FASCAP purchase saves wing $89,000

By SSgt. Christopher J. Haug
Public affairs

A 48th Civil Engineer Squadron asphalt paver, purchased in October 1996, is expected to net more than $2.5 million in savings during the next 15 years.

The use of the paver has saved the wing more than $89,000 in contractor fees in its first quarter of use.

"We expect that the cost savings generated from not contracting out paving projects will pay for the paver in one year," said SMSgt. Phil Cherry, heavy repair unit superintendent.

The $90,796 paver was bought through the Fast Payback Capital Investment program as a cheaper way to pave some projects on base.

Before the engineers bought the paver, all paving was done by civilian contracts at an average cost of $20 per square meter. The in-house cost to pave is $7.30 per square meter or a 65 percent savings.

"We've also been able to complete paving projects in a more timely manner since the equipment is already on base and is mobile," Cherry said.

The wing's paver is able to drive on paved roads and could be transported to RAF Feltwell if needed. Some pavers use tracks and metal wheels and require more setup than ours, Cherry said.

"We can't do every project on base with the paver. It's not built to pave the flightline, for example. But we can do most projects in the base operations support areas." The paver can lay asphalt from 1.5 meters to 3 meters, according to the machine specifications.

Another benefit of the pavers purchase is that it was bought locally. "We get all the support we need from the company because they are based in Cambridge. This is important when someone needs training or the machine needs servicing," Cherry said.

A recent project to resurface the recycling center storage yard brought positive comments from the manager about the paver's usefulness.

"We were very happy with the service the civil engineers provided with the new paver," said SSgt. Dave Berdis, recycling center manager. "We not only got the job done cheaper, but were able to customize paving on the spot to allow for drainage without additional cost or contract negotiations."

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U.S. Air Force Photo

Civil engineers resurface the storage yard for the new recycling center.

Secretary reviews Air Force objectives for 1997

By Sheila E. Widnall
Secretary of the Air Force

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — 1997 will be a watershed year for the Air Force. During the next 12 months we will see a remarkable series of events that will define how the Air Force grows and what our capabilities will be for many years to come.

Every member of the Air Force will play in these events, and every member will be affected by them. So, as we set out on this journey into the future, it is useful for us all to have the trip scoped out and understand its major turning points — and our major objectives.

Where do we want to be when 1997 rolls into 1998? These are the achievements I expect us to have registered by then:

❒ Build on the momentum of the long-range planning effort. During the past year the Air Force created a compelling vision of the future. It is a shared vision, drawn from the competence and experience of every element of our force. But vision statements are not hard to define; historically, it has proven much harder to execute them than to write them.

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Secretary of the Air Force

During the next year we must put flesh on the bones of the vision and transform it from a vision to a plan. We must move ahead with the specific initiatives outlined in the Air Force's vision statement: with the creation of battlelabs, and the construction of an air and space basic course that will help build a sense of institutional identity, and build a common understanding of the core values that are basic to all we do.

❒ Participate effectively in the Quadrennial Defense Review. During the next few months we will be deeply engaged in a comprehensive review of the entire U.S. military — a review that will include every element of our activities, from our military strategy to how we fight and how we support our forces. We view this review as an opportunity to educate our national decision makers on the capabilities of their air and space force, and to use the expertise we gained in the intensive analysis that underlay the long-range planning effort.

❒ Sustain our modernization and quality-of-life initiatives. During the past few years, the Air Force has shaped and executed the programs we need to bring on the systems necessary to operate effectively in the next 20 years. We have also pressed ahead with the quality-of-life initiatives we need to attract and retain the people who have made us the finest air force on earth. With the new Congress, and with continued pressure on the budget, the challenges to these programs continue to grow.

I see three steps as essential to our success here. First, we must continue to educate our

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