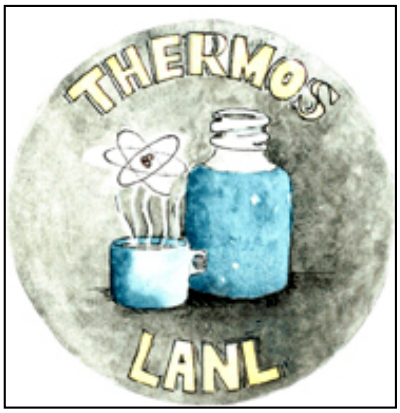
SITELINES

April/May 2007 - Issue 125
A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family

Small Thermos experiments yield great data on aging stockpile



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In This Issue

Published for all members of the NNSA/Nevada Site Office family
Gerald L. Talbot, Jr., Manager, NNSA/Nevada Site Office
Darwin J. Morgan, Director, Office of Public Affairs

Submit articles or ideas to the editor at M/S NSF119, restivnm@nv.doe.gov, or (702) 295-7045

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Milestones

Desert Research Institute

20 years
Karl Pohlman

10 years
Hampden Kuhns, Morien Roberts

Los Alamos National Laboratory

15 years
Charles Costa

10 years
Steve Clement

National Nuclear Security Administration

20 years
James Blodgett, Bobby Golden, Ricky Honaker, John Mallin

15 years
John-Paul Martinez, Colleen O'Laughlin

10 years
Xavier Aponte

National Security Technologies LLC

40 years
Derek Engstrom

35 years
Donald Little

30 years
Robert Malone, Ruth McGlothen, Jon Schumacher, Calvin Townsend

25 years
J C Bradshaw, Maryetta Brewer, David Colton, Michele Freevol, George Hamrick, Ronald Heldt, Rex Livingston, Brenda Moore

20 years
Michelle Ashworth, Sharon Banta, Steven Carragher, Paul Guss, Ronald Hansen, Carolyn Logan, Preecha Sempolkrung

15 years

Angela Anderson, Kathleen Banninger, Dennis Barker, Carmen Fannin, Shalin Mehta, Thomas McKissack, Shannon Parsons-DePry, Sally Perea, Carlos Ramirez, Fred Williams

10 years
Timothy Blackwell, Jeffery Culbertson, Hans Devouassoux, Derrell Harmon, Mark MacDonald, Willie Manor, Theodore Poston, James Przybylski, Dennis Wai

5 years
Elizabeth Atkins, William Bair, Deshawn Black, Norman Brazelle, Edwin Brickner, Teri Brown, LaTonya Carson, Thomas DePrizio, Kirsi Dragosljvich, Michael Dragosljvich, Jerry Dugas, June Dunlap, Richard Facundus, John Frasca, Kimberly Fry, Michael Garland, Robert Green, Nita Grice, Robert Hazy, Scott Hulse, Adam Iverson, Clare Wendy Kimblin, Ross Kitchen, Craig Kruschwitz, Laura Lakeotes, Forrest LaRue, Heather Leffler, Martha MacIntosh, Michael Madrid, Gary Maples, Bobby Moses, Erik Nielsen, Jake Pando, Donald Perry, David Piasecki, Marianne Robbins, Allan Rogers, Barrett Shaw, Kevin Shutt, John Sprenger, Robin Stevens, James Stoudt, Aric Tibbitts, Frank Upright, Janene VanDeroef, Daniel Ward, Ronald Warren, Ronald Wells, Charles Williams

Team CNSI

5 years
Andrew Zager

Wackenhut Services, Inc.

25 years
Michael Cleghorn, Ann Gustavson

5 years
Kevin Hernandez, Jeffery Martinez, Christopher Tate, and David Thompson

New Hires
John Aldridge, Patricia Andriessen, Jonathan Angel, Zaheer Ali, Ana Avaro, Biscequlia Black, Susan Cyr, John Donahoe, Wolfgang Exner, William Gibson, Chana Griffin, Janice Hall, Eric Hanson, Casey Hulet, Michael Jefferson, Michael Johnson, Verena Longworth, Thomas Kingsley, Matthew LaMew, Loidelis Mercado, Manuel Negrete, Nancy Newell, Mark Peterson, Peggy Peterson, Jose Mar Suarez, Marvin Marinas, James Medley, Miranda Prosser, Barbara Raymond, Blanca St. Clair, Jonathan Tanaka, Malvin Terry, Roger Valade Jr., Gwendolyn Wafer, Vicky Walter, Tonya Wendt, David Wieand, Edgar Yanga, Richard Yount, Adnan Zaidi

Retirements
Richard Amberg, JoAnn Beall, Gail Cohn, Edwin Cox, Scotty Ellison, Freya Hays, Leslie Michael Horn, Emilie Irvine, Albert Moeller, Priscilla Royer, Michael Ruggiero, Robert Skier, Douglas Tichenor, Kathryn Umbarger, Paul Wargo

In Memory
Gary Beam, Robert Browning, Frank Cardamone, Roberta Cazimero, Jacqueline Cox, Louise Crevelt, Ronald Ely, John Gehring, Shirley Hurd, James Holt, Byron Jones, Shigeto Kamimura, Ermita Marsh, Kenneth McGuire, Ronald Pala, John Strickland, Naomi Rosgen, Haley Trent,

James C. Thompson, Jaime Udani, Hal Wyrick

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Face to Face

Dodie Haworth
Company: National Security Technologies
Title: Technical Staff, Environmental Services Dept.
Hometown: Ely, NV
Hobbies: Football-Dallas Cowboys and UNLV Rebels; camping, big family dinners.

Dodie Haworth believes her most significant contribution to the company is the Material Exchange Program, which has grown and evolved because of employee support. She likes to see employees who are committed to saving money by re-using items that would be destined for public auction or landfill. Haworth believes that everything happens for a reason and that assuming new job duties can be a good chance for professional growth. If she could have any position, she would stay right where she is because she's always on the move and interacts with others. Most people wouldn't know that Haworth was once a legal secretary, before the days of copy machines and personal computers.

Judith Lybarger
Company: NNSA Office of the Assistant manager for Site Operations
Title: Secretary
Hometown: Albuquerque, NM
Hobbies: Vegetable gardening, traveling, cooking, and reading

Judith Lybarger believes her most significant contribution is taking care of all the details big and small, which is part and parcel of her administrative duties. She says that life in general has made her better at what she does today because she has had and learned from many experiences. If she could have any job, she would rock babies in hospital nurseries. Most people probably wouldn't know that Lybarger used to be a guitar-carrying hippie in the 1970s.

Mareena Rocha
Company: Wackenhut Services, Inc.
Title: Administrative Support
Hometown: San Bernardino, CA
Hobbies: Watching movies, dancing, and taking her girls swimming during the summer months, as well as boxing and

kick boxing.

Mareena Rocha believes her most significant contribution to the company so far is her hard work, dedication, trust, and respect. She is proud to be part of a well-respected company and she likes the comprehensive training she has received. If she could have any position, Rocha would continue in the administrative field because she enjoys the duties and the challenges it brings. She considers herself to be a cheerful and outgoing employee, and hopes she conveys that to others.

Lilia Dumlao
Company: National Security Technologies LLC
Title: Administrative Staff
Hometown: Honolulu, HI
Hobbies: Dancing, singing, travel

Lilia Dumlao feels that her most significant contribution to the company is serving as a good customer service representative to all the people she encounters each day. Although she has faced some challenges on the job, she believes that starting each morning with a big smile will help get the job done smoothly, even when people aren't easy to work with. If Dumlao could have any job, she would be an interior decorator. Most people wouldn't know that her hometown is Hawaii, although she was born in the Philippines.

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Calendar of Events

May 28
NNSA and contractor offices closed in observance of Memorial Day.

June 14
NSTec Next Generation is sponsoring a professional development event featuring Gerry Talbot, who will be talking about "NNSA/NSO's Strategic Vision." RSVP by June 13, 2007 via e-mail to NextGeneration@nv.doe.gov. All contractor and Federal employees are welcome to attend.

July 11
NTS Public Tour, open the public. Sedan Crater, Non-Proliferation Test and Evaluation Complex, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, NSTec, at (702) 295-0944.**

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Acronyms

The following acronyms appear frequently in SiteLines:

BEEF	Big Explosives Experimental Facility
CTOS	Counter Terrorism Operations Support
DAF	Device Assembly Facility
DOE	Department of Energy
EM	Emergency Management
ES&H	Environment, Safety, and Health
FRMAC	Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center
JASPER	Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (gas gun)
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
LLNL	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
NSO	Nevada Site Office
NSTec	National Security Technologies, LLC
NTS	Nevada Test Site
PIP	Process Improvement Project
R-MAD	Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly Facility
RSL-A	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews
RSL-N	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Nellis
SC	NNSA Service Center
SCE	Subcritical Experiment
SNJV	Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
STL	Special Technologies Laboratory
WSI-NV	Wackenhut Services Inc. - Nevada

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Information Request/Questions

To submit questions or request information that pertains to articles published in SiteLines, e-mail your request to restivnm@nv.doe.gov. Include your name, address, phone number, and information request.

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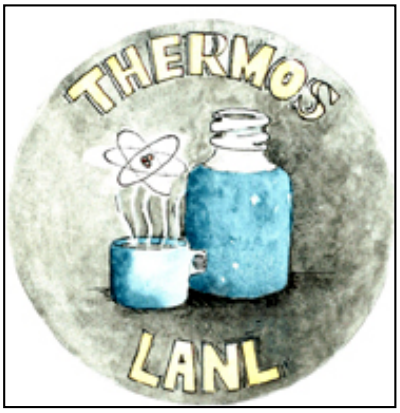
Small Thermos experiments yield excellent data on stockpile



The last in a series of 12 plutonium experiments, referred to as the Thermos experiments, was conducted by Los Alamos National Laboratory at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) on May 3. The highly successful Thermos experiments provided excellent data and were completed on schedule and within budget.

"The NTS plays a key role in the Stockpile Stewardship Program by providing facilities for conducting experiments on nuclear material," says National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) Manager **Jerry Talbot**. "The data generated from these experiments will help the NNSA in their mission to certify the safety and reliability of the nuclear stockpile."

Technicians prepare a dynamic plutonium experiment, named Thermos, at the U1a facility 1,000 feet underground at the NTS. The Thermos experiments are designed to study damage to plutonium under dynamic stress conditions.

Thermos experiments are conducted in a robust, cylindrical vessel about the size and shape of a large coffee thermos, hence the name. Scientists shock or impact a tiny piece of plutonium—housed in this container—with a very small amount of chemical high explosive. The plutonium is separated from the explosives by a thin piece of metal. This allows the shock wave to impact the plutonium without contaminating the plutonium with explosive residue. The experiments conducted underground at the U1a Complex allow scientists to capture high-power x-ray images of the shock wave as it travels through the plutonium.

What was the purpose of the experiments?
The objective is to evaluate how plutonium—newly produced at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)—will perform after exposing it to a high-energy shock. "The data will be used to improve our understanding of materials physics and validate three-dimensional modeling results" says LANL's **Curt A. Bronkhorst, Ph.D**. "This will enhance our ability to more accurately model nuclear detonations."

The experiment series did not approximate any part of weapons design. Because of the small

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amount of plutonium used, it was not possible for criticality (enough mass to sustain a chain reaction) to occur.

The 12 experimental packages were sent back to Los Alamos for more in-depth examination, providing additional insights into the physical processes which occurred within the samples to guide future model development.

The prompt diagnostics used include Cygnus radiography to take x-ray pictures of the material, as well as laser-based instruments to measure the surface velocity of the samples. These diagnostics tell experts how much energy has been imparted to the sample and how it is deforming.

How do "Thermos" experiments differ from sub-critical experiments?

Thermos experiments differ from sub-critical experiments in several ways. The amount of plutonium and high explosives is much less in the Thermos experiments and the shape is much different. Additionally, the design of the Thermos experiments allowed for the recovery and laboratory examination of the plutonium after it was shocked.

From the initial Thermos implementation strategy planning in late June 2006, the project was ready to execute the first experiment sample in early February 2007. From Feb. 6 to May 3, 2007, staff conducted 12 experiments, which recovered radiographs and quality data on all prompt diagnostic channels. The fielding operations were very efficient, as the experiment schedule was constrained by sample availability.

"The 12 data points that resulted from a 10-month project versus one data point from a multi-year project is a significant improvement in the return on investment," according to NNSA/NSO engineer **Les Winfield**. "Seven months of planning, preparation, and field implementation for these small-scale explosive drive experiments contrast sharply with large, complex sub-critical experiments that have, in some cases, taken several years to reach the same point."

What agencies were involved in the experiments?

National Security Technologies LLC (NSTec) engineered and constructed the scientific test bed to safely conduct and diagnose the Thermos Experiment series and performed the work in accordance with technical criteria developed by LANL and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). NSTec provided support

with project management, construction, engineering, diagnostics development, fabrication, fielding, and data acquisition. LANL controlled experiment execution, which included timing and the authorization basis, which is the required, safety-related legal and technical authority.

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SiteLines features new look and enhanced navigation

SiteLines features new look and enhanced navigation Beginning with the May 2007 edition, *SiteLines* will now be published every other month in an interactive, online format. This new format allows users to access specific articles and photos without having to scroll through an entire PDF file. Readers also may print articles and accompanying photos individually.

This improvement will allow staff to track “hits” on the various sections of the newsletter to see how readers are responding to the information that is being presented. Additionally, an interactive version of each issue will be available in a PDF format within one to two weeks after the initial Web launch.

SiteLines will launch the first week of:

- May
- July
- September
- November

Because timely events may occur in between this schedule, another publication has been created for time-sensitive messages. BLAST will also be an online, interactive newsletter that will give the Nevada Site Office the flexibility to publish urgent information, as needed.

Please contact the editor at (702) 295-7045 or at restivnm@nv.doe.gov with any questions.

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NSTec employee Michael Rutkowski died a hero

Michael Rutkowski, an NSTec employee who had worked at Los Alamos Operations since 2002, died an untimely death in late April as he came to the aid of a person in need. He was an electrical engineer, working on fiber optic design and later designed and built fiber optic receivers for VISAR on UNICORN. His latest project was to design and build Photon Doppler Velocemetry data for THERMOS and Powder Gun experiments, which he told others was the best job he ever had. He was able to define a vision of the kind of electronic instrumentation that NSTec should be designing, and he felt that he was making a significant contribution to the welfare of the United States. The Nevada Site Office extends condolences to Rutkowski's friends, family, and colleagues.

Michael Rutkowski

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Being security-minded is not an option … it's a necessity

When it comes to security at the Nevada Site Office (NSO), employees must never let down their guard.

Recently, there have been several instances where individuals intentionally or unintentionally violated security rules – from having open containers of alcohol in a vehicle to possessing camera cell phones and even a concealed weapon.

To combat these types of infractions, NSO security personnel are now emphasizing a "layered" approach to security. That means that there will be multiple checks to vehicles and personnel as individuals draw closer to secure locations on the NTS. Security awareness also will be emphasized through multiple formats – from workplace signs to more precise employee training and handbook information.

"It is in everyone's best interest and it heightens national defense when everyone is diligent about security rules," says **Robert Friedrichs**, Safeguards and Security NTS team leader with the NNSA. "When one person makes poor decisions, their actions come at the expense of safety and security."

Security personnel emphasize that frequent security checks are an avenue to look out for both national interests as well as the employees' personal protection. Photographs and other information related to security installations, postures, types of weapons used, could potentially fall into the hands of terrorists, can be used to plan and carry out attacks.

There are a number of areas at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), which may contain materials of interest to terrorists, or have a potential to impact national security. There is significantly heightened security at these "high concern" locations in both limited and controlled areas.

"What we're trying to do is ensure that the bad guys don't gain knowledge of our facilities under the guise of being regular workers," explains Friedrichs.

Employees should be aware that common items brought onto NSO facilities may be either controlled or prohibited. For example, camera phones of any kind are prohibited by Department of Energy Order. Recently, however, multiple camera phones were found in one morning just at the test site. Click here for a complete list of prohibited articles.

Any device that can record data, and is a necessary part of an employee's job, is considered a controlled item and can be used on NSO facilities. However, employees require a special permit for these devices, which include cameras and recorders. Other devices such as IPODs and palm pilots are not acceptable.

There are serious consequences for ignoring or forgetting security policies. For example, bringing cell phones with photographic capabilities onto the NTS is considered a breach of rules and regulations. Possessing a camera phone in a limited security area will result in a security infraction. Additionally, if employees travel or work at any NSO facilities, camera cell phones must be

kept locked inside their vehicles.

Security is everybody's responsibility," says **Layne Marino**, PAI's OPSEC manager for NNSA/NSO. "It may sound cliché, but it's imperative to be alert and follow the rules, especially for the type of work we're doing for the NNSA."

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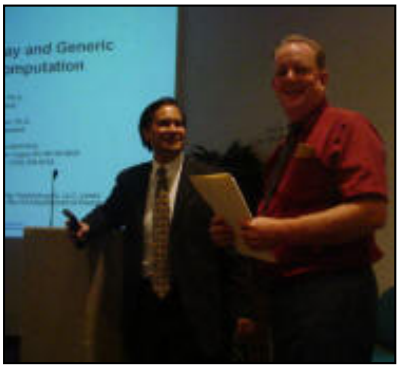
Collaboration among UNLV, NNSA, and NSTec yields ongoing results

Technical symposium on radiation devices important initial result of partnering effort

An ongoing collaboration among the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), National Security Technologies, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) recently culminated in an important technical symposium.

The half-day event—Radiation Detection and Analysis Systems—allowed experts from government, the corporate world, and academia to share ideas, projects, and works in progress. The symposium was just one of a number of collaborative efforts being planned.



Tony Hechanova (left) and Steve Curtis spearheaded a recent technical symposium that kicked off some of the collaborative efforts that are now underway or are being considered between UNLV and the Nevada Site Office to enhance the working relationship among technical experts in government, the corporate world and academia.

UNLV and NSTec subject matter experts covered these topics at the event:

- Aerial Radiological Measurements
- Current Radiation Modeling Capabilities and Collaborations at UNLV
- Sensor Networks for Environmental Monitoring
- Visual Cameras for Environmental Sensing
- Radiation Isotope Identification Device Field Test and Evaluation

"It is our intent to generate a long-term and fruitful collaboration," said Warnick Kernan, NSTec principal scientist. Kernan, along with Steve Curtis of the Desert Research Institute (DRI) and Nuclear Division Director Tony Hechanova at UNLV's Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, were the symposium's principal architects.

UNLV has already hosted several visits among the various participating entities, including staff from NNSA Headquarters, the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) at Andrews and Nellis, and the Special Technologies Laboratory (STL). Integrated work at STL has been initiated with UNLV for a project related to uranium isolation and separation.

Other collaborative efforts thus far include the following:

- Development of a PhD program in Nuclear

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Engineering and Health Physics
• Integrated resource sharing for laboratory and archival research
• Collaborative proposal submissions for competitive grant opportunities
• RSL intern opportunities for UNLV science and engineering students

“One of the initiatives would leverage the talented, doctoral-level scientists at the RSL, who would act as adjunct professors to educate the next generation of advanced-degreed scientists,” explained Kernan.

Future collaborations between the university and NSO entities could lead to

• an expanded Master of Science degree program specializing in Weapons of Mass Destruction prevention, mitigation, and characterization;
• development of a greater level of classified research as a partner with NSTec scientists;
• applied Engineering and Tech Transfer of advanced concepts developed within the Nevada System of Higher Education;
• increased partnership with high-tech industry;
• applications of University programs to the Stockpile Stewardship Programs;
• integrated mission and education programs to support an expanded role in support of the Department of Homeland Security; and
• projects leading to patentable inventions and integrated systems.

Though the initial efforts have focused on UNLV programs, the entire Nevada System of Higher Education could benefit, said Hechanova. That’s because DRI and the University of Nevada, Reno, also possess research faculty and facilities that could factor into the collaboration.

A recently formed committee will assist in the collaboration and consists of the Harry Reid Center, Nevada Site Office, and NSTec. In addition, a number of individuals have initiated program work for the collaborative efforts. They include NNSA’s **Deborah Monette**, **Roger Thompson**, and **Deborah Chalko**; Brent Park, Al Will, Kernan, and Carson Riland of RSL-Nellis; Michael Martinez of the STL; and Hechanova and Ken Czerwinski of the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, UNLV.

“Integrating the advanced laboratory equipment at UNLV with the engineering facilities and ‘outdoor laboratory’ at the test site means a great deal of technical innovation is right around the corner,” says Monette. “The basic research efforts of UNLV augment the applied research and engineering expertise within the NSO. As a team, each organization can attain greater accomplishments than either can separately,

especially in the emerging field of Homeland Security."

At a symposium wrap-up moderated by Hechanova, the following ideas emerged:
• Continue to broaden topic areas to include Homeland Security
• Define topics in advance and have groups of multi-disciplinary experts work on how to approach challenges collaboratively
• Pose a specific challenge and bring various experts in to address it and devise possible solutions
• Include more comprehensive information on participants, as well as the capabilities and needs of each organization

To obtain symposium abstracts, contact Steve Curtis at (702) 655-2859.

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NTS prepares for second year, strives for greater levels of operational excellence, collaboration

Leadership at National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec)—the Northrop Grumman-led joint venture to manage the Nevada Test Site (NTS)—is taking a thorough approach to identify and execute key process improvements.

Caption: Chuck Costa (center) briefs (from left to right) Steve Younger, Wes Bush, and Ron Sugar on the finer points of Icecap. This was an underground nuclear test that was halted due to the testing moratorium.

The management team is now eyeing the remainder of 2007 with ambitious plans. Core to this approach is working proactively with various stakeholders, including corporate partners, and government entities.

A key goal for NSTec is to expand its existing relationship with the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security. Potential projects would include non-traditional types of testing and experimentation using NTS expertise and facilities.

“We want to bring integrated solutions and the unique capabilities of the test site to a broad base of government customers,” said NSTec President **Steve Younger**. “Our efforts have been received with enthusiasm.”

A truck drives through an array of portal monitors as part of a test and evaluation program for the Department of Homeland Security at the Nevada Test Site.

Jerry Talbot, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) manager, also underscored the importance of working collaboratively.

“We’ve got a strong relationship with our industry partners,” he said. “We look forward to continuing to serve our nation together with high levels of professionalism and purpose.”

Driving these process improvements is NSTec’s new strategic plan. Key elements include a revamped safety program, a new major project management initiative, and a proposed National Dynamic Testing capability that would include hydro testing of mock weapons.

Younger emphasized that the strategic plan directly supports the NNSA’s Complex 2030 initiative, which seeks to transform several key department responsibilities.

Complex 2030 is an ambitious infrastructure planning scenario that refers to the

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configuration of the nuclear weapons complex that the NNSA envisions by the year 2030. The plan specifically calls for fewer facilities throughout the NNSA complex that are safer and more secure, the elimination of duplicative capabilities, and more efficient business practices.

To foster site safety, Younger says the NTS team is implementing a positive reinforcement rewards program. By encouraging employees to provide suggestions for eliminating potential risks and safety hazards, overall safety and security will be enhanced. Thus far, feedback has varied from ideas for roadway fixes to enhancing cyber-security; the latter idea garnered its originator a $1,000 reward.

“We want people to be proactive and share their ideas,” said Younger. “Over time, we will improve in a planned and measurable manner.”

Regarding the project management initiative, employees ranging from senior management to individual contributors are being trained to make NTS the standard for excellence in the NNSA complex. They’re also receiving the requisite tools, including key course materials from NSTec’s corporate partners.

The initiative also involves implementing a new level of project review, which includes a rigorous and systematic examination of work processes at all levels. NSTec is working with its corporate partners, including Technical Services, to bring in industry best practices and then transfer this knowledge back to all involved.

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Lawrence to attend prestigious Industrial College of the Armed Forces

Steven Lawrence, NNSA's assistant manager for Site Operations, has achieved a distinctive honor in the world of national security.

He is the only individual in FY 2007, from the entire Department of Energy, to be selected to attend the prestigious Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF). The nearly 80-year-old ICAF, located at Fort McNair in Washington, D. C., prepares military officers and civilian government officials for national security leadership and executive positions.

Steven Lawrence will gain valuable knowledge through the International College of the Armed Forces.

Lawrence—whose current responsibilities include project management, construction, maintenance, emergency management, operational safety oversight, and airspace management—will attend the National Defense University (NDU) Program within the ICAF for the 2007-2008 academic year beginning this September. The NDU mission is to guide military and civilian leaders worldwide to address national and international security challenges through multi-disciplinary educational programs, research, professional exchanges, and outreach.

"Not only will I gain a stronger grasp of strategic theory and practices in logistics and resource management, this experience will broaden my perspective on national and international security strategies," says Lawrence.

ICAF grooms selected individuals by conducting postgraduate, executive-level courses of study and associated research dealing with the resource component of national power. Curriculum focuses on national security and strategies for peace and war. Graduates are awarded a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy.

Acquiring more knowledge in these areas, explains Lawrence, will help the NTS to become the premier test bed to demonstrate security initiatives that will keep America and its citizens safe.

Jerry Talbot, manager of the Nevada Site

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Office, wrote a letter of recommendation to NNSA's Acting Administrator Thomas D'Agostino on behalf of Lawrence, calling him "an exceptionally effective manager with a knack for solving complex business problems, setting organizational priorities, and deriving the best performance from his team."

Talbot believes that Lawrence's attendance at the ICAF "will be invaluable in preparing him for increased managerial responsibility within NNSA and the federal government."

Attending the ICAF has other advantages for Lawrence: It will allow him to interact directly with current and future leaders in the military and U.S. government who may require the use of the NTS.

"I will gain valuable insight to their agency requirements, long-term issues, and potential future initiatives which I can use to support their needs," explains Lawrence.

The ICAF faculty is composed of military officers from all five services and civilian academics who are experts in their fields. Military faculty are highly qualified subject matter experts with specialized experience. Civilian faculty typically hold doctorate degrees or the equivalent. These individuals include full-time academicians, state department representatives, and visiting professors from selected federal agencies.

Prior to his current position, Lawrence served as the Deputy Assistant Manager for Technical Services (AMTS) from 2002 to 2003. In this capacity, he directed and oversaw environment, safety and health, nuclear safety, security, engineering and capital construction, project management, facilities and infrastructure management and maintenance support missions.

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LAO security staff greatly reduces removable media holdings

NSTec Los Alamos Operations (LAO) Senior Security Specialist **Tita Sandoval** took action when she realized that too much time was being spent overseeing numerous pieces of media.

By working diligently with other LAO staff members, less than two years later she whittled the inventory of CDs, hard drives, floppy, and optical disks from 1,228 pieces to just 83. “Now that we have so few pieces, we’re less likely to misplace or lose items,” said Sandoval.

Accuracy in Accountable Classified Removable Electronic Media (ACREM) is essential. Although LAO had never experienced any inventory problems, Sandoval was concerned that with so many items, the potential for error could be high.

Today, less frequent ACREM inventories are conducted. LAO’s removable media include only the absolute necessities: hard drives installed in the SCL systems and backup tapes.

Previously, it was necessary to account for all electronic media. Sandoval noted that every time staff opened a cabinet, they had to conduct a full inventory.

Conferring with NSTec LAO Operations Manager **John Manning** and Secure Computing Laboratory (SCL) Manager **Tom Tunnell**, Sandoval and her assistant, **Maria Salazar**, came up with a game plan to whittle down the large collection.

Several employees were recruited to review the media stash and determine what was out of date and what could be downloaded onto the server and then destroyed. Several hundred pieces were then packaged and sent to Wackenhut Services Inc., (WSI) in Las Vegas for destruction.

In addition, both Salazar and LAO Human Resources Representative/ Information Systems Security Officer **Julie Martinez** volunteered to assist in the media reduction effort.

By the end of 2006, the team had downloaded a total of 635 CDs to the server. The following February, Sandoval borrowed a CD destroyer from WSI Cyber Security Site Manager **Toni Harvey** and completely purged a major portion of the items. The inventory was now trimmed down to just 180 pieces.

WSI conducted a performance test to ensure that media were being destroyed properly. The audit was passed, and the final pieces were eliminated.

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Sharp eyes and quick actions nab wanted criminals

For their quick and thoughtful actions, Raytheon/ NCI Information Inc. Contractors **Holly Dale**, **Carol Tuzinski**, and **Leslie Skinner** recently won the 2006 Operations Security (OPSEC) Award of the Year.

"I commend these individuals for their conscientiousness in the security arena, their powers of observation, and the conviction to act on their suspicions," said **Ray Phifer**, NNSA's Assistant Manager for Safeguards and Security, whose office awards the honors.

When **Dale** saw suspicious individuals conversing by two-way radio in a vehicle without license places, she took quick action. After notifying **Tuzinski** and **Skinner**, who subsequently alerted the authorities, the questionable individuals were apprehended. They were later found to be wanted criminals who had been robbing area businesses. Dale noticed them parked just outside the Information Assurance Response Center late last year.

Metropolitan Police Sergeant Gary Dale also gave each individual a letter of appreciation for their keen awareness and subsequent reporting of the situation.

Wayne Morris of the Security Office recognizes Carol Tuzinski for her quick actions to report suspicious looking individuals to the proper authorities.

Metropolitan Police Sergeant Gary Dale recognizes Leslie Skinner (top) and Holly Dale for their level-headed actions to thwart known criminals.

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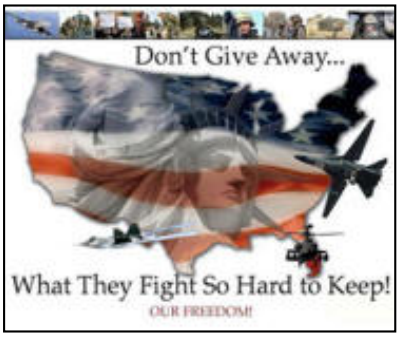
OPSEC Program garners 10th national award

The Operations Security (OPSEC) program at the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) recently won two first-place awards for Multimedia Achievements. These achievements mark the 9th and 10th OPSEC awards that have been garnered by the site office in the past 13 years.



This award-winning OPSEC poster has a patriotic theme.

The NSO OPSEC program is being honored by the Interagency OPSEC Support Staff (IOSS) in the Electronic and Printed media categories for an outstanding OPSEC video and four OPSEC posters, all of which are related to security awareness. The awards will be presented on May 8, 2007, at the National OPSEC Conference in Orlando, Fla. The media were created and produced in-house, according to **Wayne Morris**, manager of PAI, which is one award program requirement. PAI is the small business contractor that administers the OPSEC program for the NSO. Morris, who runs the OPSEC program with a team of two support specialists, attributes the program's success to a team that is both creative and proactive.

"Many of the ideas that were portrayed in the multimedia were actual experiences or lessons learned," says Morris, who has supported the NSO OPSEC program for 13 years. "We're basically providing guidance to employees in the security arena. It's a low-cost, high-return endeavor."

The video featured an awareness theme that reminded employees about the potential dangers of using the telephone inappropriately, and discarding sensitive items in the trash and/or recycle bin, among other pointers. The posters were designed to convey meaningful, but catchy messages related to security awareness, including a nod to the military with a poster that states, "Don't give away what they fight so hard to keep … our freedom."

The NSO program is considered to be one of the top OPSEC programs in the nation, according to **Ray Phifer**, NNSA's assistant manager for Safeguards and Security. "We're the only NNSA site to win all categories of the IOSS awards," says Phifer. "This is a testament to our

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substantive, comprehensive program."

Award categories include the following:
• The National OPSEC Individual Achievement Award
• The National OPSEC Organizational Award
• The National OPSEC Multimedia Award (two sub-categories of Electronic media and Printed media)

The IOSS developed the national OPSEC awards program, which is open to government agencies that support national security programs. Each year, nominations are received from the various government agencies such as the Air Force, Navy, Army, Central Intelligence Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The IOSS was created to support the National OPSEC Program by providing tailored training, assisting in program development, producing multimedia products and presenting conferences for the defense, security, intelligence, research and development, acquisition and public safety communities. Its mission is to help government organizations develop their own, self-sufficient OPSEC programs in order to protect U.S. programs and activities.

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WSI Nevada welcomes a new deputy general manager

Charles Wesley (Wes) Cox, III has been named named deputy general manager of Wackenhut Services, Inc. (WSI). He has been with WSI at the Department of Energy (DOE) National Training Center (NTC) in Albuquerque, N.M. since March of 2002, and has more than 35 years of leadership and management experience.

"I am pleased that Wes can bring his results-oriented leadership and extensive practical experience in force protection programs, strategic planning, policy development, and professional training to the Nevada Team," says D**avid C. Bradley**, WSI general manager. "He has been warmly welcomed by all his fellow coworkers."

Cox served as the General Manager for the WSI NTC contract from July 2004 until January 2007. Key accountabilities included the overall planning, staffing, direction, and control over technical and administrative performance of all contract work. In this position he managed a workforce of 115 full-time, and 160 part-time employees.

Previously, Cox worked as the director of training. In this role, he was responsible for planning, directing, and managing the design, development, and program implementation. He managed a staff of up to 75 trainers, course designers, and administrative personnel and annual budgets of up to $20 million.

Cox's career spans nearly three decades in Military Law Enforcement with the U.S. Army, and he retired at the rank of colonel. He was employed at the U.S. Army Military Police School in Fort McClellan, Ala., where he held positions directing training, evaluations, and standardization. During this time, Cox coordinated training programs, developed and managed annual multi-million dollar budgets for the maintenance and operation of training, and developed and implemented policies pertaining to personnel management of a 500-person workforce. During his military career, Cox earned certifications as a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Officer and Certified Instructor. He was named Military Police Officer of the Year by

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the Optimist Club.

Cox earned his Master of Science degree in Human Resources Management from Troy State University in Montgomery, Ala. and completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at the University of North Alabama. Cox is also a graduate of several military schools including the Air Force War College, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the U.S. Army Air Assault School, from which he was an honor graduate.

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L. Rex Sommers retires from WSI with nearly 50 years of service

Wackenhut Services, Inc. (WSI) employee **L. Rex Sommers** retired from his position of Security Police Officer on March 1, 2007, with more than 48 years of service.

From the time he began his career in 1958, until his retirement, Sommers made numerous contributions to both the WSI and Department of Energy missions at the Nevada Test Site. He was honored recently with a WSI President's Coin of Excellence and a framed Letter of Appreciation. When presented with this award, Sommers was commended for his years of service to the National Nuclear Security Administration, WSI, and the nation.

L. Rex Sommers

"Rex always took his job seriously and was a dedicated, loyal, and goal-oriented member of the Protective Force who was committed to getting the job done," says **David C. Bradley**, WSI general manager. "I commend Rex for his sustained hard work and extraordinary work ethic which, without question, clearly attests to his lifetime commitment to the organization and the Nevada Site Office."

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Shredding…a novel approach to waste disposal at the NTS

The Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture (SNJV) Industrial Sites team has been addressing a big challenge: characterizing and disposing nearly 80,000 containers of soil and vegetation samples that are stored at the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

To further complicate matters, the samples are in containers ranging in size from 0.5-liter bottles to 5-gallon metal buckets. Working closely with the U.S. Department of Energy, the team examined the task and identified an approach. Their method will not only provide for appropriate sampling of the container contents to ensure that they meet the NTS Waste Acceptance Criteria – but provides the safest approach to human health and the environment.

The selected method is something akin to what is now a common household object—a shredder. After more than a year of planning and a three-month procurement process, an industrial-sized shredder—measuring 7-feet high by 7-feet wide by 2.5-feet long—is now on-site.

This massive unit is designed to process approximately 200 containers per hour, which will be individually placed on a covered conveyor belt and fed directly into the unit. As each container is shredded, it drops directly into a large metal box that can then be safely disposed at the NTS Radioactive Waste Management Site. Instead of opening each individual container to assess its contents, representative samples will be taken as each box is filled with the shredded material.

This novel approach to waste consolidation is faster, more cost effective, and reduces risks as low as reasonably achievable for those involved in disposal activities.

Yet another advantage to this approach is that the volume of waste will be drastically reduced. Similar to crushing empty plastic bottles and aluminum cans to save space in the recycling

This hefty unit improves the safety and efficiency of the shredding process.

What is the history behind the samples that are being disposed?

• Samples contain soil and vegetation collected subsequent to historical testing activities conducted in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, at the NTS and islands throughout the south Pacific.

• Thousands of samples were taken during the 1970s and 1980s to support historic studies at the NTS.

• The samples have been stored in Area 26 of the NTS since the mid-1970s.

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bin, the industrial shredder will compact the containers to maximize disposal efficiency. It is estimated that the disposal volume will be reduced by 50 to 65 percent from the original container volume. Further, the required sampling of the containers will be reduced by 80 to 90 percent. It is estimated it will take ten weeks to shred the samples.

The resulting volume and sampling cost efficiencies far outweigh the $80,000 initial price of the industrial shredder. However, one of the most important benefits to using the shredder is that it reduces handling time, which reduces possible radiation exposure.

Workers will only handle the samples a short distance from their shelves and place them on the covered conveyor belt, which will then feed the shredding mechanism situated approximately 15 feet away. Additionally, to minimize flying debris and airborne particles, the shredder operates at a steady, low speed. As a further precaution, respiratory protection is required personal protective equipment, and the proper air permits will be obtained before any shredding activities begin.

Upon completion of this project, the shredder will be dismantled and decontaminated, so that it will be available for future NTS projects.

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Reno places 7th in their division at the National Science Bowl

Reno High School—who won the 16th Annual Nevada Regional Science Bowl—placed seventh in their division at the national competition in Washington D.C. recently. Reno competed with 63 other schools from around the country. Poudre High School from Fort Collins, Colo., ultimately won the national event. The Reno High team, shown here at the regional competition, faced tough questions in the areas of science and math at both competitions. The DOE Regional Science Bowl was established in 1991 to motivate high school students to pursue scientific and technical careers and promote math and science literacy. More than 100,000 young men and women across the country have participated.

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Atomic Testing Museum raffles photograph of famed Priscilla shot

To honor the Atomic Testing Museum's (ATM) second anniversary, photographer Michael Light has donated an artist's proof of a signed photographic print of the famous Priscilla shot. The popular image will be raffled off June 24.

For an opportunity to obtain the print, as well as a signed copy of Light's book 100 SUNS, one thousand raffle tickets will be sold for $10 each. The museum is offering the raffle to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Priscilla test, a nuclear shot detonated in 1957.

Go to http:/www.atomictestingmuseum.org/100suns.pdf [PDF, 25KB] or call the Museum Store at (702) 794-5150, for more information. The winner need not be present and will be notified by the ATM. The framed photo is about 29 inches wide by 34 inches high.

Priscilla is among 100 featured images that Light researched and gathered for 100 SUNs. The book and an accompanying exhibit are on display at the museum through Aug. 26, 2007. The displays chronicle the era of atmospheric testing that took place in America between 1945 and 1962. The Smithsonian Institution was a project collaborator.

This photograph of Priscilla will go to the lucky raffle winner from the June 24, 2007 drawing.

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