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# Communiqué

## NNSA Announces Complex Transformation Decision

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The National Nuclear Security Administration's plan to transform the nation's nuclear weapons complex moved forward with the signing of documents to begin implementation.



"We can now start moving forward on much-needed consolidation and reductions throughout our national security enterprise, shifting to more cost effective operations that will save the taxpayer money," said

NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino. "This will improve the safety and security of the infrastructure that maintains U.S. nuclear weapons, helps prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and material, and responds to potential nuclear terrorism or other emergencies."

The records of decision signed by D'Agostino is the final step in the "Complex Transformation" process, which calls for a consolidation of missions and facilities within the existing NNSA sites, known as distributed centers of excellence. While not eliminating any sites, NNSA would eliminate redundancies in missions, capabilities, and facilities at all of them, eventually reducing costs.

The records of decision that define directions for major nuclear, research, develop-



ment, and testing facilities supporting NNSA activities, include:

- Consolidate high-security special nuclear material to five

NNSA sites and at fewer locations within these sites

- Plutonium operations will be consolidated at NNSA's Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico
- Uranium operations will be consolidated at NNSA's Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee
- Assembly and disassembly of nuclear weapons and high explosives production and manufacturing will remain at NNSA's Pantex Plant in Texas
- Tritium operations will be consolidated at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina
- Flight testing operations will continue at Tonopah Test Range in Nevada in a more limited scope that relies on a reduced footprint for NNSA operations
- Major environmental test facilities, where weapon components are exposed to different temperatures and mechanical stresses typical of the different types of environments they would be exposed to, will be consolidated at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico

# Retirements



Several Los Alamos Site Office folks have moved on to new pursuits this month.



Jeanne Bohan (left), with the National Security Mission office left LASO Dec. 3rd. She was a great asset to the office and will be missed. Jeanne had more than 25 years of federal service.



(L-R) Roger Snyder, Juan Griego, Jesus, Dan Glenn

Jesus Amezcuita (Below right, with Dan Glenn), known as Chewy to most everyone at



LASO, was the federal project director for NMSSUP Phase II. He had more than 25 years of federal service.

A retirement celebration in his honor was held at LASO Dec 14th.



Last but not least, Site Office Technical Deputy Manager Dan Glenn also retired in Dec. Dan is

in Pojoaque, NM.



moving back east to work for Babcock and Wilcox. Dan had more

than 25 years of service with the DOE and worked as Site



Dan, with Imelda Maez and Don Winchell



Office Manager for both LASO and the Pantex Site Office. A retirement party honoring Dan will be held Jan. 9th at the Buffalo Thunder facility



Bernie Pleau, (Right with Don Winchell), the youngest of this months retirees, just thought this was a good time to move on to other things. He

had 16 years of service with DOE. He was the site office public affairs manager.

A luncheon was held to honor him Dec. 11th.



Russell Kirkpatrick and Bernie share a laugh



## Airport Liquid Analysis System Tested

An innovative application of a technology first used for medical imaging may enhance airport security if Laboratory scientists are successful.

Los Alamos technologists have adapted Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) technology from the familiar medical device to create MagViz, a new tool that distinguishes potential-threat liquids from the harmless shampoos and sodas a regular traveler might take aboard an aircraft.

Funded by the Department of Homeland Security, the MagViz system is a new, ultra-low-field MRI approach first designed for brain imaging, but with a unique variation. Given a container of something that shouldn't be on board an airplane, the MagViz system highlights the image in red for the security screening staffer to examine fur-

ther. A prototype MagViz machine was unveiled at the Albuquerque International Sunport, where it is undergoing field testing. Should the development process continue successfully, machines could be in airports by 2012.

Linked with a computer database, MagViz can now reliably identify some 50 liquids from their chemical fingerprints. And that's only the beginning. "That's one of the beauties of this tech-

nology," project leader Michelle Espy said. "We can add different threats as we become aware of them."



**Andrei Matlashov of Applied Modern Physics places small bottles of shampoo, water, and other liquids on a conveyor belt for analysis by the MagViz machine during a demonstration Tuesday at the Albuquerque International Sunport.**



## Martinez receives Presidential Award

Jennifer Martinez with LANL's Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies has received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. The award, presented to Martinez at the White House, is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government to outstanding scientists early in their careers.

Martinez was one of eight researchers funded by the DOE's Office of Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration to be recognized. Martinez is one of 68 researchers supported by nine federal departments and agencies to receive the award.

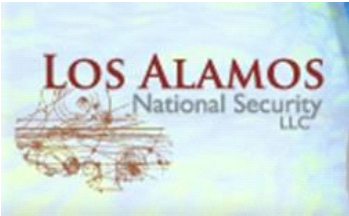
Each [PECASE](#) recipient receives up to five years'

funding from their respective agency to advance his or her research.

"Jen's career and research is exemplary, and we are extremely pleased that she is a role model for numerous emerging scientists here at the Laboratory," said John Sarrao, director of the Laboratory's Office of Science Program.



## LANS FY 2008 Award Fee



Los Alamos National Security, LLC earned nearly 88 percent of the overall available award fee for fiscal year 2008 from the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The agency also gave LANS a one-year contract extension to manage and operate the Laboratory.

The fee award and contract are based on an NNSA assessment of LANS's performance in fiscal year 2008, according to a NNSA news release. Performance expectations for the assessment period were established in the

fiscal year 2008 Performance Evaluation Plan. The review period was October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008.



"We're pleased that the report reflects significant improvement for this year. We consider this our 'report card' for the year, and it

is tied to both our reputation in Northern New Mexico and how Laboratory employees 'gauge' how their Laboratory is doing. This is an evaluation by a demanding customer that

we respect," Deputy Laboratory Director Jan Van Prooyen said.

According to NNSA, Los Alamos National Security, LLC "has made strides to improve contractor operations, modernize business practices, and instill desired behaviors and values during fiscal year 2008, while maintaining outstanding performance in NNSA's core mission areas."

NNSA said improvement is needed in maintenance programs and project management. Environmental programs continued as a challenging area for LANS.

## Radioactivity around Los Alamos Largely Due to Natural Sources



A recent study that assessed levels of radioactivity near Los Alamos National Laboratory confirmed that nearly all measured radioactivity in the area is due to natural sources. Findings also confirmed that radioactivity measured in Embudo Valley, Picuris Pueblo, Llano, and Trampas Lake could not have come from LANL.

The study, which was conducted in August 2008 by scientists in the Environmental Programs Directorate at Los Alamos National Laboratory, was subse-

quently peer reviewed externally by scientists at Colorado State University and internally within the Laboratory.

Though the LANL study largely confirms data published in a July 2007 report by the Government Accountability Project (GAP), LANL conclusions differ. GAP is a watchdog group that claimed to have found "elevated and potentially harmful levels of radioactivity" in environmental samples collected in areas around the Laboratory. The GAP report also alleged

that some of the radionuclides were "man-made and most likely were generated at the Los Alamos National Laboratory."

Laboratory scientists collected environmental samples from areas previously sampled by GAP researchers. The samples were analyzed by an independent laboratory in Colorado.

Although the data generated by the LANL study mostly confirmed data from the GAP project, they did not support the watchdog group's interpretations.



## To Everything there is a Season

So here I am at the end of a career in public service —

stepping through the door into a new adventure. I'm excited and yet it feels a bit strange.

I have been doing some reflecting on where I have been the past 16 years and some thinking about what tomorrow may hold.

What came to mind was a song from my past "Turn, Turn, Turn — to everything there is a Season."

Although Peter Seeger penned this song, it actually was adapted from the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible.

The verses are:

*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven:*

*A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to reap;*

*A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

*A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

*A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time*

*to cast away;*

*A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

*A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*

If we look back over our lives, many of us can probably say we have experienced life events that are reflected in those verses.

So what's the big deal, right! What's this ex-hippie, wacked out editor trying to say?

I'm not too sure. But let me try.

My career has been a joy and a blessing because of the folks I shared my workdays with. Every one of you precipitated something of your uniqueness upon me and I have been made better because of it.

Over the years we have shared a good portion of our lives together — like it or not — and we know each other better than when we first met.

What I have gleaned from each of you will help me tomorrow. I can look back on certain situations and take the lessons learned and use them for my future.

Some of you have no idea how your skills and abilities have helped the organizations you have worked in or the people you have worked with.

We get so caught up in getting the job done we often miss the affect of what we do and how

we do it on our workmates.

Some of you may see your job as merely a means to a pay-check. My experience has been much different.

The people in this office and every other office I have worked in have been and are making a difference. Their public service is important. What you do is important to the nation.

I have truly been fortunate to have had so many mentors from across the Complex. In 16 years I have worked with folks from most of the DOE facilities and with such diverse backgrounds, I simply had to profit from the experiences.

To all of you I say, Thank You — Thank You Very MUCH!!!

As the year comes to an end -- along with my career -- I am not certain of what I will be doing in the future, but if our paths should cross again then I will have been doubly blessed. I am looking forward to this new season in my life.

I think there is a great team here at LASO, even if we don't always play nicely together. Differences are what make great teams.

May your New Year be blessed and prosperous and may favor be poured out upon you and your family.

God Bless You and America!!!!!!





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## In Case You Missed It

### Steven Chu, Energy Secretary Selection

President-elect Obama has selected Dr. Steve



Chu Director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to

lead the Department of Energy. "Dr. Chu understands the significance



of our energy and environmental challenges, and more importantly, understands the technical solutions necessary to address them," said Energy Secretary Sam Bodman. "He is also aware of the vital role that DOE plays in matters of energy and

national security and appreciates the necessity of the Department's voice on these matters."

"I have worked with Dr. Chu for the past four years, and I hold him in the highest regard. I am confident he will provide the Department with the necessary leadership, vision, and expertise we need to continue to fulfill our mission."

### New Lab Deputy Director

Isaac "Ike" Richardson will become the Laboratory's



new deputy director, effective February 1, 2009.

Richardson will replace Jan Van Prooyen, who after three years at the Laboratory has announced his plans to retire in early 2009.

Richardson brings 37 years of leadership experience to Los Alamos. He spent 31 years in the U.S. Navy, where he attained the rank of rear

admiral. He commanded the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz and provided strategic direction of large, complex organizations, such as the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier program.



### Season's greetings from Washington

This has been a very good year for the NNSA and I hope for each of you. I cannot thank you enough for all of your hard work. Because we are so mission-oriented, it is difficult to maintain a healthy balance between our professional and personal lives. In this regard, I encourage you to spend quality time with your families and friends and enjoy this holiday season. I am planning on spending six days out of town with my family and I am excited about being with my children who are both home from college for the holidays.

On behalf of my entire family, I extend to you, the members of our NNSA family, the very best for a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2009.

### Winter Slips, Trips, and Falls

Here are a few prevention tips.



Wear slip-resistant, insulated footwear.

Take small steps on slippery surfaces.

Avoid walking too fast, running, quickly changing directions, or coming to a sudden stop.

While walking, keep

hands out of pockets to catch yourself if you fall.

Use handrails.

Avoid carrying materials that obstruct vision.

Use three points of contact when entering and exiting vehicles.

### Dress for Cold Weather

For outdoor workers, proper clothing is essential to protect against hypothermia, frostbite, and other winter haz-

ards.

Dress in layers that can be added or removed as needed. OSHA recommends a minimum of three layers.

Keep a change of clothing available, including socks, in case work clothes become wet.

Keep hands covered; if practical, wear mittens instead of gloves. Keep head covered; up to 40% of body heat can be lost when the head is