



# Retirement Ceremony

In Honor Of



Technical Sergeant

*Darren L. Hensley*

Thirteenth day of November 2002



## ORDER OF EVENTS

**Introduction of Distinguished Guests**

**Posting of the Colors**

**National Anthem**

**Invocation**

*Chaplain Ousterhout*

**Award Presentation**

**Remarks**

*Lt Col Charles D. Johnson*

*Commander, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron*

**Presentation of the Retirement Certificate**

*Letter of Appreciation and Retirement Pin*

**Special Presentations**

**Remarks by TSgt Hensley**

**Reception Line**



Darren Louis Hensley was born and raised in Lancaster, California. His interests as a young student were technical in nature from electronics, drafting, and woodworking, to rocketry and advanced aerospace science. Darren won a certificate of recognition for his drafting and architectural skills prior to graduation from Antelope Valley High School. He joined the Air Force delayed enlistment program in March of 1982. Darren knew he wanted aircraft maintenance and requested Airframe Repair. He successfully completed Tech training and his first assignment was to Holloman AFB NM. Although his dream to work on advanced aircraft would have to wait, he took his assignment as an opportunity to learn his trade and hone his skills. Eager for high marks, he took every challenge set before him by changing job assignments from floor crew member to tool crib specialist, special projects NCO, Structures Erection course instructor, then ending in NCOIC of Technical Integration section. Darren's tour in Bare Base gave him credit for aiding seven world wide major conflicts including Grenada and the Falklands, contributions to over 600 deployments including Counter-drug actions, and a 7 month tour in the Gulf War. In June 1994 he was assigned to maintain the low observable surface of the F-117 Nighthawk. One of Darren's most memorable moments came during a functional check flight of a recently phased jet; he discovered the sound of loose hardware in the tail section of the aircraft. Knowing this was against standards he quickly acted to inspect the area and revealed that a primary exhaust hangar bolt had worked itself from its mounting location, shifting the exhaust path of the #2 engine far out of tolerance. Had the aircraft been permitted to fly in this condition the result would have been devastating. His actions saved the aircraft from an unknown amount of damage, and possible loss of aircrew. Darren also developed several Tech Order changes and templates still in use today for maintaining the F-117. In Mar 1997, he was assigned to the 509th Maintenance Squadron Low Observable section. Upon arrival Darren set out to find his challenge. He found it in the training management section. The training management program was in dire need of repair and he possessed the computer skills needed to tackle this task. Darren quickly volunteered his knowledge and wrestled the program into a streamlined, accurate and highly productive facet of the section. He developed a comprehensive database to manage training, appointments, qualifications and personnel data. A system so valuable to the section that it remains in use today. It has become a benchmark program to bases overseas and within the First Fighter Wing. Darren continued to use his computer system skills to improve squadron programs and status tracking tools. He also developed surface maps used to streamline LO assessments and pinpoint discrepancies for documentation and ease of maintenance. Darren's dream to work on High Tech aircraft was realized and culminated a climatic end to a truly outstanding career.