

Money-Saving Idea Earns Laughlin Member Award

By Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill
47th Flying Training Wing public affairs

LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) - A member of the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron here, received a \$3,969 award April 17, for an idea he submitted under the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program, saving the Air Force \$1,130,744 over the next 45 years.

Donald Hendrix, construction representative, suggested replacing the asphalt roofs in base with metals roofs after a severe hailstorm in 2002 caused extensive damage.

Mr. Hendrix said he researched and found that metal roofing lasted longer and did a better job than the asphalt roofs Laughlin used. He also found that metal roofs would better withstand heavy hail and high winds, and thereby save the Air Force money in roof replacement costs.

As the base evaluator, Marvin Parvino, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy base civil engineer, conducted a detailed analysis of Mr. Hendrix's research and confirmed that replacing the roofs with metal would benefit the Air Force.

Currently, approximately half of Laughlin's base housing is covered with metal roofing as a result of Mr. Hendrix's suggestion. Civil engineer officials expect Laughlin to have 100 percent of housing fitted with metal roofs within the next year.

The metal roof has a 50-year warranty against hail and 120-mph wind damage, whereas asphalt roofs did not warrant these types of damages.

"The metal roof provides better comfort for residents," said Mr. Hendrix. "It reduces installation time by 50 percent, and produces minimal amounts of construction debris such as nails and other dangerous objects. The metal roof also looks like traditional asphalt shingles."

Mr. Hendrix said he is more excited about Laughlin having such an extensive project like this one than he is about receiving the award.

According to civil engineer officials here, Laughlin is the first Air Force installation to replace asphalt roofs with metal for all base housing.

"His idea has been forwarded to AETC for wider use," said Anita Cox, 47th Flying Training Wing IDEA analyst. "If the command decides to use it at its other bases, there could be more savings identified. That also means more award money could be earned by Mr. Hendrix."

The maximum limit for an IDEA award is \$10,000, said Ms. Cox.

Military and civilian members may submit suggestions as individuals, teams or groups through the IDEA Program Data System at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil>.

This story is a product of HQ AETC/Public Affairs News Service.



Donald Hendrix, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron construction representative, discusses a metal roof with Lt. Col. Michael Blaylock, 47th CES commander, atop a home in base housing. Mr. Hendrix earned an award of \$3,969 for his idea to replace asphalt roofs with metal roofs. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill)