



*Members of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Energy Directorate received two Federal Energy Management Program awards from the U.S. Department of Energy for outstanding achievements and contributions to serve and protect the Air Force mission. Front row left to right: Les Martin, former division chief; Jacob Lacourse, project manager, John Byrenes (retired); Mike Giniger (retired); Tim Laney, project manager; Mike Allison, M&V specialist; Mark Dent, project manager; Mike Ringenberg, ESPC UESC SME and program manager. Dean Andrews, former project manager and Morgan Hurst, former project manager, are the last two in the back row. (Courtesy photo)*

## **AFCEC earns two 2020 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards**

By Sarah McNair

AFIMSC Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – The Air Force Civil Engineer Center's Energy Directorate has been selected by the U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) to receive two FEMP awards for their outstanding achievements and contributions, which serve to protect the Air Force mission enterprise-wide.

The Energy Directorate's Program Development Division (AFCEC/CND) is slated to receive FEMP Awards: in the program category for overall performance contract program results in fiscal year 2019, and in the contracting category for the energy savings performance contract (ESPC) awarded for Misawa Air Base, Japan.

"Winning these awards validates all of the hard work the program development division put into this third-party financed program," said Les Martin, who served as an AFCEC/CND program manager since 2011 and as the division chief from 2016 through 2020.

"In six years, the program grew from almost nothing to more than \$1.4 billion and growing," he said.

Maj. Nate Thomsen, deputy director for AFCEC's Energy Directorate elaborated on why winning these awards is such a huge accomplishment for their Program Development team.

"It's a huge credit to the team because they have practically reinvented the ESPC program in the last few years to focus on energy resiliency — the ability for our installations to perform the mission during and recover from threats," said Maj. Thomsen. "ESPCs can increase energy resiliency in many ways such as installing new distributed generation and improved energy grids. Mike's (Ringenberg) ESPC team and the engineers at Air Force bases around the world make these projects happen."

The performance contract program achievements award, recognizes the following AFCEC project managers: Martin (retired), Tom Laney, Mike Allison (retired), Mark R. Dent and program manager Mike Ringenberg. The centralized AFCEC/CND program supports all third-party financed contracts developed for Air Force installations worldwide, from concept through construction, implementation, and reporting for the term of the projects.

"I am really appreciative that our team is being recognized by FEMP for all of the continuous hard work on the ESPC Program," Laney said. "Our team provides professional technical, engineering, and statistical analysis as well as quality control to ensure performance, while working with all stakeholders, including base, contracting personnel, and energy service companies, to move projects over the finish line to award. Saving energy while providing infrastructure improvements and increasing energy resiliency to support the Air Force enterprise is extremely gratifying."

The team developed and awarded 25 ESPCs between FY16 and FY19, reaching an implementation value of almost \$1 billion, while providing guaranteed energy savings for the next 22+ years.

The second award recognizes the following team members who took part in awarding the Misawa AB ESPC: Ringenberg, Dent, Jacob Vigil, Defense Logistics Agency-Energy Contracting Officer; David Eiler, 35<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron former Contracting Officer Representative for Misawa AB; Jesse Gary, former Resources Efficiency Manager for the 35<sup>th</sup> CE Squadron at Misawa AB; and Joseph Domeier, Installation Management Flight Chief.

After the Secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety and Infrastructure shifted its primary energy initiative to increasing resiliency, AFCEC successfully revectorred its efforts and projects toward maximizing resiliency.

"The projects awarded for Misawa AB, as well as Kadena, Osan, Yokota, and Kunsan Air Bases, were pacesetters for the federal government," Martin said. "We found ways to bundle conservation energy conservation measures, or ECMs, to pay for resiliency ECMs

while mandating metered baselines, robust measurement and verification plans, along with adding contractor-required operations and maintenance.”

The Misawa ESPC awarded Dec. 20 included an implementation cost of almost \$207 million, with no upfront costs to the government. The infrastructure improvements included in the project scope generate an annual energy savings of 258,697 million British thermal units (MMBtu) through conservation in conjunction with distributed and renewable energy distribution resources.

“The LNG [Liquefied Natural Gas] storage facility implemented at Misawa AB is the first of its kind at a Department of Defense installation and represents a new ability to store a cheaper and plentiful fuel source for the Air Force,” Dent said.

The project upgrades also added ancillary benefits for the base, such as: improved operational security, inventory control, simplified procurement and enterprise-wide robust cybersecurity.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to lead the directorate’s third-party finance program,” Ringenberg said. “The Air Force is reaping the benefits of more than \$1.5 billion in awarded projects for installations around the world thanks to the diligence of AFCEC’s Energy professionals. I’m amazed by what our team accomplished by incorporating more than \$400 million in renewable energy and distributive generation and I’m excited for what the future holds.”