

# Job gives her 'sense of accomplishment'

By **BRANDY LEROUX**

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Susan Rowe is a machinist at Miltech. She works on a lathe to make choke tubes for shotguns. She's the only woman at Miltech who works on a machine. Choke tubes control the spread pattern of the pellets in shotgun shells.

"I like doing this job," she said. "There's a sense of accomplishment when I go home at night."

She started two years ago, on the same machine she still uses. She had training on how to operate the machine, learned how to read blueprints, use calipers and micrometers, and how to measure the parts to make sure they're being made to the specifications.

"The training is constantly on-going," Ms. Rowe said. "It's a job you never know completely."

The choke tubes start out as a solid rod of steel, about 4 feet long. From one rod, about 20 choke tubes can be made. In one day, Ms. Rowe generally makes about 100 choke tubes.

The most she's made in one day is 128, and the least, 75.

"It just depends on how well the machine is working that day," said Ms. Rowe. "The guy who ran the machine before me named it Lucy, because she's fickle and can be temperamental. It's fitting for her."

Ms. Rowe said she has no problems working with the men in the shop.

"I'd rather work with men," she said. "Men can compartmentalize their lives better than women. They usually leave their home life at home and don't bring a lot of drama into the office."

John Milnes, President of Miltech, said, "She's a very dependable, conscious employee. She's hard-working and gets along well with everyone."

Ms. Rowe has two children, Mica, 26, who lives in Loveland, Colo., and Dustin, 22, who works at Miltech on a mill.

In her spare time, she likes spinning wool into yarn, and scrolling, which is woodworking using a small band-saw.

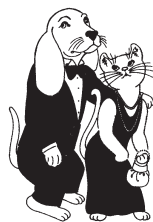


Susan Rowe works on "Lucy," a lathe machine at Miltech. Susan and "Lucy" make choke tubes for shotguns, about 100 per day.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

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