

Contracting Squadron celebrates new year



ABOVE: Vicky Anderson and Jim Cochran review a proposal before submitting it.
BELOW: LeDonna Brown and Denis McGrew go over the paperwork for an award before submission.



PHOTOS AND STORY BY
CLOVER HATCHER
Nucleus photojournalist

The fiscal year ended at midnight on Sept. 30, but not before the members of the 377th Contracting Squadron did everything humanly possible to acquire funding for Kirtland AFB.

On Sept. 30, members of the 377th Contracting Squadron got to work at 6 a.m. They spent the day wrapping up the fiscal year and processing the paperwork for the 377th Air Base Wing and more than 100 associate units, to obligate the funding needed to operate.

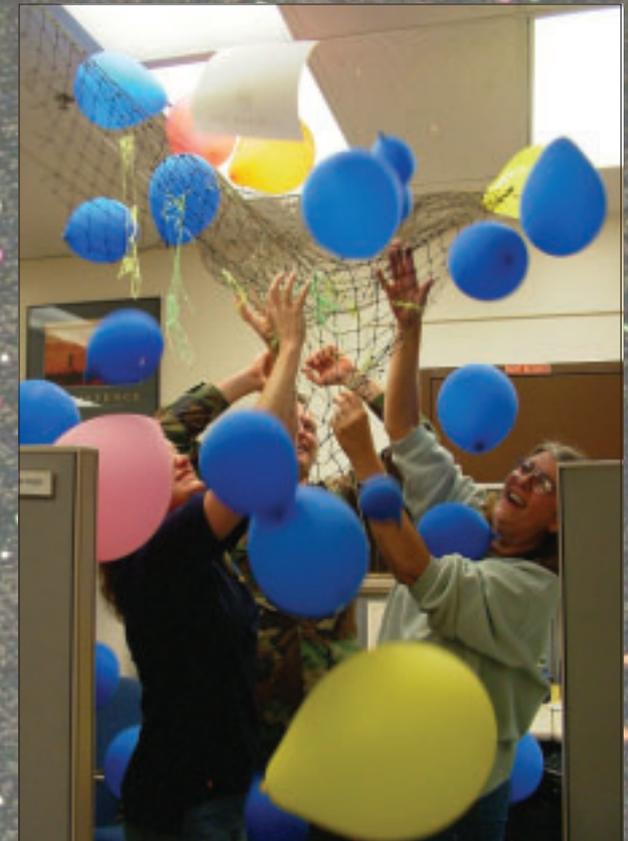
This fiscal year, contracting completed 712 actions totalling \$ 77 million. Out of those, 193 actions worth \$ 20.3 million were completed in September.

"Closeout activities touch every member of this squadron in one way or another. In typical fashion, all performed like champions to ensure that no member of TEAM KIRTLAND lost funds," explained Beverly Stotz.

At midnight, balloons dropped from the ceiling to mark the beginning of the new fiscal year and to celebrate the end of 2004.



ABOVE: Stella Silva logs on to CARE, a bank program, to reconcile cardholder accounts.
BELOW: (From left) Kathy Weber, Capt. Geary Pyles and Sherri Szpunar celebrate the end of the fiscal year and the fact that their 20 hour work day is finally over.



Service, duty represent core of public affairs Reservist

Five years ago, Air Force Reserve Maj. Michael P. Kleiman accepted a 10-week temporary duty assignment to Kirtland AFB, serving as the interim public affairs officer for the 58th Special Operations Wing. Major Kleiman enjoyed New Mexico so much that he began to apply for a number of government jobs there.

"The beauty of the mountains and desert, the wonderful food—especially red and green chile—and the friendliness of the people made me want to live here," said Major Kleiman. "My family was very supportive of a move to New Mexico, and a few months later we were living in Albuquerque."

Since returning to New Mexico in January 2000, Major Kleiman has worked at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, handling a variety of public affairs duties and working with the organization's volunteers. He also holds the position of individual mobilization augmentee to the director of Public Affairs for the 377th Air Base Wing.

"I enjoy serving as an IMA in the public affairs office because of the team approach and many opportunities to promote and publicize the wing and the base, as well as to tell the Air Force story both internally and externally," said Major Kleiman. "The 377th Air Base Wing's motto, 'Serving Freedom's Finest,' describes my calling to serve this great nation and as-

sisting those who have served."

Earlier this year, Maj. Kleiman's participation in a 10-week temporary duty assignment increased his knowledge of the Air Force's expeditionary role. The 20-year military veteran served at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, with Headquarters, United States Air Forces in Europe public affairs. Major Kleiman helped develop and instruct a seven-hour public affairs curriculum conducted during the Silver Flag Exercise, a deployment exercise which featured over 200 Airmen from USAFE bases.

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IMA

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Maj. Kleiman served as an evaluator of public affairs students participating in the exercises. "I learned so much from the TDY to HQ USAFE/PA, especially how a command public affairs office operates and works with various media outlets such as *Stars and Stripes* and the Armed Forces Network, but what really made the most impact on me was watching our Airmen work together as a team to build a functioning tent city during each of the two Silver Flag exercises I participated in," said Kleiman.

Editors Note: This is the first in a monthly series covering TEAM KIRTLAND IMAs. Commanders who have outstanding IMAs serving in their units are encouraged to contact Senior Airman Erin Smith in the 377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs office, 846-5991 or erin.smith@kirtland.af.mil.

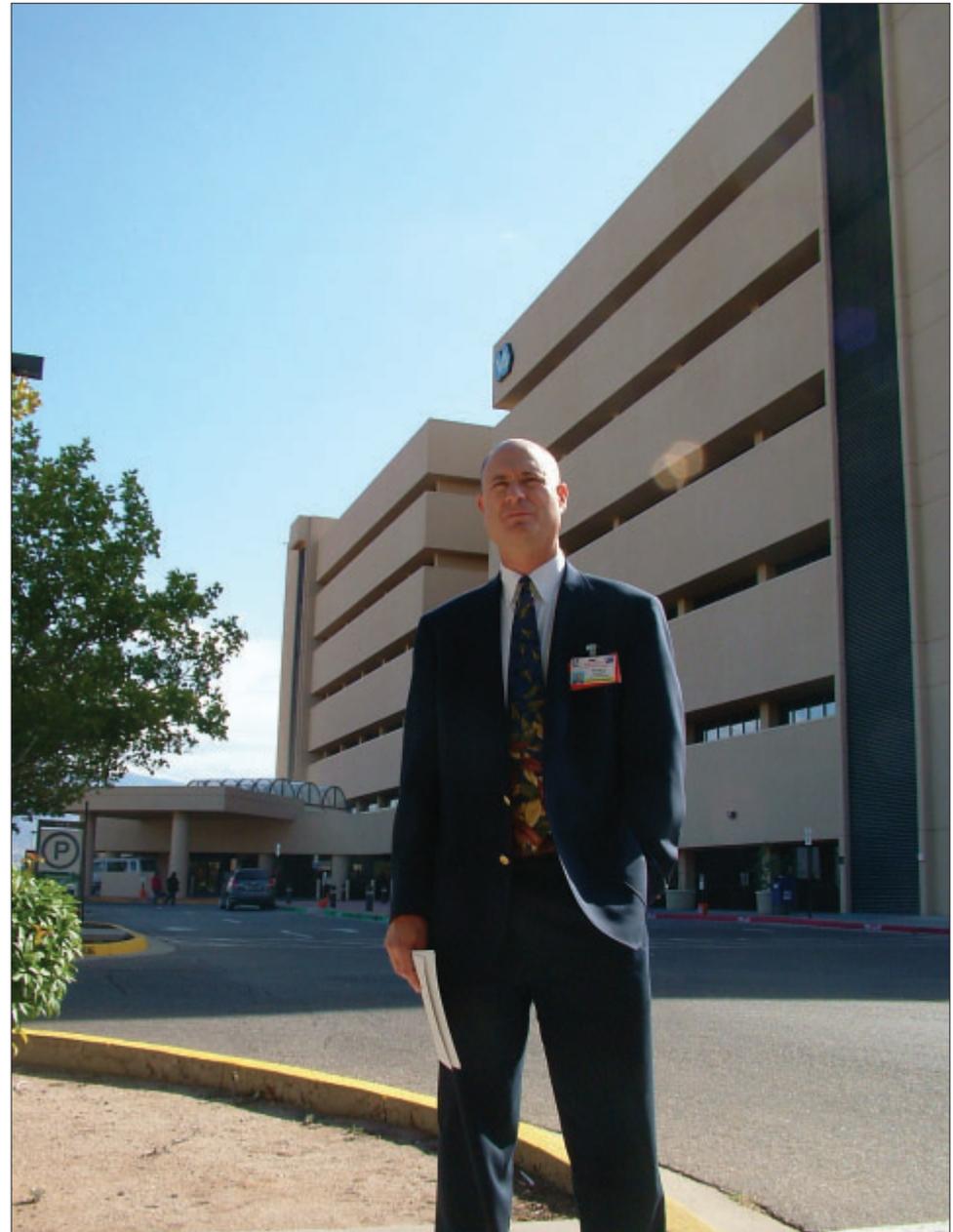


Photo by Clover Hatcher

Air Force Reservist Maj. Michael Kleiman serves as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee in the 377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office here.