

SUCCESSFUL OSH PROGRAM AT NAS KEFLAVIK, ICELAND

U.S. Naval Air Station (NAS) Keflavik, Iceland employs over 6,000 military, civilian and local national personnel. NAS Keflavik also supports 30 Navy, Air Force, Marine, and NATO commands both on base and in isolated locations throughout Iceland. The NAS Keflavik Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Program has demonstrated a superlative record, which is even more impressive given the sub-arctic environment in which Iceland is located. NAS Keflavik has not had an occupational fatality for over 20 years, and no civilian workers' compensation costs since 1986. The command has never had a notice of a serious OSH violation or been fined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or local OSH authorities. Highlighted below are just a few successes of this NAVOSH Program.



Main entrance, NAS Keflavik

Training. The NAS Keflavik safety staff provides annual training for U.S. military and civilian personnel and host nationals throughout the year. In 1997, the command shifted from training 200 persons in a single session to departmental training sessions during the last week of the month in which each department's annual inspection is completed. Each



Local Icelandic Supply Department janitorial personnel attend NAVOSH training

class of 20, organized by trade or occupation, discusses findings from the annual inspection and other pertinent safety topics. Training is provided in Icelandic and English, and an exam is given at the end of each training session. This new



Public Works CB's attend NAVOSH training session

training approach encourages employee involvement and a positive attitude towards safety.

Asbestos Control. The NAS Keflavik Safety Department operates the only asbestos analysis and fiber count laboratory in Iceland. Icelandic OSHA routinely requests analytical assistance. The Safety Department has two qualified asbestos analysts who have surveyed NAS Keflavik for asbestos-containing materials. Based on the survey, over 120 asbestos removal projects were initiated all but 35 of which have been completed.



Asbestos Analyst and Safety Specialist, Thorgrimur Arnason, collects samples for clearance following asbestos ripout operation.

Pedestrian Safety. The NAS Keflavik Traffic Safety Regulation requires pedestrians to wear reflective clothing or hours of darkness and NAS Keflavik provides pedestrian safety reflectors injuries. In August 1990, designed a reflector in the reflector has become very Icelandic personnel.



reflective devices during when visibility is reduced. every individual on base with to prevent mishaps and the command's safety staff shape of Iceland. The popular among American and

Local Icelandic companies have also requested permission to use the design for their employees. The reflectors are distributed to new arrivals at NAS Keflavik during indoctrination training, as well as to schoolchildren and all new civilian employees. They are also available from the Safety Department Office.



Iceland reflector on Navy arctic parka

Community Outreach. It is the policy of the NAS Keflavik Safety Department to issue seasonal safety letters to Command residents. The winter safety letter covers topics such as daily travel on the Station, travel in outlying areas of Iceland, hazards due to icy conditions, winter weather vehicle standards, etc. The summer safety letter addresses travel precautions, bicycle safety, sudden weather changes, and construction site dangers.



Hafstein Hafsteinsson, NAS Safety Specialist, is interviewed by Navy Broadcasting

The safety letters are distributed to new personnel, all workplaces, schools, and base housing. Before major holidays, the Safety Department publishes and distributes relevant safety brochures. The Safety Department also publishes safety articles of general interest to local residents and NAS personnel in the Station's newspaper, *The White Falcon*. In cooperation with the Naval Media Center, safety *spots* are broadcast during NAS news broadcasts. The Safety Department regularly participates in community gatherings to ensure wide dissemination of safety information to the public.



Haukur Johannesson, Safety Socialist, is interviewed on local TV about OSH matters

Occupational Health. Certain work areas and work practices at NAS Keflavik involve potential hazards. Personnel working in these areas and occupations are closely monitored through annual surveys, special surveys, and workplace monitoring conducted in conjunction with the Safety Department staff. The NAS Industrial Hygienist frequently monitors work areas. A bilingual occupational health nurse helps the Safety Department staff and the Industrial Hygienist to administer NAS Keflavik's Medical Surveillance Program.



Occupational Health Nurse, Sveina Olafsdottir, performs a physical examination

NAS Keflavik's exceptional OSH Program was recently awarded the Chief of Naval Operations and the Secretary of the Navy Recognition for Achievement in Safety Ashore Award.

Point of Contact: Magnus Gudmundsson, Safety Manager, (354) 425-4417
Email: magnus.gudmundsson@naskef.navy.mil