



## Nevada Site Office News

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## **NNSA/NSO Garners Top Aviation Awards**

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) Aviation Program was awarded top honors recently by both the Department of Energy (DOE) and the General Services Administration (GSA).

The Aviation Program, which is operated by Bechtel Nevada at the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) at Nellis and Andrews Air Force bases, recently won the prestigious Federal Aviation Award for small programs (those with 20 aircraft or fewer) for 2004. GSA formally presented the award at the Fifth Annual Federal Aviation Awards Ceremony on Sept. 22 in Washington, D.C. The award honors the safest, most efficient and effective Federal aviation operations, and was bestowed by a panel of independent aviation experts who evaluated all elements of a flight program including management and administration, operations, maintenance, training, and safety.

“Winning this national award is a significant honor” noted Kathy Carlson, Manager for the NNSA/NSO. “Our aviation program supports some of this country’s leading experts in radiological emergency response and remote sensing technology. It is only fitting that the best responders have the best aviation support in this country.”

“My congratulations to the aviation team who have set the bar high for the rest of us,” said Dr. James E. Powell, president and general manager of Bechtel Nevada. “These individuals exemplify technical excellence with a keen eye toward quality and safety.”

Joe Ginanni, the NNSA/NSO aviation manager who oversees the program, also received the DOE Aviation Program Manager of the Year award for the second time in two years, while the RSL aviation program received the DOE Aviation Program of the Year Award for the first time. The awards were presented in July at the DOE Annual Aviation Operations and Safety Workshop in Georgia.

“I attribute this success to five years of hard work by the federal side, the contractors, the pilots, the mechanics, and the administrative staff,” said Ginanni.

The primary mission of the NNSA/NSO Aviation Program is to provide aerial platforms for rapid emergency response to a nuclear or radiological accident or incident. The aviation assets consist of three fixed-wing aircraft and two helicopters. These aircraft provide the platform for aerial measuring systems which are used to collect radiological data for ground deposition mapping. The mission requires that aircraft be on standby and capable of responding within four hours of notification, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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