swath of the Arabian Peninsula with celebrations and cultural events in every city. The main highways and streets are lined with Saudi flags and it is an impressive sight.

For this year's Saudi National Day, S&K Aerospace received a request from the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) for almost \$1 million in aircraft paint and accessories to paint the RSAF Aerobatic Team aircraft. The Saudi Hawks Team is similar to the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. This paint was also used to paint several other aircraft to include C-130s, Typhoons, and F-15's that participated in National Day demonstrations around the country. S&K coordinated funding through U.S. Air Force contracting and, with the help of our Middle East Branch in Riyadh, were able to acquire this specialty paint through a Saudi Arabian company.

The Arab News stated that "A massive airshow, described as the largest to take place in the Kingdom's history of national days, saw about 60 military and civilian aircraft participate." S&K was able to get the paint delivered in time for the aircraft to be repainted and the demonstrations went off without a hitch.

S&K's large team is comprised of Saudi Nationals and multinational expatriates. On Saudi National Day, they all celebrate together with a meal and camaraderie. As a multi-cultural team, S&K meets contract requirements while building friendships and experiences in the Kingdom that will last a lifetime.

*Saudi Hawks perform during Saudi National Day as citizens gather in the streets to celebrate.*



**BIRTHS** Cindy Reese Bitting, S&K Technical Writer, welcomed grandson Thomas Joseph Watkins, III. Born 10/30/20, Thomas weighed 8 lbs, 10 oz.



## VOLUNTEER WORK

Michael Luong and his wife continue to make face coverings which they have been handing out to homeless folks in their neighborhoods. Michael is a SKGS Technical Professional working on projects with NASA.

## CORRECTION

In the last issue of Group Spirit, Ms. Mariana Shipley was misrepresented in the caption. This photo was taken during a recent EVA (spacewalk). She provided technical support during the EVA, and also helps verify EVA requirements for new hardware being added to the Space Station.



## The NFL was recruiting in 1922...

One of the earliest and most colorful football characters, though largely forgotten, marked the association between and the NFL and the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). Tribal member Nick Lassa played guard in the NFL in 1922 and 1923 with the Oorang Indians, an all-Native American team based in La Rue, Ohio. Nick was called by his teammates "Long Time Sleep" due to his teammates' difficulty getting him up in the morning.

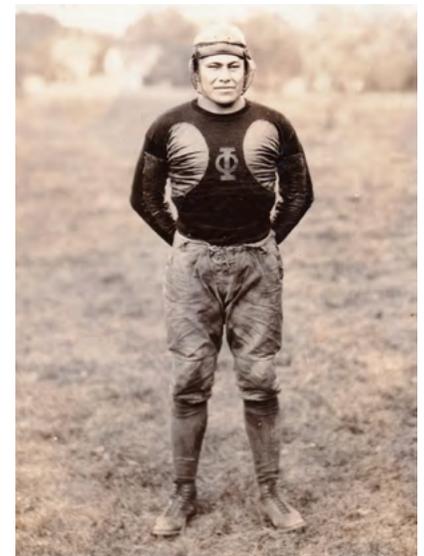
Lassa was born on July 11, 1898 on the Flathead Indian Reservation. He was a member of the Pend d'Orielle Tribe, one of the three main tribes that comprise the CSKT.

At the age of 14, Nick attended Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania and went on to attend college at Haskell Indian Institute in Kansas. After Haskell, he was asked to play professional football in the newly formed NFL with a team formed by world famous Native American and Olympian Jim Thorpe.

Nick was a large man and was quite the character, bringing with him from the Reservation a pet coyote. On several occasions, Nick entertained spectators by wrestling a bear at half-time. These early NFL games would draw over five thousand fans paying around \$1.75 a game. Unfortunately, after two years the team folded. Nick stayed in the Ohio area, earning money as a professional wrestler and circus strongman.

In the early 1930's, Nick returned to the Reservation and became a tribal leader, serving on the Tribal Council of the CSKT. Old Tribal Council minutes indicate that Nick, fluent in the Salish language, would often translate for visitors to the Tribal Council meetings. Many elders today can recall how Nick, dancing at Pow Wow's, would playfully scare them due to his large size. Nick passed away in 1964.

*Top: Nick Lassaw in the center (the only one on the second row) with Jim Thorpe, Olympic Gold Medalist standing behind and to his right (Fifth from right). Right: Lassaw in his Oorang (O) Indians (I) uniform.*



## Find more news about the S&K Family of Companies

 [sktcorp.com/media-center](http://sktcorp.com/media-center)

 [facebook.com/sktcorp](https://facebook.com/sktcorp)

 [@sk\\_technologies](https://@sk_technologies)

 [@sk\\_technologies](https://@sk_technologies)

 [youtube.com/sktcorp](https://youtube.com/sktcorp)

 [linkedin.com/company/s&k-technologies](https://linkedin.com/company/s&k-technologies)

*S&K Group Spirit is produced by the proud employees of the S&K Technologies, Inc. Family of Companies.*

63066 Old Highway 93, PO Box 339, St. Ignatius, MT 59865 Ph: (406) 745-7500 [www.sktcorp.com](http://www.sktcorp.com)

Contact us with questions or comments at email: [news@sktcorp.com](mailto:news@sktcorp.com)

©2021 S&K Technologies, Inc.

Winter 2021 Edition