

the laboratory connection

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your community's link
to information, opportunities, and people
at Los Alamos National Laboratory

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word from the Community Relations Office

Security and safety have

been guiding principles at Los Alamos National Laboratory since before September 11 and even before the Cerro Grande Fire. Those tragedies, however, have brought those principles into sharper focus for us at the Laboratory and for our neighbors in the surrounding communities.

Our experiences during the Cerro Grande Fire in the summer of 2000 made us more conscious of the fearsome power of nature and led us to take steps to protect ourselves, both as individuals and as an institution, from the threat of forest fires and other natural disasters. September 11 has reminded us that people can be equally and more deliberately destructive when their ideologies cannot coexist with our democratic principles.

In the lives of all Americans, many things have changed since September 11. Here in northern New Mexico, we share the uneasy apprehension that comes with knowing that there are still many terrorists at large. As guardians of one of our national treasures, we have a particular responsibility to be vigilant and united in supporting all efforts to keep secure the tools of our mission for the country.

New security procedures are an increasingly familiar part of the "post 9/11" Lab culture. A badgeholder must be in every vehicle seeking to enter Lab property through a checkpoint, and there are quite a few more of those. But the Research Library in the Study Center has been reopened to the public, and non-Lab employees can visit other areas of the Laboratory after making appropriate arrangements. As always, patience and cooperation are key to making the new system work for all of us.



New guard posts have been set up around the Laboratory. A badgeholder must be in every vehicle seeking to pass a checkpoint.

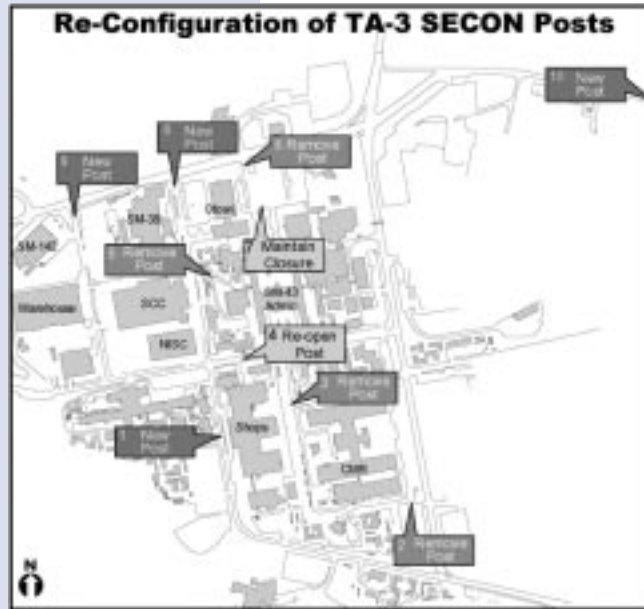
Laboratory Security Procedures Change With The Times

Immediately following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Laboratory was placed in Security Position Level Two, the highest level of threat protection that can be instituted without a specific threat against a particular facility. Employees were urged to be particularly aware of suspicious people, cars, abandoned parcels, or suitcases and low-flying aircraft, among other potential threats.

Within days, the Lab's "back gate" near the intersection of Pajarito and Mercury Roads was closed to vehicle traffic. Several weeks later, over the Columbus Day weekend, Pajarito Road was closed to anyone without a valid Lab badge. Protective Force officers stopped each vehicle coming onto Lab property from Pajarito for a badge check. Because Pajarito is the main commuter route from White Rock, the ensuing traffic jams during morning rush hour frayed nerves and tested the patience of motorists and Security Police Officers alike.

Although the roadblocks for all Pajarito Road traffic have been lifted, the Lab has instituted other new security controls on cars in and around Technical Area 3 over the winter break. Four new screening

Laboratory Security...
continued from page 1



Re-Configuration of TA-3
SECON Posts.

posts were set up: at Pajarito Road west of the Otowi Building, on Bikini Atoll Road just off West Jemez Road and at Pajarito Road near the entrance to the main Johnson Controls shops at SM-39. The fourth is a truck turnoff and screening post on East Jemez Road, also known as the Truck Route. The horseshoe area in front of the Administration Building and the Study Center has also been closed to all vehicle traffic.

The additional security measures will add approximately \$7 million in costs for the current fiscal year. More than a dozen overtime positions have been added.

Although trucks and delivery vans are now diverted to checkpoints where their manifests for cargo are examined, the procedure doesn't take long. Most truck drivers, and the general Lab population, have been supportive of the new rules.

"Initially, the reception wasn't all that great, but as time went along, people got adjusted to the extra security," said Lt. Nicolas Walker, who supervised some of the PTLA

Security Police Officers who man the checkpoints. "The only real complications we've seen have been when people leave their badges in their office."

Walker added that people passing through the checkpoints should bear in mind that the officers are just doing their jobs. "People need to exercise a bit more caution and not try to leave the checkpoint too quickly," he said.

Gene Tucker, deputy director of the Security Division, pointed out that although there is no evidence that the Lab has been targeted, the imminent opening of the new Strategic Computing Center also will demand additional security measures.

"As we evolve, we have to continue to have a robust security posture," he said, "and we're continuing to assess how to do it better. After September 11, we responded immediately, not knowing what the threat was. Once the picture became clearer, we began to moderate some of those activities. We are an open society, and the Lab in many ways mirrors our society."

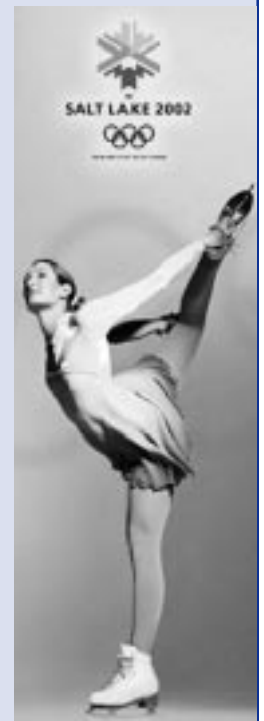
Lab's Work Goes to the Salt Lake City Olympics

Long before last fall's anthrax attacks, scientists at Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories were developing a system to rapidly detect the criminal use of biological agents. The results of that work were part of the security network last month at the Salt Lake City Olympic Games.

Since 1999, researchers at the Labs have worked to develop a system capable of detecting airborne biological incidents for special events such as political conventions, dignitary visits, and major sporting events. Called the Biological Aerosol Sentry and Information System or BASIS, the system is a network of sampling units that monitor air quality, and collect and check aerosols. Filters capture aerosols that are collected for analysis several times a day.

At the heart of BASIS is a transportable field laboratory where collected samples are analyzed using DNA-based techniques that have been validated with the Centers for Disease Control.

Public health procedures have traditionally relied on the observation of symptoms displayed by infected individuals for detecting and tracking outbreaks of disease like those that might result from a biological attack. BASIS reduces the time for detecting a bioagent release from days or weeks to less than a day.



County and Lab Safety will be Enhanced by Joint EOC

When the Cerro Grande fire began rampaging through Los Alamos County in the spring of 2000, conditions at the Laboratory's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) were less than ideal. There were no facilities to house or feed workers, no place for weary staff to even get a shower. As the fire advanced, smoke began entering the building.

Los Alamos County's emergency staff had even greater challenges. Housed in a small training room at the police department, they moved into the Lab's EOC for a time, and efficiency improved. But when the townsite was evacuated and county staff moved back to the police department, coordination began to break down.

In the aftermath of the fire, Congress, with the encouragement of Senator Pete Domenici, approved funding for a new, joint Lab/County EOC to be located on Lab property near State Road 501 and Anchor Ranch Road. The two-story, 38,000 square foot building will provide office space for all emergency agencies in the event of an emergency. The second floor will permanently house the county's police, fire, medical, and 911 dispatchers.

"The safety of the entire county will be greatly enhanced with a single dispatch center," said George Van Tiem of the Lab's Emergency Management and Response group. Van Tiem is the technical project leader for the new facility.

Los Alamos Police Chief Rich Melton agreed that the partnership makes good sense.

"A lot of what affects the Lab affects the County, and vice versa," he said. "This facility will allow us to better coordinate and better understand each others' needs. In the long run, it will provide better service to everyone by having us all work together."

Ground was broken on the project at the end of January, and the facility will be up and running in the fall of 2003. The complex will include office space for agencies including the neighboring Pueblos, Federal Emergency and Management Agency (FEMA), the National Guard, State Police, the Red Cross, and New Mexico Emergency Management, as well as the Department of Energy, the Lab and others. There will be two conference rooms, which will double as police and fire Tactical Operations Centers. The facility, with space for up to 120 people, will include a vault for classified communications, a training area, a full kitchen, lounge, emergency bunkrooms, showers, and a state-of-the-art video wall. It will be able to run for 14 days entirely on its own utilities. There will be an attached garage for emergency vehicles, and an elevated water storage tank.

The LANL/Los Alamos County (LAC) team toured several other EOCs during the

project's planning phase, including the FEMA regional center in Denton, Texas, the new Albuquerque EOC, and the state EOC in Santa Fe. A representative from the Multi-Channel Communications Project designing a Data Mirror to be used by Emergency Management and Response (EM&R) staff also visited the Salt Lake City Olympics' EOC before it was closed for the games.

According to project team leader Keith Orr, the structure may be the first joint effort between a Laboratory and local government. "We haven't been able to find any others anywhere in the country," he said.

The project is also the first successful design/built under the new DOE project management rules and is on track to set a new record for efficiency in construction.

"It will be three years from project inception to completion," Orr said. "I'm not sure that's ever been done with a project of this magnitude. Actually, I don't think anyone has come close."

The new EOC complex should be ready to open in September, 2003.



An artist's drawing of the joint LANL/LAC Emergency Operations Center now under construction and scheduled to open in the fall of 2003.

LANL Employees Turn Out to 'Shake the Eight Ball'

8

Scenario #1: The Laboratory and the town double in size. There is an explosion of building, including more schools and downtown retail stores. There is more to do in Los Alamos, but also less open space and more crime.

Scenario #2: The Lab's size stays relatively constant, land use remains restricted, the commercial center of town shrinks, and the aging population goes elsewhere for entertainment.

Scenario #3: There is a terrorist event at the Lab, the gates go back up and Los Alamos once again becomes a closed community. There is no more retail in town, only a PX. There are still some schools, but the teachers are employed by the government. Everyone must leave town to shop or eat out.

These hypothetical situations were among eight envisioned and examined by Lab employees who attended a special meeting last month, designed to allow Lab staff to have a voice in planning the future of Los Alamos. A team of planners enlisted by the county conducted a dozen such meetings at schools, churches and community centers, both in Los Alamos and White Rock. Hundreds of interested participants identified some 80 plausible alternative scenarios in order to convert them into a vision for the community's future.

At the Lab's visioning meeting, employees divided into two groups to explore the possibilities. Some common themes included the expected wave of LANL retirements and the potential for increased tourism and/or a "cybermesa."

"We have a first class Laboratory, why not a first class town?" asked Harry Clifford, a

your Vision for Los Alamos

Read this snapshot of existing conditions in Los Alamos...



...and come to this meeting to participate in the development of alternative scenarios for the future of the community.



Lab metrologist who has lived in Los Alamos for 18 years. On the Planning and Zoning Commission for five years, Clifford has been frustrated by the difficulty in reaching an agreement on a plan for the future.

"The majority of the citizens want change, as long as it is not done in their backyard," he said. "Los Alamos is going to have to grow and change or it will die."

Lab planner Daniel Pava has also been intimately involved in past planning efforts, serving as senior county planner before coming to work at the Lab. He quoted inventor Charles Kettering that "my interest is in the future because I'm going to spend the rest of my life there."

Pava, who was project coordinator for the LANL Comprehensive Site Plan 2000, currently serves as president of the New Mexico chapter of the American Planning Association. Although he now lives in Santa Fe, Pava remains interested in the future of Los Alamos.

"I think that the scenario and visioning process is very important work before starting on the new comprehensive plan,"

he said. "It gives the foundation and focus that will be necessary and requires lots of community participation that makes the effort legitimate."

Lab weapons safety analyst Wayne Slattery, a Los Alamos resident for 23 years, is particularly concerned about preserving open space and minimizing light pollution.

"If the open spaces are destroyed, we will remove a large part of the attractiveness of this town," he said. "And builders of some apartments have shown no qualms about putting up lights that illuminate not only their parking lots, but everything else for a half mile around."

Lab staff who attended the session were grateful for the opportunity to offer input at a convenient time and place.

"I think the future of Los Alamos was imbedded within the thoughts delivered by the diverse crowd that attended," said Paul Pope, a remote-sensing scientist, "These meetings let us shake the eight ball."

Congressional Delegation Takes Keen Interest In Lab's Work

New Mexico's Senators have become familiar faces at the Laboratory over the years, while our Congressman is still becoming acquainted with Lab staff and their wide array of program and projects.

All three member of our Congressional delegation have visited the Lab since the beginning of the year and received briefings on issues including homeland security and job opportunities here for their constituents.

Last month, Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman toured the Lab with Senator Harry Reid of Nevada and National Nuclear Security Administration head General John Gordon, discussing bioscience research, counterterrorism, and nuclear materials protection with senior Lab officials. Senator Domenici, who was instrumental in obtaining Congressional funding for the joint Lab/County EOC, was also briefed on infrastructure issues, funding for nuclear weapons research, and the Stockpile Stewardship program. Senator Bingaman has taken a particular interest in education programs and energy issues.

Congressman Udall, who has a longtime interest in environmental issues, is also on the Small Business Subcommittee in the House of Representatives. He answered questions on these and other issues during a packed town hall meeting held at the Lab in January. Before the session, Udall was briefed by Lab Director John Browne and others on the Lab's anthrax DNA sequencing project, automobile fuel cells and renewable energy projects. He praised the Lab's efforts to bolster the local economy through its small business program, and said he was impressed by the Lab's application of complexity theory to analyzing the nation's security needs.



New Mexico Senators Pete Domenici, left, and Jeff Bingaman, right, flank Nevada Senator Harry Reid after arriving at the Los Alamos Airport on a recent Lab visit. The three toured several facilities and received briefings on homeland defense and counterterrorism.



Left: Bingaman, Reid, and Domenici get an overview of the Lab's bioscience research from Bioscience Division Director Jill Trehwella. At her right is National Nuclear Security Administration head Gen. John Gordon. Right: Congressman Tom Udall chats with Lab Director John Browne and Deputy Director for Science and Technology Bill Press following his town meeting for Lab employees.



Business Brief

Lab Director John Browne has formed an independent committee to review and assess the Small Business Program Office at the Lab. The Small Business Program External Review committee will assess the quality of the program and the effectiveness of its procurement policies and procedures and make recommendations on how the Lab can improve its relationship with the business community.

The committee is composed of eight business and regional community leaders and will be chaired by Anna Muller, president of NEDA Business Consultants and a well-known small-business advocate. Former New Mexico Governor Toney Anaya, president of the Anaya Law Firm, will serve as vice-chairman.

The committee will issue a report by the end of April.

Lab's Tribal Relations Team Has New Leader

An electrical engineer

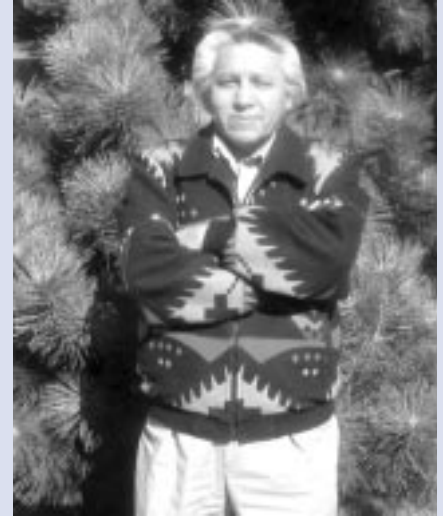
and San Juan Pueblo tribal leader will head the tribal team in the Community Relations Office at the Lab. Joseph A. Garcia will lead efforts to strengthen the Lab's relations with regional pueblos in his new assignment.

Garcia has worked as a Technical Staff Member at the Lab for more than 20 years in the Physics Division and in the Quality Improvement Office. He has taught math, computers, and electronics at Northern New Mexico Community College and has twice served as Governor of San Juan Pueblo. He is also a well known local musician and singer.

" One of my passions has been working with our Indian communities, not just

locally but throughout the nation," Garcia said. " There is a special need in Indian country in terms of education, economic development, health care, infrastructure development, environmental protection, cultural protection, and overall protection of tribal sovereignty. The position here affords me an opportunity to help in a different capacity as well as to continue working with technical and scientific interests at the Lab."

"We must strive to build and improve our relationships with stakeholders, to be respectful, to be sensitive and become knowledgeable about others, and to work with due diligence to improve our lives. That is the true satisfaction and the real challenge."



Joe Garcia, head of the Laboratory's Tribal Relations Team.

Inside

Laboratory Security Procedures

The Lab and the Olympics

County and Lab Safety and the EOC

Employees Shake the Eight Ball

Congress Takes Interest in Lab Work

Tribal Relations Team Leader



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