

Director of Homeland Security tours Nevada Test Site

by Nancy Tufano

"The Nevada Test Site is an extraordinary place to increase the level of training," stated



photo by Mary Scodwell

From left to right, Governor **Kenny Guinn**, Senator **Harry Reid**, Director of Homeland Defense **Tom Ridge**, and Federal Emergency Management Agency Director **Joe Allbaugh** observe a demonstration by **Rick Higgs**, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.



photo by Mary Scodwell

From left to right, Federal Emergency Management Agency Director **Joe Allbaugh**; General **John Gordon**, National Nuclear Security Administration; Senator **Harry Reid**, Governor **Kenny Guinn**, Director of Homeland Defense **Tom Ridge**; **Kathy Carlson**, National Nuclear Security Administration/NV; and Nevada State Assemblyman **Richard Perkins**, observe a Weapons of Mass Destruction exercise at the Phoenix Facility.

Governor **Tom Ridge** on February 20, 2002, during his first visit to the Nevada Test Site (NTS). Appointed Homeland Security Director after the events on September 11, Ridge paid his first visit to the NTS to tour several facilities and assess the possibility of establishing a National Center for Combating Terrorism (NCCT). The NTS is one of several sites proposed to serve as one of the nation's premier facilities for terrorism resistance and preparedness training.

After a briefing by **Brian Sheridan**, deputy general manager of national security response programs and operations, Bechtel Nevada, regarding the capabilities available at the NTS, Governor **Kenny Guinn** and Senator **Harry Reid** accompanied Governor Ridge, **Joe Allbaugh**, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); General **John Gordon**, administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; **Richard Perkins**, Nevada State Assemblyman; **Kathy Carlson**, manager, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office; and **Fred Tarantino**, president and general manager, Bechtel Nevada, on a tour and demonstration at the Phoenix Facility. The Nevada delegation extolled the benefits, state-of-the-art technology, and expertise in place at the NTS, strongly

advocating the establishment of a National Center for Combating Terrorism at the site.

"We must continue to promote the successful programs here at the NTS to fight the war in Afghanistan. We are ready to move ahead with this program," stated Governor Guinn.

After witnessing a live simulation of a terrorist attack on a nuclear facility by trained test site employees, Ridge confessed his admiration for the level of personnel expertise and the suitability of NTS facilities to conduct terrorism resistance and preparedness training. "America is hard at work to combat terrorism. Only one facility can offer a range of exercises for the public and private sectors to expand the capacity to enhance national security," remarked Ridge.

When asked his impression of NTS capabilities, FEMA Director Allbaugh commented, "They're on the right road."

Governor Ridge stated to the press corps that soon after his appointment as Director of Homeland Security, Senator Reid approached him with the idea of creating the National Center for Combating Terrorism at the test site. An additional \$16 million in federal funds may be provided in the near future to expand the capabilities and programs at the NTS, where more than 1,500 first responders are

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trained annually. With additional funding, that number could increase to 3,000.

Ridge's visit follows closely on the heels of U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham's visit in January, where the secretary was provided with similar information about anti-terrorism training capabilities at the NTS.



photo by Mary Scodwell

Director of Homeland Defense Tom Ridge, flanked by Governor Kenny Guinn, left, and Senator Harry Reid, right, addresses media questions about the National Center for Combating Terrorism.

National Nuclear Security Administration scientists conduct successful subcritical experiment at Nevada Test Site

by Nancy Harkess

Scientists from the United States and Great Britain successfully conducted *Vito* on February 14 at the Nevada Test Site.

Seven scientists and engineers from the United Kingdom's Atomic Weapons Establishment participated in *Vito*. The British joined in the experiment under the terms of the 1958 Mutual Defense Agreement. A long-standing partnership exists between the United States and the United Kingdom at the Nevada Test Site. The two countries participated together in 24 underground nuclear weapons tests before full-scale nuclear testing was put on hold indefinitely in 1992. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) has worked collaboratively with the United Kingdom since 1999 on *Vito* and will share scientific data from this experiment with British scientists.

"The scientific exchange of ideas and how we work compared to how they work helps both countries make advances," said the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office's Assistant Manager for National

Security and *Vito* test controller **Debbie Monette**.

"Each country can learn how to do work differently through the exchange of ideas. From this exchange, each scientific community may improve efficiencies or learn better ways to gather scientific data," said Monette.



courtesy of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Information gathered contributes to both nations' stockpile stewardship programs. Subcritical experiments are an important tool in stockpile stewardship. Information gathered at the Nevada Test Site contributes to the overall safety and reliability of our nation's enduring stockpile.

Facts about the Office of Homeland Security: What you should know

- The Office of Homeland Security was established on October 8, 2001, as a national strategy to help protect the United States against terrorists' threats or attacks.
- Governor Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania is the first director of Homeland Security. He reports directly to the President concerning matters of national security and terrorism.
- The Office of Homeland Security is responsible for coordinating the executive branch's efforts to detect, prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks in the United States.
- The office will ensure that all executive departments and agencies have the technological capabilities and resources to collect intelligence data relating to terrorist activities.
- The office is responsible for strengthening the protection of energy production, transmission and distribution; and for facilities that in any way handle nuclear material.
- The office is responsible for the protection of livestock, agriculture as well as potable water against terrorist attack.
- The office is responsible for the restoration of critical information systems disrupted by terrorist attack.
- The office is responsible for coordinating medical, financial and general assistance to victims of terrorist attacks.
- The office will coordinate the containment and removal of biological, chemical, radiological, explosive or hazardous materials after a terrorist attack.

If you would like to read more about the Office of Homeland Security and its responsibilities, visit their website (www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/).

The collaborative effort takes place in Nevada because of the existing infrastructure. The United Kingdom does not have the physical and diagnostic infrastructure that exists at the Nevada Test Site. Replicating the assets already in place at the Nevada Test Site in the United Kingdom would be expensive, time consuming, and nearly impossible.

"The United States will continue to work with the United Kingdom in regard to using Nevada Test Site facilities and support from the national laboratories," said Monette.

The *Vito* experiment was designed to answer questions about ejecta and spall associated with the physical properties of plutonium. Ejecta is a violent spray of particles that are propelled from a material's surface when it is compressed by a powerful shock wave. Spall is the breakup of material from the explosive

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Successful subcritical experiment at Nevada Test Site

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shock wave reflected back from the surface.

Vito is the first experiment in the STALLION series. STALLION has been defined as a series of experiments to support National Nuclear Security Administration pit manufacturing activities; to study dynamic properties of plutonium; to study the behavior of an unspecified pit; to compare the performance of cast versus wrought plutonium; and to compare the performance of new versus aged plutonium.

Vito was the nation's 16th such experiment since the subcritical program was launched July 2, 1997. Subcritical experi-

ments produce essential scientific data and technical information to maintain the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile without underground nuclear testing. Data from such experiments helps scientists create computer models to chart the reliability of the nation's aging nuclear weapons stockpile.

Prior to *Vito*, the most recent U.S. subcritical experiment, *Oboe 7*, was conducted December 13, 2001, at the test site by scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. Los Alamos scientists conducted their last subcritical experiment, *Thoroughbred*, on March 22, 2000.

Bechtel Nevada Six Sigma Black Belts graduate



photo by Nancy Tufano

by Nancy Tufano

In February, three Bechtel Nevada employees were among the twenty-four Bechtel National, Inc. black belts to complete an extensive five-month training in the Six Sigma program. As part of the graduation ceremony, the new black belts presented streamlined cost savings. Black belts in training are tasked to measure, analyze, improve and control processes to result in greater customer satisfaction, substantial cost savings, and a reduction in labor.

During their training, the three Bechtel Nevada black belts redefined processes resulting a total cost savings of \$7,857,150.

The *Company Level Document Review and Approval Process*, presented by black belt **Craig Barnes**, examined the existing Bechtel Nevada document coordination and approval process. This assessment provided modifications to reduce the process from eight weeks to three weeks, resulting in a cost benefit of \$350,000.

In a joint effort between black belts **Trey Johnston** of Bechtel Nevada and Daniel McCabe of Bechtel Hanford, they presented the *Nevada Test Site/Hanford Site Waste Acceptance Process Improvement Project*. This assessment developed a framework for an improved, uniform, integrated low-level waste acceptance process for waste generators and disposals sites, capacity utilization, reduced storage costs, and potential complex-wide savings of more than \$7 million.

Black belt **Lew Gordon** presented the *Procurement Paperwork Rework*. This assessment revealed steps with little or no value to internal procurement paperwork for small item purchases. Gordon and his team analyzed inefficiencies in the process, created and enacted immediate changes, resulting in streamlined operations for Bechtel Nevada procurement department with a cost benefit of more than \$332,000 per year.

The Six Sigma program is an important efficiency and cost savings tool implemented by Bechtel Nevada and

Trey Johnston, Craig Barnes, and Lew Gordon, black belts in Bechtel Nevada's Six Sigma program, discuss a Process Improvement Plan.

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Beyond the call

NTS chef retires after lengthy career

by Kurt Arnold

Percy “Chef” Mays recently retired from Bechtel Nevada after 42 years at the Nevada Test Site. Chef, as he is known to coworkers and diners at the NTS’ cafeterias, began his career in July 1960 at the Mercury cafeteria as a service attendant. He spent a number of years at the Control Point (CP-1) cafeteria as a fry cook and later as a chef at the Area 12 cafeteria for about eight years until its closure. In 1995, he returned to Mercury and remained there until his retirement in December 2001.



WSI

Percy Mays retires after 42 years at the NTS.

Max Iverson, Bechtel Nevada’s department manager for support services, worked closely with Chef during his tenure at the Nevada Test Site. “Chef’s successful culinary career is due to a number of things. The first was his versatility, which allowed him to progress up the culinary ranks by working every job classification. Secondly, his energetic attitude and his likableness by coworkers and the public enabled him to succeed in the culinary field.”

“Chef was particularly good in traumatic times,” adds **Max Taylor**, superintendent of food services. “In 1995, when the department was experiencing a merger with Tonopah and Area 12 personnel, it was a very different and traumatic environment for him to come into, but he kept his professionalism and was instrumental in a successful transition.”

In a telephone interview, Chef was asked a few questions about his lengthy career.

What will you remember the most?

I will remember all the changes that have taken place at the NTS. I’ll remember the people, the number of people who used to work at the NTS compared to the number of people now.

What do you miss about the NTS?

I miss the people, especially the ones that I saw every day and all the things that we would talk about.

How is your retirement? How are you spending your time?

Retirement is good. I’m spending more time with my family. I’ve traveled some, but it’s too cold in a few places that I want to visit.

Enjoy your retirement, Chef!

Employees assist with Alaskan expedition

by Kurt Arnold

Each year, the JASON Project takes students from around the world on an interactive exploration of our planet. This year’s expedition, JASON XIII: Frozen Worlds, took students to some of the colder regions of our planet and solar system.

JASON XIII: Frozen Worlds focused on the current research in the earth, ocean, atmospheric, and space sciences, and covered a broad range of disciplines including science, math, technology, geography, and language arts. Alaska and the polar regions served as comparative areas to study dynamic systems of Earth and space, the affect of these systems on Earth, and the technologies to study these systems and why they are studied.



photo by Elizabeth Donnelly

Bruce Stolte, NNSA/NV, helps direct students attending the JASON Project broadcasts at the Community College of Southern Nevada’s Cheyenne Campus.



photo by Nancy Tufano

Students and interested adults get a close up view to learn about remotely operated vehicles at the Bechtel Nevada exhibit during the JASON Project XIII: Frozen Worlds.

The technical and logistical challenges of bringing this unique educational opportunity to Southern Nevada students is truly a community effort. That effort is evident by the efforts of many volun

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Beyond the call

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teers from the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) family.

NNSA/NV

Angela Avery, Charles Baird, Chris Baker, Pat Bodin, Angela Colarusso, Thomas Conley, Sandy Cross, Vicki Davis, Frank Di Sanza, Neva Drasta, Liz Engelbretson, Janine Ford, Tina Geiger, La Tomya Glass, Hilda Guerrero, Gina Hill, Ann Howe, Andrea Kato, Kirsten Kellogg, Midge Knight, Sean Kosinski, Mitch Kunich, Steve Leedom, Ruby Lopez- Owens, Dario Luna, Kathy Lynn, Cynthia Miyashiro, Lisa Mueller, Pete Mueller, Peter Munding, Yulonda Paige, Vickie Parker, Carolyn Roberts, Janis Romo, John Sanchez, Linda Schmith, Ken Small, Blanca St. Claire, Bruce Stolte, Sadie Wowlanko, and Derick Wickliffe.

Bechtel Nevada

Kurt Arnold, Kelly Beardall, Amy Becker, Carrie Booker-Johnson, Debi Foster, Steve Goldman, Al Guber, Renee Hudson, Skeets Hickerson, Judith Lacuadra, Barbara Kemnitz, Carolyn Lima, Kathy Lombardo and husband Chuck, Marnie Magner, Kathleen Matson, Jared Mathis, Angela Nawrocki, Ernie Noriega, Ken Sampson, Shawn Sheehan, Kevin Thomas, Nancy Tufano, and Al Wright

SCI

Lee Lichtenwalner

WSI

Marcella Annear, Sandra Canada, Sheril Hamlin, and Phon Shields

A new champion is crowned; The Meadows School wins at the Science Bowl

by Kirsten Kellogg

The Eleventh Annual Nevada Regional Science Bowl, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV), took place February 1 and 2 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. After a nail-biting final round, The Meadows School defeated four-time champion, Reno High School, to represent Nevada in the National Science Bowl. The Meadows School coach and five-member team will travel to Chevy Chase, Maryland, for the national competition May 3 through 6.

Kathleen Carlson, manager, Nevada Operations Office, said, "I look forward to the Science Bowl every year. I am proud that the Nevada Operations Office and its contractors are part of this exciting educational event."

As the first place winner, The Meadows School took \$2,500

back to their school's math and science departments. The departments will use the money to purchase new books and equipment and create college scholarships.

Other winners included:

2nd place – \$2,000 Reno High School Team A

3rd place – \$1,500 Green Valley High School

4th place – \$1,000 Advanced Technologies Academy Team A

5th place – \$500 each (tie) Bishop Manogue High School and Douglas High School Team B

7th place – \$300 each (tie) Centennial High School and Cedar City High School

9th place – \$100 each (tie) Clark High School, Douglas High School Team A, Pahrump Valley High School, and Reno High School Team B

NNSA/NV would like to thank all of its co-sponsors for their time and financial support for this year's Science Bowl competition:

Applebee's; Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc.; Bechtel Nevada; Bechtel SAIC, LLC; Desert Research Institute; Fisher Space Pen Company; Grapevine Junction; IT Corporation; Kerr- McGee Chemical Corporation; Lockheed Martin Systems & Training Services; Mandalay Resort Group; Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc.; Nevada Power Company; Pioneer Chlor Alkali Company, Inc.; Professional Analysis, Inc.; Southwest Airlines; Southwest Gas Corporation; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada, Reno; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Regional Office and Hoover Dam; U.S. Department of Energy, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office

NNSA/NV would also like to recognize the approximately 100 volunteers who supported Science Bowl.

Volunteers included:

Patti Aaron, BR; Kurt Arnold, BN; Connie Barricks, NNSA/NV and her husband Ed; Steve Belew, BR; Jodi Bechtel, SAIC; Deana Benally, BR; Toby Bickmore, NNSA/NV and his wife Elizabeth; Jim Blink, LLNL; Jason Bohne, DOE/YMPO; Stan Brewster, BN; Chiaki Brown, UNLV; Tamiko Brown, BN; Bob Campbell, DOE/YMPO; Dave Chubb, BR; Sean Crawford, NNSA/NV; Estelle Cruz, NNSA/NV; Steve Curtis, NNSA/NV; Robert DeBerry, BN; Jan DiLorenzo, BN; Bill Distel, DOE/YMPO; Elizabeth Donnelly, NNSA/NV and her daughter Caitlin; Narayanan Doraswamy,

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DOE/YMPO; **Carmen Fannin**, BN; **Kristene Fisher**, UNLV; **Jeff Gordon**, BN; **Harris Greenberg**, DOE/YMPO; **Steven Gregory**, BN; **Janis Hansberry**, UNLV; **Dave Hemphill**, BR; **Julie Horner**, DOE/YMPO; **Kelli Jasperson**, BR; **Traci Jasperson**, BR; **Robert Junker**, NNSA/NV; **Larry Karr**, BR; **Laura Kelley**, UNLV; **Kirsten Kellogg**, NNSA/NV; **Karen Kesterson**, UNLV; **Janet Kirsch**, BR; **Barb Knowles**, UNLV; **Norm Kramer**, BSC; **Susan Krenzien**, HAZMED; **Carol Lisor**, BN; **Michelle Lockett**, UNLV; **Stacy Mantooth**, UNLV; **Sandy Marshall**, WSI and her nephew **Lajuan Matthews**; **Leah Masterson**, BR; **Paul Matuska**, BR; **Dona Merritt**, PAI and her niece **Kimberly Prandy**; **Michael Mohar**, BN; **Debbie Monette**, NNSA/NV; **Darwin Morgan**, NNSA/NV; **Joni Norton**, NNSA/NV; **Susan Otis**, BN; **Yulonda Paige**, NNSA/NV; **Aaron Payette**, ????; **Laurie Perry**, BR;; **Travis Pullen**, NNSA/NV; **Shirley Richardson**, BN; **Crissy Riland**, BN; **Cheryl Rodriguez**, BR; **Kevin Rohrer**, NNSA/NV; **Gabrielle Rum**, UNLV; **Jeannie Rutherford**, BR; **Ralph Sgamma**, BN; **Siriphone Shields**, WSI; **Aaron Shiels**, UNLV; **Bill Sinclair**, DOE/YMPO; **Bryan Spangelo**, UNLV; **Blanca**

St. Clair, NNSA/NV; **Amy Stephenson**, BR; **Bruce Stolte**, NNSA/NV; **Nate Tannenbaum**, KTNV Channel 13; **Jeff Tappen**, DOE/YMPO; **Aaron Thompson**, BR; **Maryla Wasiolek**, DOE/YMPO; **Piotr Wasiolek**, BN; **Laura Weiss**, UNLV; **Claire Whetsel**, BSC; **Audwin Whitmore**, BN; and **Katherine Zander**, BR.



photo by Mary Scodwell

The Meadows School proudly displays their first place trophy and \$2,500 check after winning the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office Eleventh Annual Nevada Regional Science Bowl.



photo by Kurt Arnold

Safety sentinels

Fred Tarantino (left), Bechtel Nevada's president and general manager, presents **Carolyn "Sue" Jones** (center) and **Robert DeBerry** with a plaque and a monetary award for their contributions to Bechtel Nevada's Performance-Based Safety Process (PBSP) program. The PBSP program is an employee-driven process that involves employees in taking an ownership role for safety. Employees focus on defined behaviors and use reinforcement techniques for continued performance improvement. **Ray Shockley** (not pictured) was also recognized for his contributions.

WSI-NV earns DOE's Achievement Award

by Earlie Rose

Wackenhut Services, Incorporated - Nevada Operations (WSI-NV) recently received the Energy Performance Excellence Achievement Award. This prestigious award recognizes Department of Energy organizations and contractors based on an assessment against the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria.

WSI-NV received the award based upon the outstanding level of performance they have maintained in the continuing service contract they have held since 1965. Notable indicators of customer satisfaction were recently documented in a customer service survey that resulted in more than 97% satisfaction documented by customers and clients alike. The company is constantly seeking self-improvement, as evidenced by the Energy

Quality Award of 1998, early certification of Integrated Safety Management in 2000, and award of Voluntary Protection Program STAR status in 2001.

The process began with submission of a 70-page application addressing seven categories: leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, information and analysis, human resources, process management, and business results. The initial scoring was followed by a site visit from a team of DOE examiners to get a better picture of the organization's actual performance. Finally, a panel of judges reviewed the recommendation and the DOE Secretary approved the final award.

Mike Ebert, WSI-NV's general manager stated, "We are not

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IT captures second Energy Performance Excellence Award

by Steve Mergenmeier

The IT Corporation, Las Vegas Office (ITLV) was recently recognized with the Accomplishment Award from the Energy Performance Excellence Award (EPEA) Program. This is a significant accomplishment, since the Champion Award earned by ITLV in 1999 marked the first time an Architectural-Engineering contractor had received an EPEA award. The award is part of a national program designed to recognize Department of Energy offices and their contractors who demonstrate managerial and operational excellence.

The award program is not designed as a competition; rather, the criteria are established to encourage organizations to meet or exceed specified levels of excellence.



photo by Kurt Arnold

ITLV is selected as a 2001 recipient of the Achievement Award from the Energy Performance Excellence Award program.

Applications are evaluated against the nationally recognized Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards, which are designed to improve business practices by applying a variety of management techniques. The EPEA process evaluates business systems and processes related to leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis, human resources, process management, and business results.

ITLV pursued the award as part of its continuous improvement initiative. The primary objective is to put the program "under a microscope" by a team of professionals who provide objective feed-

back related to company strengths, potential areas for improvement, and overall performance.

The award application was submitted in July 2001. A team of trained, objective examiners had three weeks to review and score the applications. The team later traveled to Las Vegas to meet with individual managers and conduct an on-site assessment of ITLV's program. A final report consisting of numerical scores and feedback for each category was prepared and forwarded to an independent panel of non-DOE judges, who submitted final recommendations to the Department of Energy, Office of Performance Excellence, where the final award decisions were made.

All the hard work and focused effort paid off when ITLV was selected as a 2001 recipient of the Achievement Award, which is the third of a five-level award system. **Paul Gretsky**, ITLV program manager, expressed his appreciation to the entire ITLV staff for their diligence and cooperation. He added, "... the application process itself was an invaluable tool since it focused our attention on defining business systems and identifying both program strengths and weaknesses. The bottom line is that we will use this as a tool to further enhance our support and value to National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office and we will continually seek opportunities for program improvement."

The Energy Performance Excellence Award Mission

The Energy Performance Excellence Award, through the Office of Performance Excellence, promotes and helps organizations through the Department of Energy complex demonstrate superior value to their customers. The Office also reinforces the adoption of a sound quality ethic through the use of the Department of Energy Criteria, which is based on a proven and successful United States consensus standard – the Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence Criteria.

WSI-NV earns DOE's Achievement Award

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satisfied with just meeting expectations. We continue to measure ourselves against the highest standards of performance excellence." Ebert attributes WSI-NV's success to the outstanding efforts of all employees: uniformed and non-uniformed, staff, managers, and supervisors.

When asked what was next, Ebert responded that WSI-NV's intention was to pursue the new Nevada Governor's Award for

Performance Excellence this year. "Becoming a best-in-class organization is a continuous journey. It is one we are proud to pursue and we are grateful for the excellent support we receive from our client," he concluded.

The Achievement Award is the second highest award organizations can receive. Since its inception in 1995, only six other organizations have attained the Achievement Award.

Beware before putting it in reverse

by Patricia May

Were you aware that poor backing techniques are the cause of 25 percent of national vehicle accidents (National Safety Council) and 30 percent of California vehicle accidents (California Department of Transportation)?

How did your organization fare? The Nye County Sheriff documents indicate no reported vehicle incidents attributed to National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office for calendar year 2001. During calendar year 2001, Wackenhut Services, Inc. experienced no vehicle incidents that involved backing.

Bechtel Nevada's percentage for the same time period was slightly above the National Safety Council and California Department of Transportation estimates — 33 percent.

What can you do to prevent or eliminate backing accidents? Follow and practice these preventive measures:

- Make every effort to avoid backing. Park in a position from which you can drive forward to exit.
- Park defensively. Choose easy exit spaces that don't crowd neighboring vehicles and park in the center of your lane.
- If you have to back into a parking space, do so when you arrive rather than backing out when it is time to leave. This allows drivers to park/back the vehicle while a clear view of the entire area exists and before any conditions can change.
- Walk around the vehicle. Quickly check around the vehicle for people, other vehicles, obstacles, and clearances before backing. Return to the vehicle promptly. Any delay increases the likelihood of something or

someone getting behind your vehicle.

- Ask a coworker to assist. A coworker can observe the area to the rear of the vehicle and direct backing movements. The guide can give positive signals for steering, slowing, and stopping.
- Sound your horn, check rear and side view mirrors, watch all clearances, and back slowly.
- Practice. Skill at normal driving is not an indication of how well a driver will perform at backing. If a practice area is available, practice learning how the rear of the vehicle responds to every little twist of the steering wheel.



- Be aware of changes. Every backing situation is new and different. If you go to the same place several times a day, be watchful of changes and new obstacles.

Ineffective backing can result in thousands of dollars in property damage, damage to costly equipment, and personal injury. One reason for the frequency of backing accidents is that drivers fail to exercise due caution. Drivers may think a backing accident is not likely to result in much damage or bodily injury because they travel more slowly in reverse. Another reason is due to drivers who cannot

see directly behind the vehicle by using either side or review mirrors or by turning their head and looking out the back window. Even with careful mirror arrangements and adjustments, blind spots remain to the sides and in back of the vehicle.

Backing accidents are preventable. Drivers must control backing and parking as effectively as other vehicle maneuvers. By following the preventive measures listed above you will certainly help reduce, and hopefully eliminate, backing accidents.

In the next issue of *SiteLines*...

- * NNSA/NV reorganization
- * Six Sigma update
- * Bechtel Nevada receives SBA's award of distinction

Lessons Learned

Know when and how to help

by Dawn Starrett

The emphasis of the lessons learned program is to prevent incidents and accidents. However, human behavior ensures that some incident or accident will occur.

Whenever an incident or accident occurs, it is often co-workers who are closest to the incident/accident and are the first ones to respond. In most cases, their assistance proves a valuable resource to the injured person. In some cases, the rescuer becomes an additional victim during their attempts to assist the injured.

To prevent additional injuries, workers who respond to some-

one in distress must evaluate the potential hazards before rendering assistance. Evaluating the surrounding hazards and taking steps to mitigate those hazards can reduce the risk for potential injury during the rescue.

There are several examples each year where workers rush to rescue an injured co-worker only to sustain serious injuries themselves. If an incident or an accident occurs, remember to call **9-1-1** for emergency or medical assistance; notify your duty manager with the details of the incident/accident; consider the hazards; mitigate those hazards, if possible; and finally, provide assistance in a safe manner to the injured.

If you have questions about emergency notification or reporting, contact your local duty manager.

Bechtel Nevada Six Sigma Black Belts graduate

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also by the Bechtel Group, Inc. **Adrian Zaccaria**, president and chief operating officer of the Bechtel Group, Inc. stated, "Six Sigma is an investment in people and the future of our company. It is a vehicle to provide better customer relations and will result in a stronger company. We want every day to be a Six Sigma day."

"The application of Six Sigma methodology gives Bechtel Nevada and National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada

Operations Office the tools to make better decision, the ability to implement changes to our business systems, and a system to institutionalize behavioral changes in the workforces," said **Fred Tarantino**, Bechtel Nevada's president and general manager.

Bechtel Nevada plans to expand the Six Sigma program to ten black belts by the end of Fiscal Year 2002.

The history of the Six Sigma program

The Six Sigma quality program originated in 1987 at Motorola and gained national recognition after it earned Motorola the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Six Sigma is a business application that addresses the need for efficient and defect-free operating processes to result in the greatest customer satisfaction. It is based on statistical data rather than the uncertainty of goals and forecasts. Six Sigma utilizes mathematical statistical data to define standard deviation, indicating the distance of measured results from the average. Six Sigma represents 3.4

defects per million events. The main goal is continuous improvement.

Six Sigma projects are most commonly implemented as the Identify, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control (IMAIC) method. First, a project and process in need of improvement are identified. Next, the performance of the current process is measured and data is gathered. The data is then analyzed and problems are identified. After the data analysis, improvements are defined and defects removed. Improvements to the process are controlled through a control plan. The control plan is used by the process owner to manage and institutionalize changes necessitated by IMAIC.

Bechtel Nevada

40 years *Las Vegas - Larry McKiernan; Nevada Test Site - Paul St. Marie*

35 years *Los Alamos Operations - John Sutton*

25 years *Las Vegas - Alan Mc Gibbon, Sheryl Pfeuffer, John Truax*

20 years *Las Vegas - Gary Chilton, Kelly Downing, Naomi Munyan; Nevada Test Site - Janet Cowley, Bradley Joseph, Michael Ruggiero, Suzanne Scaffire; Los Alamos Operations - Arthur Schelberg*

15 years *Las Vegas - David Anderson, Debra Kesler, Juanita Kuhn, Kenneth Lamison; Nevada Test Site - Roderick Adams, Donald Burns; Special Technologies Laboratory - Lynn "Kathy" Elizalde; RSL - Andrews Operations - Robert Richmond*

10 years *Las Vegas - John Media, Amy Moore, Katherine Utiger; Nevada Test Site - Eugene Lowman, James Pedalino; Los Alamos Operations - Mildred Lujan; RSL - Andrews Operations - David Butler*

5 years *Las Vegas - John Rowan; RSL - Andrews Operations - Charles Harris*

New Hires *Las Vegas - Griselda Aguirre-Sayno, Jonathan Boro, Jennifer Brown, Cheryl Furjanic, Charlene Gifford, LeeAnn Inadomi, Jennifer Morton, Marvin Preston, Jr., Anita Ross, Louie Vigil; Nevada Test Site - Matthew Hagenow, Michael Horst, Ian Pancham, Henry Pazos, Francisco Perez, Glen Watson; Los Alamos Operations - Lawrence Hupke, Andrew Ortega, Eduardo Rodriguez; RSL - Andrews Operations -*

Eric Moore

National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operation Office

30 years **Thomas Wiard**

25 years **Annette Hill**

20 years **Billye Neilson**

15 years **Monica Sanchez, Peter Sanders**

10 years **Warren Udy, Tammie Henderson**

Desert Research Institute

15 years **Karl Pohlman**

5 years **Thomas Bullard**

IT Group

10 years **Stephen Mergenmeier, Jeffrey Wurtz**

5 years **Robert Boehlecke, Terri Cuttaia, Carol Dinsman, Patricia Fritz, Carol Lovelace**

SCI

10 years **Dea Ann Farley**

5 years **Darryl Brock, Steven McKinley**


Wackenhut Services Incorporated

20 years *Las Vegas - Sandra Marshall*

10 years *Las Vegas - William Stinson; Nevada Test Site - Michael Demesquita*

Compiled by Tamiko Brown

Partnering for Education



This new feature will highlight the programs and activities of the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Operations Office and Bechtel Nevada's partnership with the Clark County School District's Focus School Program.

Accelerated Reader Incentive Program

by *Judith Lacuadra*

Kit Carson Elementary School, one of Bechtel Nevada Focus School partners, has new winners for their Accelerated Reader Incentive Program.

January winners are:

Shalyce Allen, Monick Anderson, Na Stasha Bell, Derrick DeLoud, Naya Givens, Channel Green, Mark Hardison, Keelan Harvey, Pa Tina Horner, Curion Jones, Francine Mitchell, Clifford Smith-Finks, and Kasandra Thrower.

For additional information on the Accelerated Reader Incentive Program, contact **Judith Lacuadra, BN (702-295-1688)** or refer to the February 2002 issue of *SiteLines*.

Congratulations to the winners!

Quannah McCall students experience the Science Bowl

by *Kirsten Kellogg*

For the fifth year, students from the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operations Office's School of Promise, Quannah McCall Elementary, were invited to participate at the annual Nevada Regional Science Bowl.

Seven fifth-graders, accompanied by three Quannah McCall faculty members, observed classroom competition rounds, enjoyed a continental breakfast, and received goodie bags which included special Science Bowl t-shirts. **Jeff Gordon**, Bechtel Nevada, also helped the students with a mock Science Bowl competition of their own. The students and their chaperones were treated to an off-campus lunch before returning home.

The Nevada Operations Office sees Quannah McCall's participation in the Science Bowl as an opportunity to spark interest in science and math at an early age. They look forward to seeing more elementary school students at next year's Science Bowl.



photo courtesy of Kit Carson Elementary School

Francine Mitchell (back row - left), Mrs. Cooper, Na Stasha Bell (front row - left), Keehlan Harvey, Monick Anderson, Channel Green, and Naya Givens are a few of Kit Carson Elementary School's Accelerated Reader Incentive Program winners for January. Bechtel Nevada provides the incentives for the students.



photo courtesy of Kit Carson Elementary School

(From left) Curion Jones, Shalyce Allen, and Kasandra Thrower are Accelerated Reader Incentive Program winners from Kit Carson Elementary School.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 6

Community Advisory Board meeting. Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington Avenue, Room 4401, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NV (702-295-2836)**.

March 20 (11:30 a.m. repeated at 12:15 p.m.)

NNSA/NV's Brown Bag Film Series: "Doorstop/Cue." Great Basin Room, Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Jeff Gordon, BN (702-295-1628)** or **Michael Brown, RAI (702-295-0552)**.

March 27

NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

April 3

Community Advisory Board meeting. Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington Avenue, Room 4401, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NV (702-295-2836)**.

April 10

University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Earth Day. This year's theme is "Keeping Our World Together." UNLV campus mall. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Earth Day is an environmental education event for children in grades kindergarten through 12th. Public is invited. Free admission. Contact **Marianne Carpenter, UNLV Chairperson (702-798-2510)**.

April 16 (11:30 a.m., repeated at 12:15 p.m.)

NNSA/NV's Brown Bag Film Series: "Teapot." Great Basin Room (A-107), Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Jeff Gordon, BN (702-295-1628)** or **Michael Brown, RAI (702-295-0552)**.

April 18

NTS Public Tour, open to interested

members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

April 20

EcoJam 2002. Sunset Park, Area F (Sunset Road and Eastern Avenue). 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EcoJam is a family event featuring environmental exhibits, childrens' activities, and live entertainment. Free to the public. Contact **Clark County Parks and Recreation (702-455- 8200)**.

April 20-21

Challenge Cup Relay. The 120 mile 20 stage foot race is the largest and most unique law enforcement race in the world. Starting in Baker, Calif. and in finishing in Las Vegas, Nev., this highly competitive event is to promote camaraderie, physical fitness, pride, and teamwork. Contact **Richard Gomez, WSI (702-295-6255)**.

May 29

NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

June 20

NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

Declassified Film Showings

For information on declassified film showings at NTS CP-1, contact **Denise Langendorf (702- 295-4015)**. For information on declassified film

showings at NTS Yucca Mountain, contact **Rod Rodriguez (702-295-5825)**.

Upcoming conferences and trade shows

March 18-22

Annual National Physical Society, Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, Ind. For additional information, visit NPS' web site at www.aps.org.

March 27

Ninth Annual "Supplier Opportunity Faire 2002." Cashman Field Center, Exhibit Hall A, 850 Las Vegas Blvd., North Las Vegas, Nev. For additional information, contact **Mike Gifford (702- 386-2973)** or visit the National Association of Purchasing Management's web site (www.napm-sn.org).

April 4-6

2002 ASCE Structures Congress & Exposition, "Performance of Structures, from Research to Design," Denver Marriott City Center Hotel, Denver, Colo. For additional information, contact Dr. **Finley Charney**, Chairman, Structures Congress 2002 (fcharney@schnabel-eng.com).

April 14-18

Tenth international conference on nuclear engineering, "Nuclear Energy - Engineering Today the Power for Tomorrow." Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Va. For additional information, contact **ASME (800-843-2763)** or visit their web site (www.asme.org). Electronic registration is available (www.asmeconferences.org/icone10/ConfRegistration.cfm).

April 29 - May 1

American Power Dispatchers Association Spring 2002 meeting, hosted by Nevada Power Company. Sam's Town Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nev. For additional informa

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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tion, contact **Sandy Dewees (702-862-7233)**.

April 29 - May 2

Ninth International Conference on Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR 2002). Co-hosted by the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) and Bechtel Nevada's Special Technologies Laboratory. Radisson Hotel-Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, Calif. For additional information, visit GPR 2002's web site (www.ece.ucsb.edu/gpr2002) or via e-mail (gpr2002@nv.doe.gov).

May 5-8

Eighty-seventh Annual International Supply Management Conference and Education Exhibit. Hilton San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif. For additional information contact **NAPM (800-888- 6276)** or visit their web site (www.napm.org/Conferences/conferences.cfm).

May 19-22

Third Annual DOE Small Business

Conference. Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Fla. For additional information visit www.smallbusiness-outreach.doe.gov or contact **Will Minter (865-574-9803)** or via e-mail (minterwd@ornl.gov).

June 1-6

AIHce 2002, cosponsored by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH). San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, Calif. For additional information, contact **AIHA (703-849-8888)** or visit their web site (www.aiha.org/conf.html).

June 9-12

Safety 2002 "Advancing the EH&S Profession." Opryland Convention Center, Nashville, Tenn. For additional information, visit American Society of Safety Engineers' (ASSE) web site (www.asse.org/annual_conf_main_text.html).

July 22-24

National Contract Management Association's World Congress 2002. Long Beach, Calif. For additional information, contact **Annette DeLorenzo (703-734-5435)** or visit NCMA's web site (www.ncmahq.org).

April is:

Cancer
Control
Month

National Smile
Month



*Published monthly for all members of the NNSA/NV family.
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