

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Hill AFB Receives Prestigious EPA Environmental Achievement Award for Elimination of Hexavalent Chromium**

Phoenix, AZ (July 7, 2004) - The Science and Engineering Laboratories at Hill Air Force Base (AFB) in Ogden, Utah have been selected to receive the prestigious EPA Regional Administrative Award for Environmental Excellence. This award is presented to individuals and groups who have made exceptional contributions to the protection of human health and the environment.

Under the leadership of Senior Materials Engineer, Richard Buchi, and his team, Hill AFB is receiving this award for its efforts in eliminating chromated conversion coatings (CCC) in its aircraft painting operations. Hill AFB initiated this change in 1996 when it received Pollution Prevention funding to evaluate non-chromate replacements for chromated conversion coatings used in the pre-treatment of aircraft. The goal of the funding, which has proven successful, was to eliminate exposure of highly soluble and carcinogenic concentrations of hexavalent chromium to workers and Hill AFB's environmental community.

As a result of these efforts, the U.S. Air Force is now close to Air Force-wide elimination of CCC. This non-chromate technology, manufactured by Pantheon Chemical and commercially sold under the brand name PreKote Surface Pretreatment (SP), provides Hill AFB and other U.S. Air Force bases with safer working environments and cost savings. For example, the government saves \$6,000 per F-16 aircraft.

Additional Air Force bases beside Hill to completely make the switch to PreKote SP include: Vance AFB (OK), Altus AFB(OK), Randolph AFB (TX), Laughlin AFB (TX) and Sheppard AFB (TX). Numerous other bases including Tinker AFB (OK) and Warner-Robbins (GA) are in the final stages of making the conversion. In total, this new technology is currently deployed on 1,500 U.S. Air Force aircraft.

Pantheon Chemical is a privately held chemical manufacturing company that replaces toxic chemicals and processes with high performance non-hazardous technology. Pantheon Chemical sets the standard for corporate responsibility through proactive ideas and products that accelerate global sustainability while producing profits.

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