



# NEWS

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## **NNSA Announces Security Initiatives for Weapons Laboratories** **Two former strategic commanders to lead expert review panels**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Administrator Linton Brooks today announced a five-part initiative to reinforce current safeguards and security oversight and strengthen long-term security operations in the nuclear weapons complex.

Brooks directed NNSA managers to take the following immediate actions:

- Assign additional federal and contractor security experts to expedite NNSA's response to security management concerns that the agency has identified at the laboratories in recent months;
- Require NNSA site managers to increase the frequency of surveillance of security at the weapons laboratories; surveillance is a security management tool that measures performance of security operations; site managers are expected to provide biweekly reports directly to the administrator personally on the results of the enhanced surveillance; and
- Review recommendations from numerous past internal and external studies and investigations to ensure that all appropriate recommendations have been implemented.

“There have been a wealth of studies of security in the weapons complex over the years, including outside commissions, internal review teams and investigative reports by the Department of Energy's inspector general and the General Accounting Office, but it is clear that not all the good ideas have been implemented,” Brooks said. “I have directed a team to review the many recommendations and devise a plan for implementing any sound ideas that we have not yet undertaken.”

The NNSA administrator also established two review groups to assess longer-range issues affecting security management and protection. Brooks has acted to:

- Form a commission to recommend improvements in physical security and materials control and accountability programs at the weapons laboratories; and
- Establish a separate panel to develop recommendations for recruiting and retaining sufficient security experts to effectively oversee safeguards and security in the NNSA complex in the long term.

Brooks said he organized the new groups to address two concerns. “While we need to make use of past recommendations, I think we need to take a fresh look at safeguards and security operations in NNSA in light of the post 9/11 threat environment,” he said, “and we need to find a way to deal with a shortage of qualified, experienced security managers in NNSA.”

Brooks made these decisions after consulting with Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham, who endorsed the efforts to ensure improved security oversight.

Abraham and Brooks acted in response to a series of recent security incidents at the NNSA weapons laboratories. “While there has been no compromise of classified material or loss of special nuclear material, the nation cannot tolerate any degradation in our security posture and thus problems must not be allowed to persist,” Brooks said. “I am taking immediate action to ensure myself personally that NNSA is taking vigorous actions to improve and maintain security.”

Although the initiative came in response to problems at the weapons laboratories, it will cover the entire NNSA weapons complex to ensure similar problems do not develop elsewhere.

Two respected retired officers with extensive nuclear weapons experience have agreed to chair the commissions.

Retired Admiral Richard Mies will lead a panel that examines physical security and nuclear materials control and accountability programs, focusing primarily on NNSA’s weapons laboratories. Brooks has asked Mies to explore, among other things, improved deployment and management of protective forces at the laboratories and the improved use of state-of-the-art security technology.

Retired Admiral Hank Chiles will chair a group charged with developing recommendations for recruiting and retaining NNSA managers who have the technical, engineering and physical sciences expertise needed for effective, long-term oversight of safeguards and security operations in the nuclear weapons complex.

Mies and Chiles both have served as commander-in-chief of the United States Strategic Command. Chiles also chaired a congressionally-authorized Commission on Maintaining United States Nuclear Weapons Expertise.

“I am pleased that these two well-regarded public servants are taking on these challenging assignments,” Brooks said. “Together they can help NNSA design the optimum safeguard and security systems for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and find the best managers to run them.”

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