

**Responses to Questions from the Honorable Ed Whitfield  
Michael R. Anastasio, Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory**

**House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
Questions for the Record  
January 30, 2007**

**Hearing entitled: "Continuing Security Concerns at Los Alamos National  
Laboratory"**

**Question #1:** Please identify exactly how many classified computers there are at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Please also describe in how many different locations these computers reside, and how many computers have open Universal Serial Bus (USB) or firewire ports. Please describe why each computer is essential and whether there are opportunities to reduce and consolidate the number of classified computers.

**LANL Response:**

The Los Alamos National Laboratory occupies 43 separate technical areas spread across an approximate 40-square-mile site. When Director Anastasio testified in January, we reported an inventory of 3,310 classified systems, 2,990 (89%) of which were networked and 320 (11%) were non-networked. Of the networked systems, 430 were servers and 2,560 were user systems. The non-networked systems consisted of 240 desktop systems and 80 laptop systems. Non-networked systems are generally utilized in areas where classified network connections are not available or to address information protection requirements. Laptop systems are needed for experiments conducted in remote regions of the LANL site and to which data acquisition equipment must often be transported, and also are an essential component for nuclear emergency response activities. When not in use, the non-networked laptop systems are protected as accountable CREM by storing them in a classified media library.

As of the time of this response, LANL has 2,912 classified systems, of which 2,653 (91%) are networked computers and 259 (9%) are non-networked. Of the networked systems, 450 are servers, and 2,203 are user systems. The non-networked systems include 54 laptops, 198 desktops, and seven custom experimental devices. The reduction is due both to conscious decisions made to reduce the total number of systems (for instance 94 non-networked systems were decommissioned in the first quarter of this year) and changes in our programmatic activities and their associated needs for classified computing.

Only seven of Los Alamos's 43 technical areas house classified networked computers. Sixty percent of our networked classified computers are located in a single technical area. Twenty-seven percent are located in two other technical areas and the remaining systems are found at four other technical areas. Non-networked systems are found at 14 technical areas; 50 percent at a single technical area, seven percent at another technical area, and the remaining systems are scattered between the other 12 technical areas. Nine of the 14

technical areas do not house any networked computers. Twelve classified media libraries currently store the non-networked classified laptops when they are not in use.

All classified computing is performed in security areas.

As with the above reductions made in the number of classified systems, LANL has also made major changes in the control of USB and firewire ports since the time of the incident last Fall. Currently, there are no “open” USB or firewire ports on classified systems (with the exception of systems used by the nuclear emergency response teams, which constitute a very small percentage of Los Alamos’ total classified computing resources). All USB and firewire ports have been protected by one or more methods that have been approved by the NNSA Los Alamos Site Office.

The number of computers at LANL varies with changes in our programmatic efforts. Expenditures for classified computers, as with other equipment, are appropriately justified based on programmatic need. Specific discussion about why each program requires the specific computers supporting it would render this response classified. In general, the classified computers at LANL support the following areas:

- Nuclear weapons design
- Stockpile stewardship
- Pit production
- Homeland security and threat reduction
- Nuclear emergency response
- Intelligence community support

LANL is taking a number of actions to further reduce risks. For instance, LANL is emphasizing standardizing the types of systems used, networking as many of those as possible to permit consistent system administration, reducing accountable CREM, monitoring computer activity, and consolidating locations where such services as classified printing, media generation, and matter storage are available to improve the control of system output mechanisms. As an example, the Super VTR prototype is expected to eliminate at least six other vault-type rooms and five classified media libraries.

**Question #2:** Please identify exactly how many classified security areas there are at LANL. Please describe why each classified security area is essential and whether there are opportunities to reduce and consolidate the number of classified security areas.

**LANL Response:**

Currently there are 1,372 distinct and separate buildings where classified activities occur and where the appropriate levels of security are provided. These 1,372 buildings are located within 108 “Security Areas,” each enclosed by security fences and access gates. Each building/area where a classified activity occurs has a unique significance relative to national security that is mission-specific to those locations. The majority of these buildings contain classified repositories that reduce the necessity and frequency (and resultant risk) of transporting classified documents/materials between locations.

We are continuing our comprehensive review of locations and holdings to ensure this number is reduced to the absolute minimum consistent with operational requirements.

**Question #3:** Please identify exactly how many classified vaults there are at LANL. Please describe why each classified vault is essential and whether there are opportunities to reduce and consolidate the number of classified vaults.

**LANL Response:**

There are currently 129 Vaults and Vault Type Rooms at LANL. Of that, 11 of those facilities are true vaults. Each Vault or Vault Type Room has a unique significance relative to national security that is mission-specific to the location. Since October 1, 2006 LANL has embarked on a continuing process to consolidate and reduce the number of these types of facilities. Since then, LANL has successfully reduced the number of Vaults and Vault Type Rooms from 142 to 129 using the following criteria:

- Wherever possible and when programmatic compartmentalization responsibilities allow, remove classified material and consolidate into existing Vaults and Vault Type Rooms.
- In cases where aging infrastructure make compliance with physical security standards and maintenance of intrusion detection systems cost prohibitive, classified assets are to be consolidated into newer, compliant Vaults and Vault Type Rooms.
- Those existing Vaults and Vault Type Rooms that only house classified computing infrastructure like server racks and networking systems hardware are to be given a priority for review for consolidation and reduction.
- LANS is piloting a Super Vault Type Room project where similar classified processing activities are to be consolidated into a single facility. The first Super VTR will combine at least six Vault Type Rooms into one. As funding becomes available for additional Super VTRs, additional consolidation will be possible.

These efforts are ongoing and should lead to future further reductions in the number of Vaults and Vault Type Rooms at LANL. To put our efforts in context with the DOE complex, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory and the Pantex Plant currently manage over 200 Vaults and Vault Type Rooms each.