NNSA implements reorganization

by Kurt Arnold

A new organizational structure that eliminates a layer of management and sets the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to achieve a 20 percent reduction in federal personnel took effect on December 20, 2002.

NNSA acting administrator **Linton Brooks** said that the reorganization follows the principles of the President's Management Agenda, which strives to improve government through performance and results. "In keeping with President Bush's vision, we are streamlining operations and oversight while clarifying roles and responsibilities," Brooks said. "The new, more responsive organization will improve federal management of our nuclear weapons complex," he added.

Secretary of Energy **Spencer Abraham** applauded the NNSA action, which, he noted, "implements the President's desire to make government more efficient and responsive and to focus on clear lines of accountability."

While the entire organizational structure is changing, the NNSA field organization will see the most dramatic change. Currently, the site offices that oversee NNSA's contractor operations report to headquarters through three operations offices in Oakland, California, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Effective December 20, 2002, all site offices will report directly to the NNSA administrator through the principal deputy. The operations office system is eliminated.

Existing area offices are renamed site office and a new Nevada Site Office is established. A Site Office manager will head each Site Office and will serve as the formal contracting officer for their facility.

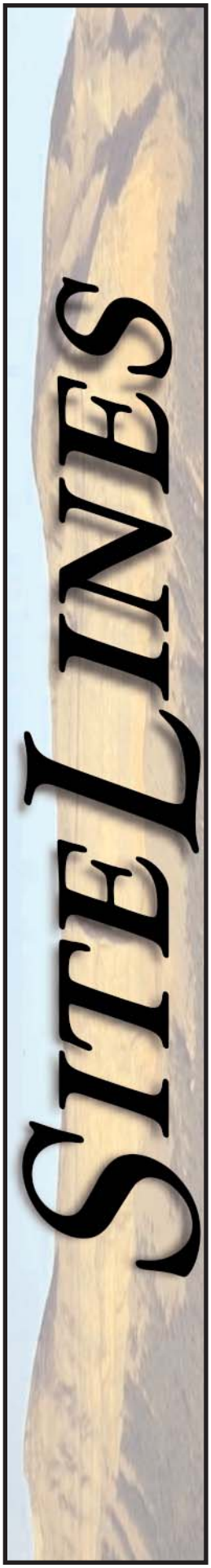
Revised site names and the new leadership is as follows:

- Livermore Site Office - Camille Yuan-Soo Hoo, Mike Hooper (Deputy)
- Los Alamos Site Office - Ralph Erickson, Dennis Martinez (Deputy)
- Nevada Site Office - **Kathy Carlson, Maureen Hunemuller** (Deputy)
- Sandia Site Office - Karen Boardman, Patty Wagner (Deputy)
- Kansas City Site Office - Beth Sellers, Steve Taylor (Deputy)
- Pantex Site Office - Dan Glenn, Don White (Deputy)
- Savannah Rive Site Office - Ed Wilmot, Bruce Wilson (Deputy)
- Y-12 Site Office - Bill Brumley, Ted Sherry (Deputy)

An NNSA Service Center, providing procurement, human resources and other support services to the site offices, will be established using the expertise of the former operations offices. The NNSA Service Center will be located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Consolidation of personnel will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2004, after which the Oakland office will close and the Nevada office will be reduced in size and concentrate on management of the Nevada Test Site.

James Hirahara will head the Service Center with the title, director, NNSA Service Center. **Ken Powers** will serve as principal deputy.

continued on page 2



A PUBLICATION FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE NNSA/NV FAMILY
Issue 87 January/February 2003

Contents

NNSA implements reorganization

continued from page 1

The Service Center will consist of four major components: Technical Services (Ray Corey), Federal Services (Larry Kirkman), Business Services (Frank Baca), and Field Financial Management (**David Marks**). To ensure the independence and integrity of financial management, **David Marks** will have a secondary reporting relationship to the Department's chief financial officer.

Overall, approximately 20 percent will be trimmed from NNSA's federal workforce at headquarters and in the field by the end of fiscal year 2004, with headquarters taking a 30 percent cut. The reduction will be accomplished through managed attrition. Security forces, the Navy Nuclear Propulsion program, and NNSA sites funded by other organizations, such as environmental management, will not be affected by the staff reductions.

"We have worked hard this year to make sure our reorganization is done right. We will manage the reductions in a way that is fair to our outstanding people, while ensuring that the NNSA of the future will have a world-class business environment that eliminates duplication and micro- management and provides more effective federal oversight," Brooks said.

Over the next two years, NNSA will implement the recommendations of the various Workload Reduction Initiatives and will begin the process of implementing changed contractual relationships where appropriate. NNSA will eliminate duplication, simplify and streamline work processes, review and modify orders and directives, reengineer the program management process, and improve the federal-contractor interface.

"The NNSA of the future will build on the successes of the past by giving outstanding people the tools needed for strong and effective management of our vital national security mission. Creating the new NNSA will be challenging, and in some cause trauma. All of us will need to work together closely to ensure that we craft an effective organization and that we do so while ensuring fair and equitable treatment for the people who work hard every day to promote the security of the United States," said Brooks.

Nevada welcomes a new deputy manager

by La Tomya Glass

Kathleen Carlson, Nevada Site Office manager announces the appointment of **Maureen Hunemuller** as deputy manager for the Nevada Site Office.

Some of Hunemuller's duties will include oversight of budgets and expenditures made under approved programs; business enhancements and initiatives; internal liaison to the Service Center; the Site Office strategic plan; quality management initiatives (e.g., Six Sigma), and the Office of Repository Development Liaison.

Before joining Nevada, Hunemuller was assigned as the manager of the Savannah River Operations Office, responsible for the National Nuclear Security Administration's Tritium Operations.

She has 24 years of professional experience, including ten years of experience in the commercial nuclear power industry, where she was a senior reactor operator, licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). She has more than 12 years with the federal government, including both the NRC and the U.S. Department of Energy.

photo courtesy of NNSA

Maureen Hunemuller

Hunemuller received a Bachelor of Science degree in materials/mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

She currently lives in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) and will commute to Las Vegas until late spring. She has two daughters, Holly, 20, and Bridgette, 11.

News Briefs

Terry Wallace sworn in as assistant manager for technical services

by Kirsten Kellogg

On January 24, 2003, **Terry Wallace** was sworn in as the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Nevada Site Office assistant manager for technical services. Wallace is responsible for management and oversight of engineering and asset management; environment, safety and health; safeguards and security; nuclear safety, quality assurance and the Facility Representative Program.

"I am pleased and excited to have Terry Wallace as the assistant manager for technical services," said Nevada Site Office Manager **Kathy Carlson**. "He brings tremendous experience and knowledge to the position and is an asset to the Nevada Site Office team."

Wallace joined the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in 1991 in Los Alamos, New Mexico, serving as a facility representative at the Los Alamos Tritium and Nuclear Facilities. He later transferred to the Kirtland Area Office (KAO) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1992. At KAO, he first served as the assistant manager for operations and then as the DOE nuclear facilities manager for all reactor and non-reactor nuclear facilities at Sandia National Laboratory. During this time he also served as the on-site program manager for the DOE's Medical Isotope Program. Wallace transferred to the NNSA Nevada Operations Office in 2000 as deputy assistant manager for technical services and was assigned responsibility for Integrated Safety Management as well as the development of several key safety programs including nuclear safety.

Wallace also has held positions with the Department of the Navy and GTE. He earned his bachelor's of science degree in physics and mathematics at Winona State University and his master's of science degree in nuclear engineering at the University of Washington.

photo by Kirsten Kellogg

***Kathy Carlson**, Nevada Site Office manager, swears in **Terry Wallace** as assistant manager for technical services.*

Low-level waste trucks undergo independent monitoring

by Angela Ramsey

As part of an independent study, Desert Research Institute (DRI) personnel will spend the next ten months collecting radiological measurements from low-level waste trucks entering the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) requested the study in response to public concern over potential health risks relating to incidental contact with trucks carrying low-level radioactive waste through communities.

Trucks hauling low-level waste* to the NTS currently undergo a series of thorough radiological checks, both before they leave their points of origin and again when they arrive at the NTS. DRI designed and constructed an automated stationary monitoring system at the NTS gate to serve as additional safety check as well as provide independent perspectives on the transportation process.

The stationary monitoring system, which consists of radiological detectors known as Pressurized Ion Chambers (PICs), is set up to simulate a scenario in which a pedestrian is standing on a sidewalk next to a standard, two-lane road where a truck is stopped or slowly driving by the pedestrian. As part of the study, drivers of trucks hauling low-level waste will park on a pull- through driveway at the NTS entrance. While the driver completes a short survey, providing information such as the waste identification number and the origin of the waste shipment, four PICs—two positioned on each side of the driveway—will take radiological readings.

continued on page 4

Low-level waste trucks undergo independent monitoring

continued from page 3

These monitoring results will be automatically logged into a data system for further scientific analysis. Once accumulated, results will be provided to the public.

* Low-level waste typically consists of construction debris, trash, soil, or equipment; and in most cases it can be safely handled without protective shielding.

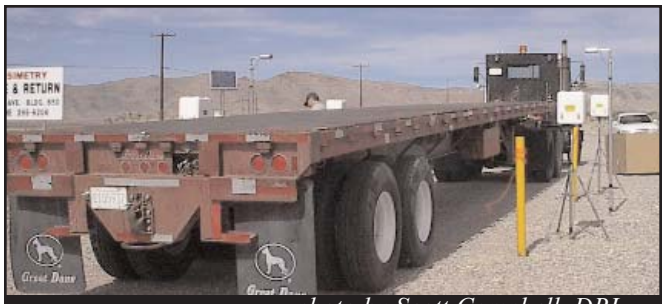


photo by Scott Campbell, DRI

A low-level waste truck stops at the monitoring station before entering the Nevada Test Site.

The NTS currently accepts low-level waste from 22 approved generators. All activities are conducted within the guidelines of stringent waste acceptance criteria, which ensures that incoming low-level waste is properly identified, documented, packaged, and transported. In addition, DOE regularly conducts training and audits at generator sites to ensure that generators are in compliance. Strict health and safety requirements such as these have provided a firm foundation for acceptance and disposal of low-level waste from generators around the country for more than 20 years.

This feature highlights various components of the Six Sigma process at the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office complex. A monthly article will detail the Six Sigma process, individual Process Improvement Projects (PIPs), the team members associated with Six Sigma, or the anticipated benefits and cost savings associated with implementing the PIPs.

Atlas maintenance unit disassembly PIP

by Jennifer Morton

A group of Six Sigma employees from Bechtel Nevada recognized the need for an efficient method in relocating the Atlas project from Los Alamos, New Mexico to the Nevada Test Site. By incorporating the Six Sigma principles, the team provided a much greater assurance of being able to complete the relocation of Atlas on budget and schedule.

Atlas, a pulsed power machine, will play an important role in the National Nuclear Security Administration's stockpile stewardship projects at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The relocation from Los Alamos to its new site at the NTS, involves the disassembly, transportation, and reassembly of a very large and complex machine. The disassembly of the maintenance units is critical since it contains the capacitors and switches used to store and release the electrical pulse used for the experiments.

A PIP team was formed to develop and execute a Process Improvement Project (PIP) on the disassembly process for the Atlas machine's maintenance units. The team included members from the Bechtel Nevada project team and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) project. Those involved included **John Roberts** (Bechtel Nevada project manager), **Del Anderson** (Bechtel Nevada), **Jim Faglier** (Bechtel Nevada), **Robert Reinovsky** (LANL program manager) and additional participation from **Tim Campbell** (Bechtel Nevada), **Bucky Cochrane** (LANL), **Gene White** (Bechtel Nevada), **Clark Thompson** (LANL), **John Telford** (LANL), **Bill Hinkley** (LANL), and **Stephen Cruz** (Bechtel Nevada blackbelt).

The process of disassembling a maintenance unit had never been performed by Bechtel Nevada, and was an extremely complex task. The PIP team worked through the Six Sigma process during three days of meetings. From the meetings, a process for disassembling the 25 maintenance units was designed which was significantly more efficient than what was initially anticipated. The PIP focused on ensuring that the correct equipment was identified and available, proper personnel were trained and available, and coordination between Bechtel Nevada and LANL was properly planned and executed.

The PIP control plan was implemented with an anticipated cost benefit of $138,000. After completion and closeout of the PIP, the team continued on their own to refine the process making even more improvements which resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of equipment and personnel required, and allowed some of the large Atlas equipment to be transported to the NTS well ahead of schedule.

The disassembly of the Atlas Maintenance Units was completed December 10 and went according to the design. The Atlas Maintenance Unit Disassembly PIP demonstrated the usefulness of the Six Sigma tools to an ongoing project, without significant impact to the availability of the project personnel for their regular tasks. It also highlighted the importance of inclusion of the laboratory customers in the Six Sigma process.

2002: A dry year for the NTS

by Darryl Randerson

According to data collected from the Air Resources Laboratory, Special Operations and Research Division (ARL/SORD), 2002 was the driest year on record for many locations on the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

The ARL/SORD, an active organization at the NTS since 1957, maintains a network of 17 rain gauges scattered across the NTS. Data collected from the network, which began between 1958 and 1964, has yielded roughly a 40-year record of precipitation for the NTS. Comparisons with previous rainfall average totals, indicate that 2002 was a remarkable year and a departure from the average.

Annual precipitation totals for 2002 ranged from only 1.01 inches in Jackass Flats to 3.38 inches on Rainier Mesa. The 44-year average rainfall for Jackass Flats is 5.44 inches, which indicates that the site received only 19 percent of its average annual rainfall. Even more extreme was the Yucca Flat site which received only 17 percent of its 6.62 inches average, or 1.14 inches. Even Rainier Mesa, which averages 12.82 inches annually, only received 3.38 inches, or 34 percent of the annual average.

These data clearly demonstrate why extreme drought conditions were declared the last six months in 2002 for southern Nevada. If the drought continues into 2003, the impact on wildlife may be detrimental and the potential for wildfires may be dangerously high, especially during the upcoming spring and summer months.

To view NTS precipitation summaries, visit the ARL/SORD website at www.sord.nv.doe.gov. The website also contains a wide variety of meteorological information including the NTS daily weather forecasts, weather advisories, real-time NTS weather data, climatological data summaries, and cloud-to-ground lightning observations.

BEYOND THE CALL

Employees make the holidays brighter

by Jennifer Morgan

Bechtel Nevada employees pulled out all stops this holiday season with their generosity. Through three different programs, some of the less fortunate in southern Nevada had a brighter holiday season.

Through Lutheran Social Services, eight families were adopted by different Bechtel Nevada sections/departments. Each family submitted a "wish list," which included requested clothing, household, and personal items. Bechtel Nevada employees came through, and provided every item on the families' wish lists and even gave more!

Bechtel Nevada received 100 angels through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. Children throughout the community are part of this program.

These children, most likely, would not receive any gifts during the holidays if not for this program. All 100 angels were "adopted," and employees' gifts totaled more than $6,600.

Bechtel Nevada employees also donated nonperishable items during holiday food drives. More than 400 pounds of food was collected. Donations were made to Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, and the Salvation Army.

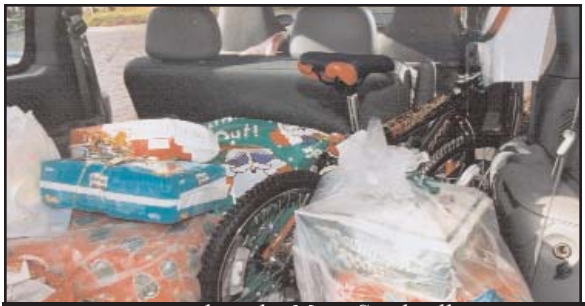


photo by Mary Scodwell

Wrapped gifts and nonperishable food items await delivery to adopted families and a local food bank. Bechtel Nevada employees gave generously this past holiday season to help those in need in southern Nevada.

photo by Mary Scodwell

***Marti Szramek** (left) and **Yvonne Townsend** (right) help deliver holiday holiday gifts for the Lutheran Social Center's Adopt-A-Family program.*

BEYOND THE CALL

Bechtel Nevada outlying areas' contribute to United Way

by Jennifer Morton

The United Way of Southern Nevada is not the only United Way organization to benefit from Bechtel Nevada's generosity. Bechtel Nevada's outlying areas each participated in their region's 2002 United Way campaign. The results are as follows:

Employees at **Livermore Operations** raised $1,974 for the United Way of the Bay Area (Northern California).

Los Alamos Operations employees raised $5,603 for the Northern New Mexico/Los Alamos United Way.

The employees at **Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews** raised $1,583 for the United Way of the National Capitol Area.

Special Technologies Laboratory employees raised $2,754 for the Santa Barbara County United Way.

A "thank you" to Bechtel Nevada employees for your help in making the 2002 United Way campaign a tremendous and record-breaking success!

Tarantino presents Performance Awards

compiled by Jennifer Morgan

At his recent all-hands meetings, Bechtel Nevada's General Manager **Fred Tarantino** presented performance awards to employees.

Performance Awards are presented twice a year, to recognize individual employees and teams that demonstrate significant technical and/or operational performance that is above and beyond expected levels. Examples of outstanding accomplishments worthy of recognition under this program include safety, significant cost savings, innovation, quality improvement of a process or product, resource utilization improvement, environment, safety and health (ES&H) improvement activity, or added value for the customer. A committee, consisting of employees, reviews all entries and systematically selects the winners.

This period's winners were:

Bruce Becker
During the last several years, the Low-level Waste Disposal Operations at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) was at a critical turning point. Waste disposal forecasts were so low, adequate funding could not be secured through the disposal fees to keep the Radioactive Waste Management Sites open to receive waste full-time. Waste generators were charged a unit rate for each cubic foot of waste actually disposed at the site. These rates were kept at an artificially high level in order to cover the cost of keeping labor resources available. As task manager, Bruce led the efforts in the development of a non-refundable access fee, paid to National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) by various Department of Energy (DOE) Field Offices. Under this process, field offices pay a non-refundable fee, in advance for all the waste forecasted by the contractors under their purview. Because of this process, Bechtel Nevada has seen a 76 percent increase in funding for the project during fiscal year 02 over the last year using this system, while our customer has realized a 51 percent decrease in disposal cost per cubic foot through the same time frame.

Pat Denison
Pat has stepped up to the plate to keep critical areas operating successfully at the Remote Sensing Laboratory-Nellis. When the communications security custodian in the top secret vault left, Pat kept things running until a replacement was found. She kept records and inventories current, maintained the classified records inventory, and made sure all documents were clearly marked. She mailed, received, and disseminated classified information to pertinent personnel as needed and worked closely with other employees through DOE Headquarters' intelligence network to enable them to meet their customers' requirements and deadlines. She later was asked to step in and function as the special security officer in the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). She transferred security clearances worldwide plus received clearances for incoming visitors. She was also instrumental in aiding in the installation of the video conferencing equipment and in preparing for the SCIF annual audit, which is the "make or break" review of the facility. Both of these positions were done while Pat continued with her regular duties.

Mitchell Hollander
Mitch noticed that a fellow employee seemed to be choking

continued on page 7

Tarantino presents Performance Awards

continued from page 6

while eating lunch in the laborer's break room. He struck him on the back, attempting to dislodge the particle. When this did not work, the employee began to panic. Mitch then administered the Heimlich maneuver and on the third thrust the food particle was dislodged. Mitch had taken voluntary CPR and first aid training and because of it, was able to save a co-worker's life.

Mark McDonald
At U1A, the energization of any high voltage diagnostic cables eliminates the ability to perform work in or near any cable trays, communicating by public address (PA) announcements, and the use of flashing blue lights throughout the complex to protect personnel from the potential of high voltage. The energized period frequently requires 45-minute intervals of stop work, and occurs several times per day. Mark proposed modifications to the blue light circuitry that allows the specific section of energized cables to be identified. By installing switches in the blue light system, the energized areas are identified as "no-work" zones and work in other areas of the complex can continue without interruption.

Vincent Romero
Vincent has been highly praised for his technical support of subcritical experiments, his exceptional technical expertise and solid judgement of high-powered, complex laser systems, specifically his work critical to the success of the *Mario-Rocco* subcritical series. For example, he transformed Los Alamos National Laboratory's idea for the Assay Window into a reliable, useful probe that provided important physics when fielded on *Mario-Rocco* experiments. His engineering designs shaped the probe into a new, important diagnostic that will continue to serve upcoming subcritical experiments.

Ellen Traver-Marah
A telephone recording system was being installed at the watch officer's station in the NNSA/NV's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). During installation, a problem was discovered – approximately 12 additional telephone lines needed to be routed to the station to allow the recorder system to be connected to the main EOC lines. After looking at the options, it was decided that a new conduit would be run through overhead and down the walls. Extensive modifications would have been required, a new security plan would have to be instituted and a security inspection would have been required. When Ellen learned of the problem, she suggested that instead of running new lines that a Dialogic computer, used in the system, could be moved to another workstation in the EOC. Because of her suggestion, there was no down time suffered during the installation and a direct cost savings of approximately $150,000.

Bechtel Nevada ICE Hazardous Materials Containment Team

Paul Flores, Matthew Gurule, Chris Jeffs

The magnetic isentropic compression technique has proven to be a valuable, dynamic-material property measurement technique. As a result, there is a high demand for shots, including radioactive materials, such as depleted uranium and irradiated stainless steel. A new containment technique has been developed for such materials that is more feasible by containing the debris generated by the multi-megajoule magnetic energy. A project was developed that integrated three major components: a fast closing explosive valve, a power flow extension with debris mitigation, and a robust containment chamber. This was the culmination of a two-year program. After the first shot, which integrated these components, tests indicated no leaks and no uranium was detected, so full containment was achieved.

Engineering Support to the Beryllium Sampling Project

James Daniel, Terrence Enger, Beth Knotts, Richard Morton, Katie Scocozzo, James Toles, and **Karen Worth**

Engineering was asked to support the beryllium sampling efforts by providing drawings for the documentation of sample locations, types, and results. The team created methods for Environment, Safety and Health personnel to accurately mark and track the plotted drawings of the facilities in which they were taking samples. After providing support to

continued on page 8

In the Next Issue of SiteLines ...

- **Atlas update**
- **BN management changes**
- **Regional Science Bowl winners**

Tarantino presents Performance Awards

continued from page 7

input approximately 1,400 sample points, it was decided that this level of effort could not be maintained long-term; a more automated approach was needed. A Geographic Information System-type approach was created using scanned drawing markup data and linking it to a Microsoft Access database. The initial process that required transcription of information from drawing markups to finished drawings has been replaced by the scanning of markup field information and linked to a database. All samplings and results are now stored in a database that allows for easy retrieval for plotting.

H.E. Diagnostics

Cecil Douglass, Heather Leffler, Amy Lewis, Frank Martinez, Trenton Otteson, Larry Pirkl, Robert Pritchett, Fred Sanders, and **Fabian Vigil**

This team went above and beyond their expected duties to achieve success for their diagnostic suite during the *Stallion* subcritical experiments in fiscal year 2002. After a principal engineer left Bechtel Nevada, the design of a viable prototype low-power interferometer stagnated. The promised interferometer would record the detonation symmetry of a subcritical package and provide information, allowing physicists to evaluate the fundamental package design. This team tackled the project and began a struggle to complete the design. The team was able to design a system that recorded data on every single channel.

West Fire Division (Egg Point Wildland Fire)

Quentin Aukeman, John Dwyer, Michael Flammini, Paul Hawkins, Christopher Hersh, James Millan, William Nixon, Jimmy Pechacek, Jackie Short, Christopher Swiger, Monte Warrington, and **Rodney Webb**

This team responded to the Egg Point wildland fire on August 16. This team was tasked with making a direct attack on the fire in a safe and effective manner. The firefighters spent two of the three days fighting the fire by hand, defending government property and critical equipment with limited resources, and without relief or back up. When resources did arrive, this team worked side-by-side with them to form a fire line around the perimeter to contain the fire. Due to the quick response and aggressive fire fighting of this team, the fire was contained to approximately 350 acres.

East Fire Division (Egg Point Wildland Fire)

Roland Benton, Edward Bigley, Terry Choyce, Daniel Cloes, Daniel Crays, David Garcia, John Gerard, Tracy Hill, Kerry Mackey, Russell Owens, Gary Sherfield, Christopher Suerdieck, Mark Wyatt, and **David Young**

This team also responded to the fire, fighting it from the east side. A significant cost savings was realized due to the quick and effective response of these teams. They prevented a loss of government property and delays to Defense Threat Reduction Agency test programs, NNSA/NV, Department of Defense, national laboratories, and Bechtel Nevada missions.

JASPER Primary Target Chamber Quality Program Implementation Team

Glenda Cates, Jack Donaldson, Bill Fritz, Leonard Gene, Adolfo Guzman, Arlin Houser, Alex Jackovich, Anita Katterheinrich, Carl Konrad, Joe Maridon, Rick Rieckmann, John Truax, and **Jim Veater**

Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER) special nuclear material experiments are conducted in a Primary Target Chamber (PTC), which is fabricated by Bechtel Nevada in the Atlas machine shop. Early proof shots demonstrated that sufficient margin did not exist in the design of this chamber. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory requested that Bechtel Nevada develop and implement an enhanced quality program to provide additional assurance that the PTC would contain the nuclear material during these very energetic experiments. This team developed a specific quality plan for fabrication and developed procedures to implement the fabrication and inspection requirements of the new plan. A new series of test procedures was developed and implemented. Ultimately, this program was proven on shots 15 and 16 where the chambers performed perfectly.

Special Technologies Laboratory Fast VISAR Team

Curt Allen, Tony Botello, Terry Davies, Mike Grover, Frans Janson, Guy Leach, Bruce Marshall, Jerry Stevens, and **Rod Tiangco**

At the request of Sandia National Laboratories, the team undertook the development of a Velocity Interferometer System for Any Reflector (VISAR) receiver with the primary purpose of improving the bandwidth of the presently-used systems. The most significant innovation was the development of a two-stage, broadband amplifier for a compact fast photo diode, enabling a final detector time response of more than a factor ten. In addition, the detector was packaged into a compact, flexible and expandable module suitable for field use. A single four-channel module from the new system costs about $2,500, compared to the approximately $25,000 cost of the former receivers. The increased bandwidth of the new receiver will also allow the lab to extract more information from their experiments and to plan new classes of experiments that utilize the new capability.

Retirements

Larry Arnold - Bechtel Nevada
Robert Henning - Bechtel Nevada
James Lupo - Bechtel Nevada
Diane Mitchell - Bechtel Nevada
Henry Wenzel - Bechtel Nevada

In Memory

Joseph Cata - Bechtel Nevada
Henry Melancon - Retired DOE and former contractor employee

Face-to-Face

Name: Theresa Hatch

Employer: Bechtel Nevada

Title: Accountant-Funds Management

Hometown: Las Vegas, NV

Hobbies/
Interests: Volunteering at the Make-A-Wish Foundation, collecting Snoopy memorabilia, exercising, and having fun.

Face-to-Face

Name: Colleen O'Laughlin

Employer: National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office

Title: Consequence Management/Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC)Program Manager

Hometown: Portsmouth, Virginia

Hobbies/
Interests: Going to baseball games, walking my dogs, camping, photography, learning about forensic science, volunteering for Nevada Child Seekers and Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, Tennessee.

Partnering for Education

Bechtel Nevada helps local school roll in the dough

by Linda Middaugh

Bechtel Nevada employees ordered more than $800 in cookie dough to help their partner school, Kit Carson Elementary School, raise funds for educational materials.

The employees' generosity enabled the school to significantly increase the total amount raised from the cookie dough drive. The school kept 40 percent of the total amount collected, which it used to purchase educational materials for the classrooms.

Kit Carson Elementary School and Bechtel Nevada are partnered through the Clark County School District's Focus School Program. As partners, they work together to identify ways to augment new and existing educational programs and school projects so that students continue their educational quest.

Santa makes an early visit to North Las Vegas school

by Linda Middaugh

"Thank you for going the extra mile to make the quality of life for our kids better. We sincerely appreciate all of your help." This was part of a thank you letter from one of Bechtel Nevada's focus schools, Jim Bridger Junior High School.

The letter thanked Bechtel Nevada employees for their help in reaching the school's goal of helping 15 needy families with food, clothing, and presents for Christmas. The employees' generosity enabled single parent homes, grandparents raising children, homeless children, and other families experiencing hardships to have a brighter holiday season.

Bechtel Nevada is partnered with Jim Bridger Junior High School through the Clark County School District's Partnership Office. As a partner, Bechtel Nevada assists the school in providing additional resources it may need.

Employees volunteer their time to read to students, mentor, make presentations, assist teachers in the classroom, or donate school supplies during annual drives. Corporate funds assist with needed equipment or to recognize teachers and their importance in our youth's education.

"The warm responses from each family made all of the hard work worthwhile," said **Monica McDowell**, Title I coordinator for Jim Bridger Junior High School.

Employee generosity helps feed 25 families

by Connie Barricks and Kirsten Kellogg

The holiday season is a time for giving, and once again, employees of the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) and Wackenhut Services, Inc. (WSI) have shown their generosity in a big way.

On November 21, a turkey basket decorating contest was held for each of NNSA/NSO and WSI's divisions. The baskets were decorated in various ways and contained all of the basic ingredients for a Thanksgiving dinner, minus the turkeys. Each basket was judged and winners were announced, but the real winners were the 25 families who received the baskets.

Volunteers brought all of the food to Quannah McCall Elementary School where it was distributed to needy families. In addition to the baskets, grocery store gift certificates totaling $390 were divided among the families so they could purchase turkeys or other meats for their Thanksgiving meal.

A sincere thanks goes out to everyone who participated in the contest by donating food or money. Your kindness is truly appreciated. Congratulations to NNSA/NSO's communication services division and WSI's "Pot of Gold" for taking first place in the decorating contest.

Special thanks to the volunteers who loaded and delivered the food to Quannah McCall on one of the windiest days of the year: **Connie Barricks** (NNSA/NV), **Sheril Hamlin** (WSI), **Kirsten Kellogg** (NNSA/NV), **Carolyn Roberts** (NNSA/NV), **Bill Shimek** (WSI), and **Ron Stone** (WSI).

Lightning survivor shares his ordeal

by Nancy Tufano

On October 1, 2002, Lee Romeo was in the process of taking shelter from an approaching electrical storm at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) when the vehicle he was trying to unlock was struck by lightning. Romeo, a carpenter general foreman for Bechtel Nevada, was hit by 'side- splash,' when lightening ricochets off of an object striking another object. Romeo was knocked off his feet and taken to University Medical Center (UMC) in Las Vegas where he was released the following Thursday.

Approximately 200 people are killed by lightning each year. Lee Romeo was one of the fortunate ones to survive. He shared some valuable lessons from his harrowing ordeal:

How long have you worked at the NTS?

Nineteen years.

Where were you and what were you doing at the time of the incident?

My crew and I were working on the new U1h hoist foundations at the time of the incident at the NTS.

Were you alone?

No. There were three other carpenters and a laborer at the site at the time of the incident.

Could you describe the sensation of being struck by lightning?

Well it happened so fast . . . I felt as if I was falling away from the truck - there was a sudden numbness in my left arm, it felt like it had swollen up and I could not move it, then the numbness went down both legs.

What happened directly after being struck by the lightning?

My crew came to me to see what condition I was in and yelled to the top lander that there was a man down. Bob Drummond had his personal cell phone with him, and I told him to call 911 and stay on the line with them. This was fortunate because just after he made the call the land lines went down due to the storm and the multiple lighting strikes in the area. Everyone was accounted for and safe in other trucks or buildings. The supervisor came by to see and check on the incident, they covered me with blankets until the paramedics came. Paramedics arrived within minutes. While I was laying there waiting with the rain falling on my face, I checked to see if I had any feeling in my left arm. I squeezed the tips of my fingers and tried to wiggle my toes. When the paramedics arrived and started to assess me, they saw that I was breathing and had a pulse, so they loaded me in the ambulance for my ride to UMC. Another laborer was close enough to me and the lighting strike to be transported with me to UMC for observation. While in the ambulance, the paramedics cut my pants and shirt to check for exit wounds and any external injuries. They connected me to an EKG for monitoring.

What type of treatment did you receive?

At UMC they had me connected to a heart monitor, and an IV to keep fluids in my system, then I just waited and had a lot of visitors to see the feathering markings that the lighting left as it traveled through my body. My family and friends, doctors, and nurses all brought in people to see the markings. They usually don't get to talk to people that have these markings.

What type of injuries did you receive?

When the lighting hit the truck then passed through me I fell back and all of my weight landed on my right elbow which sustained two large abrasions. My right shoulder was injured during the fall. I have been in physical therapy for my shoulder for five weeks, and now seeing a specialist for the shoulder injury. The right elbow is pending.

Were there any residual effects?

None at this time.

What lessons learned about this experience can you share with others?

When we have inclement weather and actually see lightning in the area, get out of the weather and seek cover. Lightning is not going to wait for anyone, or any thing. Experts say if you hear thunder you are in danger.

Lessons Learned

Pinch points

by Dawn Starrett

Pinch points are often overlooked as a potential sources of injury, but they can result in serious injury or death.

The following three incidents occurred in the last four months at various National Nuclear Security Administration and U.S. Department of Energy facilities. These shared lessons learned indicate a complex-wide need to focus on pinch points as a potential source of injury.

• On December 9, 2002, a mechanic was injured while attempting to start a stalled armored vehicle. The mechanic was trying to start the vehicle with a remote starter when the vehicle lurched forward, pinning his right ankle between the vehicle and the building. The result was a broken ankle.

• On September 24, 2002, subcontractor employees were removing a drill rig. The crew had removed all but one section of the drill stem and was attempting to break the connection between the drill stem and the drill bit using a hydraulic wrench and a 60 inch pipe wrench as backup to the hydraulic wrench. A 1.5-inch metal pin installed on the rig during a previous job was being used as a backstop for the 60 inch pipe wrench. The helper's right hand was guiding the pipe wrench and was pinched when the pipe wrench lurched forward as torque pressure was applied and the metal pin failed. The helper's ring finger on his right hand was lacerated and fractured.

• On September 23, 2002, a worker was fatally injured while operating a backhoe attachment on a Bobcat loader. It appears that the backhoe attachment rotated backward pinning the upper chest of the operator between a handrail on the backhoe frame and the cab surrounding the normal operating position of the loader.

To prevent further injuries, evaluate all work activities for pinch points. In order to ensure worker safety, managers and supervisors should conduct pre-job briefings and emphasize that potential pinch points can occur during an activity. Remember to implement the five core functions of Integrated Safety Management Systems to all work activities.

If you have a lessons learned to share, contact your organization's lessons learned point of contact or **Dawn Starrett, the site lessons learned coordinator (702-295-4297)**.

Recycling: It's in the cards

by Al Karns

Recycling can include a number of household and work-related items. Plastic, paper, glass, cardboard, aluminum, and motor oil are all items that we associate with recycling programs. What about items that we assume has no recyclable value?

Items that we may forget about recycling are the cards that we receive for special holidays and occasions. Throughout the year we receive invitations to parties, thank you cards, anniversary cards, baby announcements, and even the dreaded annual birthday cards. These cards may seem insignificant when thinking about recycling, but their transformation into new greeting cards also transforms the lives of children.

Since 1998, Pollution Prevention (P2) has collected used greeting cards from Nevada Site Office employees and donated them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, a nationally recognized shelter for abused, abandoned, and neglected children of all races and faiths. Over the years, employees have generously donated their greeting cards and helped recycle them into new ones.

P2 is again collecting used greeting cards for St. Jude's Ranch for Children and needs your holiday cards. Donated cards are used to make what St. Jude's calls "Born Again" greeting cards. Throughout the year, the children take used greeting cards, remove the back of the card, trim the edges, and glue the front of cards onto preprinted card backs. These "Born Again" cards are then sold at the St. Jude's gift shop.

For every 1,000 cards collected and recycled into "Born Again" cards, approximately $100 is returned to the Ranch. The sale proceeds are divided between the child who made the card, the child's savings account, the child's cottage confund for special group outings, and reimbursement to the Ranch for expenses.

Rather than throwing away your holiday and all-occasion greeting cards, why not recycle them and help a child become more independent?

continued on page 13

Recycling: It's in the cards

continued from page 12

Create a card recycling bin by using a shoe box or a basket. Simply deposit your used cards in the recycle bin throughout the year. By next January the cards are ready to assume their new lives. Deposit them in an interoffice envelope (holey joe, pony) and send them to P2.

Involve your children in household recycling programs. Let them decorate the card recycling bin or have the responsibility of collecting the cards throughout the year. You will not only teach them the importance of recycling and in protecting the environment, but also the importance of helping children that are less fortunate.

If you have used holiday or all-occasion greeting cards, send them to **Al Karns** at **M/S NLV082.**

Face-to-Face

Name: Joseph "Joe" Johnston

Employer: Shaw E& I, Inc.

Title: Engineer/Scientist

Hometown: Rapid City, South Dakota

Hobbies/ Interests: Skiing, snorkeling, shell collecting, woodworking, and writing.

Face-to-Face

Name: Gregory Stukes

Employer: Wackenhut Services Inc. - Nevada

Title: Captain, Protective Force Operations

Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Hobbies/ Interests: Jazz, golf, judo,computing, Marine Corps history, and handyman projects.

Milestones

Bechtel Nevada

40 years — *Las Vegas* - **James Helton**

35 years — *Las Vegas* - **Linda Bowden**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Thomas Coleman**

30 years — *Las Vegas* - **Robert Schmitt**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Fred Sanders**; *Livermore Operations* - **Oliver Sweningson III**

25 years — *Las Vegas* - **Louis Collins, David Harwood, David Hawley, James Kesler, Judith Lacaudra, Karol Novak, Steven Riedhauser, Ralph Sgamma, Dorothy Wagner**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Jesse James**

20 years — *Las Vegas* - **Barbara Chackel, Robert Hill**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **David Caputo, Thomas Graves**; *Livermore Operations* - **Ann Soares**; *Nevada Test Site* - **William Davenport**

15 years — *Las Vegas* - **Karen Gasperino, Dennis Jones, Rene McGillivray**; *Livermore Operations* - **Maurice Craven**

continued on page 14

Milestones

continued from page 13

10 years

Las Vegas - **Paul Greger**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Phyllis Radack, Roy Shawgo III**

5 years

Las Vegas - **Michael Campbell, Jill Donohue, Sally Sullivan, Alan Will**; *Livermore Operations* - **John Duncan, Archie Greenwood, Matthew Griffin, Kevin Loughman, Gary, Morris, Louis Ruocco**; *RSL- Andrews Operations*- **Wendell Mize, Darlene Roberts**; *Special Technologies Laboratory* - **Antonio Botello, Kevin Kyle**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Glen Beasley, Lewis Carruthers, Russell Hintz Jr., Trey Kish, Daniel Moore, Wayne Lawrence, Michael Sullivan, David Wallace, Gerald Webster, Michael Worthen**

New Hires

Las Vegas - **Eugene Anderson, Ronald Asuncion, Michael Belbot Jr., Jason Brown, Christopher Childers, Bruce Chisholm, Frank Christian, Michael Corr, Edward Cowle, Rodney Drake, Stephanie Ellious, Susan Farnum, Heath Fullmer, Dalene Glanz, India Gordon, Sheppy Herskovic, Amy High, Jeff Himmelright, Edward Hughes, Rita Jennings, Leslie Kelley, Jeffrey Li, Rozenda Lopez, Claudina Luthiger, Daniel Madden, Steven McKinley, Paul Miles, Brandon Nelson, Brandon Nelson, James Nolen, Colin Okada, Thomas Politano, Donald Rogers, Christine Sapp, Judy Schachet, Frederick Seitsinger, John Sewell, David Sibik, Melvin Sledge, Marion Sloane Jr., Dean Yeager**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Eric Allred, Robert Baldwin, Lacey Bendixsen, Ryan Bird, Vernon Blanton, Kate Chamberlain, Margaret Cook, Anthony DeGuia, Charles Denson, Cody DeRoche, Rufus Dykes, Marvin Erwin Jr., John Fehlberg, Danny Field, Michael Gayner, Gay Grimes, Joseph Hains, Mark Hansen, Elizabeth Hill, Dennis Jew, Daniel Jordan, Norma Kirk, Shawn Line, David Long, Stephen Magdelinic, Joaquin Marquez, Davida Matthews, Michael Matthews, Matthew McLaughlin, Calvin Mitchell, Tate Mueller, David Nacht, Reed Poderis, Robert Prestis, William Pulse, Francis Renk, Charles Rosenberry Jr., Russell Spencer Jr., Ricky Staley, Donald Thompson, Tri Thomson, Mario Vasquez, Robert Ziehm**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Paul Federickson, Frances Valdez, Marty Valdez**; *Livermore Operations* - **George Bardsley, David Bilir, Steven Huber, Dean Namanny, Heungsup Park, Donald Pellinen, Nathan Poling, James Ramsey, Vernon Simpkins Sr., John Sylvester**; *RSL- Andrews* - **Karl Johnson**; *Special Technologies Laboratory* - **Karen Powers**

National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office

35 years **Theresa Beall, Kay Henry**

30 years **Catherine Morris, Randolph Rollins**

15 years **Cary Bronson, Robert McSherry**

Desert Research Institute

30 years **John Doherty**

25 years **Norman Robinson**

15 years **Melanie Wetzel**

Shaw E&I

10 years **Wolfgang Exner**

5 years **Martha Bensor, Michelle Meade**

U.S. Geological Survey, WRD

25 years **Bill Banks**

Ruchman and Associates, Incorporated

15 years **Ron Thomas**

Wackenhut Services Inc.

15 years **Jose Jaramillo**

10 years **Steven Warner**

— *Compiled by Tamiko Brown*

Calendar of Events

February 25
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

February 25
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Kirsten Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821).**

March 11
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Kirsten Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821).**

March 22
National Engineering Design Challenge. Advanced Technology Academy, 2501 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact **Jennifer Politano, BN (702-295-7870)**.

March 25
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Kirsten Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821).**

March 26
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

April 8
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Kirsten Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821).**

April 10
Community Advisory Board meeting. Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington, Avenue, Room 4401, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NV (702-295-2836).**

April 22
Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Pioche Conference Room (C205), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Kirsten Kellogg, NNSA/NV (702-295-1821).**

Declassified Film Showings
For information on declassified film showings at NTS CP-1, contact **Denise Langendorf (702- 295-4015)**. For information on declassified film showings at NTS Yucca Mountain, contact **Rod Rodriguez (702-295-5825)**.

Upcoming Conferences and Trade Shows

March 8-12, 2003
National Disaster Medical System 2003 Conference. Reno Hilton, Reno, Nevada. For additional information, visit www.oep-ndms.dhhs.gov.

June 23-25, 2003
Safety 2003 - "Advancing the EH&S Profession." Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado. For additional information, call ASSE (847-699-2929).

SiteLines

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NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration