BN leads effort to secure new NTS work

by Kurt Arnold

Progressive measures are underway that would permit the performance of hazard category 2/3 (nuclear material hazard) support work for non-reactor nuclear facilities at the Nevada Test Site. Several operational reviews, including contractor U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters Operational Readiness Reviews (ORR), provided early insight to the success of this initiative and the likelihood that the NTS could support new projects.

Pictured above is an aerial view of the U.S. Department of Energy's Radioactive Waste Management Site located in Area 5 at the Nevada Test Site.

A Bechtel Nevada team, chartered by the performance assurance department, conducted a contractor review to assess the success of the implementation of two Documented Safety Analyses (DSA) at the U.S. Department of Energy's waste, characterization and disposal sites located in Area 3 and Area 5 at the NTS. The DSA is a systematic method, used along with associated hazard controls, to assess a nuclear facility's safe operation and protection of employees, the public, and the environment. The implementation of the DSA is a crucial element in increasing the hazard categorization of facilities and thus increasing the capabilities of the NTS to support work by various customers, including DOE.

Following the successful contractor review of the implementation of the DSA at Area 5, a DOE Headquarters ORR, the highest level DOE review, was conducted to determine if the facility was ready to operate safely.

The results have not been officially approved, but an initial out-brief, held August 1, indicated that the Bechtel Nevada team did a superb job and will be authorized to restart the facility at the higher level. The ORR team's report stated "that upon the approval of the post-start Corrective Action Plans, Area 5 had achieved readiness to safely conduct category 2/3 nuclear facility operations." A final report is expected in a few weeks; as a result, new projects could begin in fiscal year 2004. A similar ORR for Area 3 is scheduled for early September.

A driving force in achieving these accomplishments in such a short time frame is **Jim Dionizio**, Bechtel Nevada's Nuclear Operations Manager. Since joining Bechtel Nevada in July 2002, Dionizio has made great strides in implementing new safety management programs and procedures to prepare the NTS for future nuclear operation projects.

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SITELINES

A PUBLICATION FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE NNSA/NSO FAMILY

Issue 91 August 2003

News Briefs

Bechtel Nevada presents first Science and Engineering Award

by Kirsten Kellogg

On July 22, Bechtel Nevada management and the Science and Engineering Award Selection Committee announced that Charles "Chuck" Madsen was named the winner of the first annual Bechtel Nevada Science and Engineering Award for his classified work on security system technologies. The award, which covers fiscal year 2002 achievements, will be presented at an event at Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL)-Nellis on Monday, August 18.

Chuck Madsen is a senior engineer with the Security System Technologies group at the RSL – Nellis. He has worked for BN and two predecessor companies for 40 years, much of that time at the Nevada Test Site. Chuck typically leads projects that require a more innovative approach. He is well respected by and has a close working relationship with BN's customers. In addition to his work, he also serves as a mentor for junior engineers.

The Bechtel Nevada Science and Engineering Award was created to recognize the technical expertise that is at the heart of the company's continued success. It is designed to acknowledge an outstanding single achievement in the areas of science or engineering. Criteria for award selection include the potential impact of the achievement to the fields of science or engineering and measurement of the impact in terms of contribution of knowledge, innovation, process efficiency, technical complexity, or combinations of these.

The Selection Committee for the first annual Bechtel Nevada Science and Engineering Award received ten nomination forms and selected five finalists. Presentations of the nominated achievements of the five finalists took place in mid-July. The presentations provided each nominee a better opportunity over the nomination form to describe their achievement and allowed the Selection Committee to question the achievement against the criteria and to pose questions on technical aspects of the achievement.

Information regarding the fiscal year 2003 award is scheduled for distribution in October 2003.

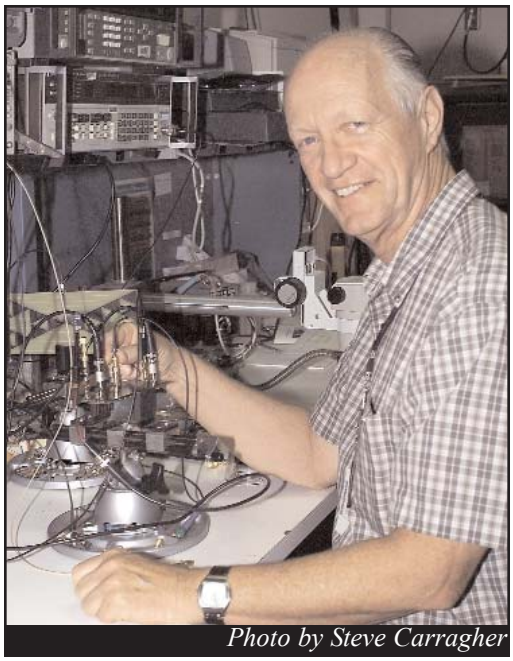

Photo by Steve Carragher

***Charles "Chuck" Madsen** is the winner of the first annual Bechtel Nevada Science and Engineering Award.*

Key to Acronyms

The following acronyms appear frequently in *SiteLines*:

BN	Bechtel Nevada
ES&H	Environment, Safety, and Health
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
LLNL	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
NSO	Nevada Site Office
NTS	Nevada Test Site
RSL-A	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews
RSL-N	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Nellis
STL	Special Technologies Laboratory
WSI-NV	Wackenhut Services Incorporated - Nevada

This feature highlights various components of the Six Sigma process at the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office complex. A monthly article will detail the Six Sigma process, individual Process Improvement Projects (PIPs), the team members associated with Six Sigma, or the anticipated benefits and cost savings associated with implementing the PIPs.

Champions are invaluable to Six Sigma

by Jennifer Morton

Six Sigma consists of many different roles, but perhaps the most influential position and the driving force behind Six Sigma is the champion. Since champions play such a vital role throughout the execution and implementation of a Process Improvement Project (PIP), it is important the Bechtel Nevada community be aware of their impact to the Six Sigma program.

Champions are managers who have been trained to identify critical work processes, and to sponsor yellow belts in mapping and measuring these processes. Once a work process has been mapped and current/baseline performance has been measured, the current performance is compared with the performance target to determine whether there is a "gap," or an opportunity for improvement. If the yellow belt's tools are not adequate to evaluate the process and identify improvements to reduce the gap, the champion prepares a Business Case and presents it to Bechtel Nevada's Six Sigma Executive Committee to request that a black belt be assigned to work on the process.

Once the process improvements have been identified and agreed to by the PIP Team, the champion and yellow belt resume responsibility and work together to implement process changes.

Champions are often process owners who have enough influential power to introduce change. In addition, many of Bechtel Nevada's champions have completed Performance-Based Leadership training and have learned techniques for applying positive reinforcement to effect behavioral changes. Currently there are 56 trained champions at Bechtel Nevada. By December 2003, the Six Sigma Executive Committee plans to have 67 trained champions.

"Being a champion and involved with a PIP is a good way to learn the Six Sigma tools," said **Helen Hall**, champion. "The involvement in PIPs also allows a champion to discover any inefficiency in the operation," stated Hall.

While all roles in Six Sigma are essential for an effective Six Sigma program, the champion is the backbone. "Without these organization leaders to sponsor Process Improvement Projects (PIPs), remove barriers that impair the PIP team's efforts, and implement process changes, Bechtel Nevada will not realize the improvements in efficiency, cost effectiveness, and reduction in errors that the application of Six Sigma tools offers," said **Jan Renfro**, black belt.

If you are interested in Six Sigma champion training, contact **Elizabeth Federmack, BN (702- 295-1566)**. A champion training class is scheduled for September 9 through 11, 2003.

BN management changes

Several management changes have occurred at Bechtel Nevada. Those changes include:

Kathy Vaselopulos has assumed the duties of acting procurement and property management department manager, replacing **Doris Burnett**, who is assuming another assignment within Bechtel Nevada. Vaselopulos will remain as manager of prime contract management; however, **Joe Clark** is functioning as the day-to-day lead.

Cathi Tharin is the new Six Sigma department manager, replacing **Ron Wallace**, who is assigned to another project within Bechtel Nevada. **Dennis Finney** has assumed the role of acting construction manger.

Livermore Operations has a new manager, **Helen Hall**. Hall assumes the position that **Tim Sammons** filled as acting manager. She will report directly to **Nelson Cochrane**, assistant general manager for diagnostics and experimentation operations.

William Kost replaces Helen Hall as senior project manager for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory activities in the stockpile stewardship organization. Kost reports directly to **Bob Braddy**, assistant general manager for stockpile stewardship.

Capturing "never before seen" photographs

by Steve Goldstein

Bechtel Nevada has received a new six-tube, ultra-high-speed framing camera to evaluate performance of optical diagnostic experiments (Z pinch radiation, laser shadowgraphy, interferometry) on the Z Machine at Sandia National Laboratory.

After assembling the camera, testing was conducted on its timing, extinction ratio, and spatial resolution. Testing confirmed that the camera met requirements. The camera was deployed on its first set of Z experiments to explore its performance in the hostile machine environment (X-rays, high electromagnetic pulse fields).

Optimized shielding should result in the capability to capture some of the highest speed two-dimensional photographs ever recorded. Each image can be gated down to 200 picoseconds (one picosecond equals one trillionth of a second) with a frame rate of five gigahertz. The camera can acquire all six images at any time in 10 picosecond increments (all images can be taken at the same time, or different times). The gate time can be adjusted between 200 picoseconds and 10 microseconds (one millionth of a second).

The camera consists of a six-way beam splitter, six Micro-Channel Plates (MCP's) and six Charge Coupled Device (CCD) cameras. The light enters through a hole in the black vertical plate on the left side. It passes through a lens and then hits a six-sided pyramid. This pyramid directs the light to six mirrors that reflect the light to the six MCP's. Each MCP is controlled by a separate high-voltage pulser. The phosphors on the backs of the six MCPs are then lens-coupled to six CCD's (a lens relays the image on the phosphor to the CCD).

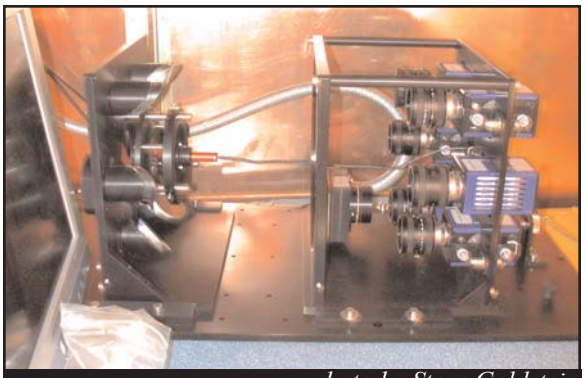

photo by Steve Goldstein

The beam splitter is on the left side of the camera, one MCP (attached to the thick metal cable) and six CCDs are all visible. The camera supports Sandia National Laboratories' Above Ground Experimental (AGEX) Project.

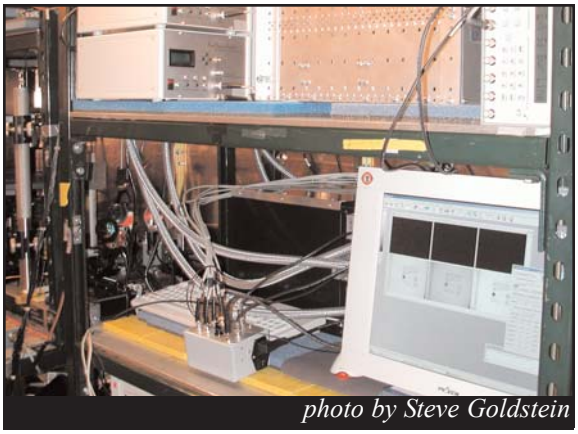

photo by Steve Goldstein

The entire system fits on two shelves in a screen box in the Z Machine high bay. One shelf contains the six high-voltage pulsers, the computer which controls the high-voltage pulsers, the CCDs, and a timing delay generator. The lower shelf contains the camera, keyboard, and monitor.

...To your health...

Arthritis and you

by La Tomya Glass

Buttoning a shirt, tying your shoes, and opening the front door are routine activities you might easily take for granted. These simple activities are difficult and painful for people who suffer from arthritis.

Arthritis is the most common form of disability in the United States. More than 100 forms of arthritis are known; most common forms of arthritis are osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis occurs when cartilage deteriorates causing bone to rub against bone. This leads to painful joints and causes damage to the ends of bones. Most common in women and adults over the age of 45, exact causes of osteoarthritis are uncertain. There are factors that increase the risk: obesity, hereditary conditions, history of joint injuries, and history of diseases that change the normal function and structure of cartilage.

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Arthritis and you

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It is uncommon for osteoarthritis to affect the jaw, shoulder, elbows, wrists or ankles. Areas that are commonly affected include the following:

- Fingers – bony nodes can enlarge finger joints. This creates a gnarled appearance.
- Spine – neck and back pain from the slow deterioration of disks between bones.
- Weight bearing joints – hips and knees are frequently affected because they bear most of the weight. Swelling may occur, usually in the knees.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Pain in a joint during or after use
- Pain before or after a change in weather
- Bony lumps on the middle or ends of fingers and base of the thumb
- Stiffness and/or swelling in a joint after using it
- Loss of flexibility
- Joint pain occurring at the end of the day rather than the start of it

The most common complication of osteoarthritis is pain, after the first year the pain often fades; however, it may recur with over use of a joint. To diagnose osteoarthritis a complete physical examination, blood tests and certain imaging techniques are need.

Rheumatoid arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis is different from osteoarthritis because it is an inflammatory condition and does not result from wear and tear on the joints. The cause is unknown, but it is believed to be caused by the body's immune system attacking the synovium (the tissue that lines the joints). Also, rheumatoid arthritis can cause inflammation of tear glands, salivary glands, the lining of your heart and lungs, the lungs themselves and in rare cases the blood vessels, while osteoarthritis only affect the bones and joints.

This form of arthritis is three times more common in women than men and usually strikes between the ages of 25–55. Rheumatoid arthritis tends to vary in severity. Periods of increased disease activity (flare-ups) alternate with periods of remission during which pain, swelling, difficulty sleeping, and weakness fade or disappear.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Pain and swelling in the smaller joints of hands and feet
- Aching or stiffness of the joints and muscles, more noticeable after periods of rest or sleep
- Loss of motion in the affected joint (flexibility)
- Loss of the strength of the muscle attached to the affected joint
- Fatigue, which becomes more severe after a flare-up
- Low grade fever
- Deformity of the joint
- Loss of appetite
- Often symmetrical (occurring in the same joints on both sides of the body at the same time)
- Round painless nodules under the skin
- Numbness and/or tingling
- Swollen glands

Rheumatoid arthritis usually causes problems in one or more joints in the wrists, hands, feet and ankles. It usually affects both sides of the body at the same time, and can also involve the elbows, shoulders, hips, knees, neck and jaw. Complications of rheumatoid arthritis usually include pain, swelling, stiffness and fatigue; leading to difficulty with everyday tasks and the unpredictability of this disease can lead to depression.

To diagnose rheumatoid arthritis a complete physical examination, blood test, and x-rays may differentiate between osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Treatments

Treatment for both rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis include:

- Medication – taken as directed by the physician
- Exercise regularly
- Control your weight
- A healthy diet
- Apply heat – helps with the pain and relaxes tense painful muscles, especially before exercising
- Apply cold for occasional flare-ups. This may dull the pain and decrease muscle spasms. Do not use cold treatments if poor circulation or numbness occurs.
- Relaxation techniques – hypnosis, guided imagery, deep breathing, and muscle relaxation can control pain
- Appropriate footwear – this is important if have arthritis in weight bearing joints. Wear comfortable cushioned shoes to help support the weight.

Coping skills for people with rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis:

- Keep a positive attitude – studies have shown that when people feel in control of their disease they experience less pain and less difficulty functioning.
- Use assistive devices – such as canes, braces to help take some of the stress from the arthritic joint.

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Arthritis and you

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- Know your limits – rest when tired, this helps to control arthritis
- Avoid grasping actions that strain finger joints – do not twist or use joints forcefully
- Spread the weight of an object over several joints – such as using both hands to lift an object
- Periodically take time to relax and stretch
- Maintain good posture – poor posture causes uneven weight distribution
- Use strongest muscles and favor large joints – for lifting, open doors by leaning into them instead of pushing the door open

The American College of Rheumatology recommends a combination of treatments that may include medication, self-care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and, in some cases, surgery.

For further information regarding arthritis, visit the following web sites:

http://www.mayoclinic.com
http://healthyahoo.com/health/centers/arthritis_pain/1243.html
http://www.arthritis.org/conditions/DiseaseCenter/oa.asp

Beyond

THE CALL

WSI-NV presents ABCD Awards

by Sheril Hamlin

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty (ABCD) Awards are presented to Wackenhut Services Inc. Nevada (WSI-NV) employees to acknowledge and encourage outstanding performance and contributions to the organization. The following WSI-NV employees have received an ABCD Award:

Scott Richardson was recognized with an ABCD Award for his excellent customer service and "can do" attitude while assisting human resources' personnel in the design, development, and implementation of a new report. The report automatically tracks and flags employees' records for action when they are due for longevity or step increases. The new report is a great time saver.

An ABCD Award was presented to **Kay Hurt** for her versatility in handling the many tasks that are thrown at her on a daily basis. One of her most recent challenges resulted in Hurt making innovative recommendations for change, which reduced costs, saved man-hours, and improved efficiency in daily operations.

Captain **Craig Nangle** was recognized with an ABCD Award for his professionalism and concern for public safety. While returning to the North Las Vegas Complex, Craig noticed a car on fire on the Cheyenne overpass. He called Station 800 and requested fire and emergency services. He stayed at the scene and provided assistance until the proper authorities arrived.

Recognized for providing excellent professional support to each Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST) mission, **Dennis Maher** received an ABCD Award. Maher was presented the award for his continued dedication to WSI and radiological emergency response.. He continues to make a point to be at the Remote Sensing Laboratory-Nellis whenever the team deploys. Even though there are plans in place to handle the deployment, he is always present—even on his day off. Maher not only reports on his day off to supervise the NEST deployment, but he arrives early enough to brief involved security police officers so they are aware of their duties to support the deployment.

In the next issue of *SiteLines*...

- It's the people...
- *Piano*
- Cellular telephone safety tips

Students' investigation amends injustice

by George Kinoshita

*Wackenhut Services Inc. - Nevada (WSI-NV) employees followed with great interest a personal story about **George Kinoshita**, director of assessment and oversight. Earlier this year at the company's Operations Awareness Briefings, George shared this story about his father.*

George's father, George J. Kinoshita, was denied the opportunity to receive his high school degree from Bakersfield High School (BHS) as a result of the internment of Japanese-American citizens during World War II. Through the amazing efforts of some current BHS students and faculty, that wrong was righted in June 2003, when Mr. George J. Kinoshita was posthumously awarded his diploma. George and his family were present at the ceremony. He shares his words, thoughts, and feelings about the experience.

In May 1942, 120,000 Japanese-Americans were interned in relocation camps during World War II. A seemingly insignificant consequence was that the Japanese-Americans who were high school students did not graduate or receive their diplomas with their class. My dad, George J. Kinoshita, was a Bakersfield High School senior in 1942.

Photo courtesy of George Kinoshita

Shortly after his internment in the Posten Relocation Camp, George J. Kinoshita was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served for 30 years. Mr. Kinoshita was posthumously awarded his high school diploma in June 2003.

Students from Bakersfield High School in California discovered this fact during a class research project and thereafter sought to right this wrong. Their efforts culminated in ceremonies held on June 5, 2003. Concurrent with the senior class graduation, eighteen Japanese-Americans received honorary BHS diplomas that were denied them more than 60 years ago. I had the honor of receiving my father's diploma.

The real story is about a history teacher, Mr. Ken Hooper and the students from the Academy Archive Research Project who identified 38 former BHS students who were interned in the Posten, Arizona, Relocation Camp. According to Principal David Reese, 11 of these students were only two weeks away from graduating. Mr. Reese said, "It is time to reclaim some of the Drillers (school mascot) we've missed." Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Reese, Mr. Hooper, and the Academy Archive Class, the high school did just that in conjunction with the Class of 2003 Commencement ceremony.

At 7:00 p.m., we marched onto the BHS football stadium ahead of 560 members of the senior class. It was the very same stadium where my dad played football.

Marching onto the field was an awesome and emotional event. Mr. Reese proceeded to explain to those assembled why the former students were being recognized. After the surviving students or a family member received their diplomas, the stadium responded with warm applause and a standing ovation. What was unimaginable and even impossible in 1942 had just occurred before our eyes.

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, we walked off the football field and attended a reception at the school library. The excitement, happiness, and gratitude on everyone's face were very apparent and very real. I know that all of us, who had the honor of participating, will never forget this graduation. Perhaps most of all, we'll never forget Mr. Hooper and the students of Bakersfield High who made all of this possible. My only regret is that Dad did not live to see this day. Shortly after returning from the Posten Relocation Camp, he was drafted into the Army. He subsequently served on active duty for 30 years.

Dad had great memories about his high school days and about the many students who befriended him. He would have been very proud of the Class of 2003.

Retirements

John Kamel - BN
John Rees Jr. - BN

In Memory

James Sanchez - former contractor employee
Judy Whiteman - former contractor employee

And the winners are ...

by Jennifer Morgan

At his recent all-hands meetings, Bechtel Nevada General Manager **Fred Tarantino** presented Performance Awards to Bechtel Nevada employees.

Performance Awards are presented twice a year, to recognize individual employees and teams that demonstrate significant technical and/or operational performance that is above and beyond expected levels. Examples of outstanding accomplishments worthy or recognition under this program include safety, significant cost savings, innovation, quality improvement of a process or product, resource utilization improvement, ES&H improvement activity, or added value for the customer.

This period's winners were:

Edward McCrea

Ed overheard a co-worker say that he wasn't feeling well. When Ed went to check, he found the employee alone, complaining of chest pain, pain in his arms, and generally not feeling well. He called 911, and stayed with the employee until North Las Vegas Fire & Rescue transferred the employee to UMC. He contacted the employee's wife with the information, and then contacted his own wife to ask that she sit with the co-worker's wife until she found out her husband's status. Because this occurred on a Friday when fewer employees were working in the building, Ed's awareness of his co-worker's need for assistance and prompt medical attention resulted in the possible saving of his co-worker's life.

Eric Wagner

Eric was tasked to develop a program to facilitate planning and control of exercises and drills. The program is downloaded onto a hand-held palm top computer and is flexible enough to add in new kinds or suites of detectors. The program will match the calculated scenario or plume entered into the palm-top with the detector variety and Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) location of the palm-top in order to provide exercise players the exact readings of the selected detector at that location. The flexibility and form factor of this palm top system greatly enhances opportunities to train emergency responders to radiological incidents. This product will not only serve the needs of Remote Sensing Laboratory and the National Nuclear Security Administration/crisis management training and exercise community, but it will bring both national and international recognition to BN.

RF Detection System Team

Curt Allen, Glen Anthony, Matt Bixby, John Buckley, Jim Buford, Mike Buss, Marty Fay, Duane Gardner, Steven Koppenjan, and **Brian Maddux**

Special Technologies Laboratory was awarded a contract to develop a Handheld RF Detection System, capable of finding electronic bugs. Various government agencies involved in protecting against the use of these bugs currently do not have an effective, low-cost, and easy to operate system to locate such hidden devices. Low-cost commercial devices exist, but all have performed poorly during evaluation and none have proven to be an effective tool. This team successfully completed the development, test, and delivery of three prototype systems in March of 2003. Customer evaluation has shown the system meets and exceeds their requirements.

HAZMAT Spill Center Staff

William Huth, Ross Lanko, Doug Lund, and **Samantha Messer**

A water line ruptured beneath the foundation of the HAZMAT Spill Center (HSC) Control building, flooding the building with silt and water. The HSC staff on scene initiated emergency actions that mitigated the damage from the flooding, including sandbagging the hallway to divert the water flow out of the building and stop the flooding, placing equipment and files on elevated surfaces, and assisting the NTS Fire Department with the rapid clean-out of the standing water and silt. They immediately shut off all power to the building, protecting the staff, as well as fire department personnel, from electrical hazards. Their quick response diverted approximately 6,000 gallons of additional water that would have flowed into the building interior, causing significant damage. These individuals responded in a professional and safe manner that protected personnel from electrical hazards, prevented serious damage to the HSC Control building, saved thousands of dollars of equipment from damage and limited the disruption to the operations of the facility.

SNP Deployment Team

Clarence "Ed" Roberts III, Kendall Braithwaite, James Butler, John Mattson, Walter "Russ" Eberwein, Eric Moore, and **Christopher Joines**

In February, this team was deployed to the Middle East for a classified mission. This team faced arduous conditions, including: working seven days a week in harsh environments; improvised temporary working/living/sleeping

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And the winners are...

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arrangements; and high threat conditions. Despite these challenges, the BN team was especially valuable to their customer by providing an on-scene capability not previously available. They vigorously upheld BN safety policies and procedures, operation plans, and the established rules of engagement, as evidenced by safe operations in harsh environments.

HAZMAT Spill Center – Discrete Fury

Michael Kelly, Ed Baur, William Huth, Ross Lanko, Shawn Line, Arron Lund, Douglas Lund, Samantha Messer, and **Patrick Sawyer**

The Discrete Fury test was presented to the HAZMAT Spill Center only a few weeks prior to the execution date. The radiological dispersion test required a significant labor and equipment effort. A variety of sensors had to be placed in a complex configuration around the release point in order to acquire quantifiable data on the dispersion pattern, with many of the sensors having to be arranged at a high elevation to track the vertical dispersion of the plume. The team made some proposals to the customer's plans and designs, based on available equipment and experience knowledge. The team saved the project many hours of manpower, eliminating additional equipment, reduced power requirements, optimized the necessary sensor array, and completed the test safely with excellent data results. The total saved for the customer was estimated at $144,000.

Atlas Trailer Upgrade Subcontract Evaluation and Award Team

Brent Cassady, Marlon "Dale" Crain, Howard Dexter, Paul Flores, Ed Martin, Heidi Utz, and **Michelle Vochosky**

A team was put together to evaluate the difference in costs of purchasing two new diagnostic trailers, as opposed to completely refurbishing currently owned trailers. The group's goal was to retain as much as possible of these trailers' nuclear testing capabilities, while reusing, renewing, and recycling equipment wherever feasible. Refurbishing these veteran nuclear program diagnostic trailers helped Los Alamos Operations save an estimated $1.45 million, while enhancing safety, utilizing company resources more effectively, and providing added value to the customer. This project was highly innovative because it represented BN's first successful attempt to reclaim existing trailers rather than purchasing new ones.

Egg Point Fire Revegetation Team

Dave Anderson, Derek Hall, Paul Greger, Dennis Hansen, Kent Ostler, and **Cathy Wills**

This team efficiently and safely seeded, planted, and stabilized soils within the Egg Point
Fire burn area in Area 12 at the NTS. Without the revegetation the natural invasion of cheat grass and other species would begin a long-term cycle of grass invasion and successive wildland fires at this site. Extensive analysis of the most cost-efficient, quality enhancing, and safe methods to provide a stable vegetative cover to the burned areas was performed for this project. This effort represents the first time implementation of the habitat rehabilitation requirements of the NTS Wildland Fire Management Plan.

Accordian Zero Room Mining Crew

Shane Archambault, Warren Canning, Coates Cobb-Adams III, Henry DiCamillo, Rex Livingston, James David Lujan, Julian Smith, and **Edwin Switzer**

This team executed the excavation and ground support activities of the 102B drift with no incidents (first aid, recordable, lost time, property damage or near misses). The cost savings was 12 percent under the budget, and the job was completed on schedule. The construction excavation cost savings on this project was over $48,000. The team is a mix of veteran and recent new hires to BN, whose skills and abilities complement each other.

STL Optical Comb Generator Team

Terence Davies, Frans Janson, Ronald Justin, and **Bruce Marshall**

An optical comb generator is a device that produces a regular series of sharp optical pulses at a fixed frequency. It is a critical part of experiments that utilize optical streak cameras, because the string of comb pulses on the streak camera data record is used to correct for any non-linearitites in the sweep. These cameras are currently used in many laboratory programs, and are particularly important in high-bandwidth environments such as the National Ignition Facility (NIF). Under the Secondary Certification Project effort in support of future experiments on NIF and for underground test readiness, this team upgraded several older model comb generators and built a number of new units at frequencies ranging from 25 megahertz to 1 gigahertz. The new designs are a considerable improvement over the old in terms of reliability and ease of use.

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And the winners are...

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Framing Camera Team

Stuart Baker, Paul Flores, Matthew Gurule, Matthew Martin, Frank Martinez, and **Joshua Tybo**

Framing camera systems developed by BN- increased imaging capability in proton radiography experiments from 14 to 21 frames, as well as saving the customer approximately $100,000 per custom-built system over commercially available streak imaging systems. Streak cameras have traditionally been supported by the BN Los Alamos Operations over the past two decades, but the development of the framing camera system has opened a whole new field of development for BN. This development involves high-speed electronics design, mechanical design, electro- optical imaging system setup, calibration and fielding, as well as image data processing.

Bechtel Nevada conducts first craft safety opinion survey

by Kirsten Kellogg

In early May of this year, Bechtel Nevada, with the help of an independent consulting firm, initiated its first craft (non-bargaining employees) safety opinion survey. Reducing and eventually eliminating safety incidents and accidents is Bechtel Nevada's number one priority. There has been a steady increase of incidents each summer, and the purpose of the survey was to get the opinion of the crafts regarding field safety issues that need more attention.

About 86 percent of eligible craft workers took part in the survey - an overwhelming response. The survey consisted of 54 statements that participants rated on a scale of one to five (one indicated "strongly disagree" and five indicated "strongly agree.") Some examples of the statements included in the survey were "I will stop coworkers if at risk," "I have the right to stop unsafe activities," and "Safety professionals are visible and accessible." With an average score of 4.65, "I will stop coworkers if at risk" was the highest ranking statement. "Coworkers receive recognition for safe work" scored the lowest with an average score of 3.01.

"Most of the data points involved employees with safety or communication issues and whether or not employees are comfortable with stopping work in unsafe conditions," said **John Howanitz**, Bechtel Nevada's assistant general manager for Nevada Test Site Operations. "The survey showed confidence that workers will stop work if necessary."

Participants also had the opportunity to respond to three narrative questions. Of the approximately 1,500 responses, most were positive and constructive. Workers suggested better approaches to work and highlighted the issues that need more focus.

"Test site craft have a tremendous commitment to our important defense mission and to safety," said **Fred Tarantino,** Bechtel Nevada president and general manager. "I really appreciate their willingness to share their opinions. No one knows more about safety in the field than the people doing the work."

After the survey data was evaluated and analyzed, the results were shared with all of the crafts. Bechtel Nevada management is currently developing a game plan that includes such things as more supervisor and safety professional presence in the field and making sure the craft is recognized for their safe work accomplishments. There are also plans to re-survey the crafts after some actions are taken to assess their impact.

> Construction safety at the Nevada Test Site has shown tremendous improvement during fiscal year 2003. Three-fourths of the way through the year, there are several crafts showing zero recordable injuries/illnesses.

No good deed goes unnoticed

by Jennifer Morton

As the Simper family ventured through miles and miles of desert highway on their way to a new home in Washington state, they had no idea what awaited them around the next turn. They would soon realize the generosity complete strangers from Nevada Test Site (NTS) Fire and Rescue would offer.

Misty Simper, her husband, son, and two dogs lost a wheel on their utility trailer stranding the family in the middle of the night on the shoulder of Interstate 95 just passed Mercury, Nevada. Motorists passing by paid no attention to the stranded vehicle except for NTS Fire and Rescue employee **Roland Benton**, who upon seeing the stuck vehicle, stopped and offered his help.

"Help, is an understatement," said Mrs. Simper. "Roland did so much more."

Benton and **William Botos**, Fire and Rescue assistant chief,

cont. on page 11

No good deed goes unnoticed

cont. from page 10

Platoon A, brought out a powerful light that illuminated the area and enabled the family to find the abandoned wheel. The two firefighters had to return to their shift, but Benton promised to return the next morning in order to take Mr. Simper to Pahrump to get the parts to fix the trailer's axle and damaged wheel.

With approval from Benton's B-shift platoon leader, **Calvin Townsend**, assistant chief, Benton returned to the stranded vehicle the next morning with a hot homemade breakfast, courtesy of the NTS Fire and Rescue.

"Not only did they feed us, but they brought water for our dogs too," said a very pleased Mrs. Simper.

The trailer needed repairs before the family could continue their move to Washington, but due to the move, the Simper family had limited funds. This was not a concern for the NTS Fire and Rescue team who agreed to personally foot the bill.

Mrs. Simper, her son, and two dogs remained with their truck and damaged trailer while Benton and Mr. Simper went to Pahrump to get the necessary parts to fix the trailer. Everything the family owned was on the trailer. Several hours went by and motorists continued to ignore the stranded vehicle.

"It was extremely hot and my son and I were starting to get grumpy with each other," she said. "Then out of nowhere another officer from NTS Fire and Rescue came to our rescue," she added.

That employee was **Curtis Bryant**. Bryant came to check on the family and brought food and water pacifying the two, who at this point were very tired, hungry, and grumpy.

Mr. Simper and Benton returned shortly with the repair parts. **Mike Flammini**, NTS Fire and Rescue engineer, helped Benton and Mr. Simper lift the trailer, repair the broken axle, and attach a new wheel.

"Without the help we received from these wonderful people, we more than likely would have lost everything we owned there on the side of that road. So our great appreciation goes out to the guys of the Nevada Test Site Fire and Rescue shifts A & B," exclaimed Mrs. Simper.

Promoting safety

compiled by Jennifer Morton

The 2003 Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Day Fair and Wellness Fair were held concurrently at the Nevada Test Site on Wednesday, June 25. Booths, located in Mercury buildings 750 and 751, were staffed with employees and vendors who provided practical safety and health tips to Bechtel Nevada employees working at the Nevada Test Site.

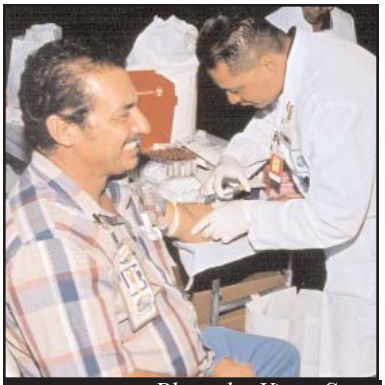

Photo by Vince Stern

***Juan Lucero**, Bechtel Nevada employee, has his blood drawn by United Blood Services. Blood tests check cholesterol levels and detect early signs of prostate and ovarian cancer.*

Photo by Vince Stern

***Ray Shockley** and **Yvette Mason**, from the Performance Based Leadership Program (PBSP), hand out stress relievers to interested ISM Day participants.*

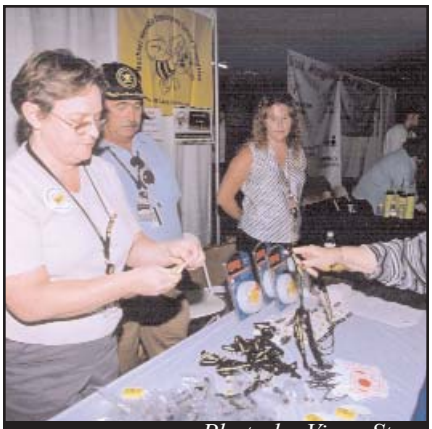

Photo by Vince Stern

*Members of Bechtel Nevada's Employee Safety Committee (from left, **Bev Slater, Jerry Lester**, and **Cindy Lloyd**) promote safety with breakaway lanyards and badge pulls, mini tire gauges, key chains, and mini first aid kits. The BN Employee Safety Committee sponsors the Restroom Rhetoric contest, safety meetings, and the annual children's calendar contest.*

Partnering for Education

Partners in education

by La Tomya Glass

As the record high temperatures of summer slowly turn to cooler temperatures of fall, students and teachers from around the country will begin a new school year. For students and teachers in Clark County, the first day of the 2003-04 school year is August 25 (12-month track 1, classes begin September 15). It also marks the start of a brand-new year of supporting the Clark County School District's Focus School Project.

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) with partner, Wackenhut Services Inc., supports Quannah McCall Elementary School (kindergarten through sixth grade). Bechtel Nevada's Focus Schools are Kit Carson Elementary School (kindergarten through fifth grade) and Jim Bridger Junior High School (sixth through eighth grade).

This year's Focus School activities include donating school supplies, tutoring, reading, speakers, and much more. To make this year successful, volunteers are needed. This is your opportunity to make a difference in a child's life. You may be the only positive influence, outside the child's home or school life, that these children receive. Become involved as a volunteer to give a little and receive a lot.

For further information on how to volunteer, contact **Elizabeth Donnelly, NNSA/SC (702-295- 1640)** or **La Tomya Glass, BN (702-295-1134)**.

To view the Clark County School District's 2003-2004 school year calendar, visit the Clark County School District's web site (www.ccsd.net/news/calendar/calendars.html). To view other school districts' school year calender, visit their web sites.

Face-to-Face

Name: Christie "Chris" Miller

Employer: GeoTrans, Inc.

Title: Database Administrator

Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah

Hobbies/
Interests: Horses, cross-stitch, and the outdoors

Face-to-Face

Name: Helen Stolz

Company: Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.

Title: Project Coordinator for Navarro; Project Control Support for Environmental Management

Hometown: Elko, Nevada

Hobbies/
Interests: Tennis, golf, and Candlelighters

Lessons Learned

Instrument limitations

by Dawn Starrett

As outside temperatures continue to rise, most of us are aware of the dangers of heat stress. What we may not consider is the effect heat has on various instruments.

Extreme temperatures affect the performance of different instruments and cause extensive and expensive damage to instruments. Radiation instruments are one example of instruments affected by extreme heat. Keep in mind that a vehicle's interior can approach 160 degrees Fahrenheit. The desert sand can reflect heat and can also create equally high temperatures.

Review manufacturers' instructions to determine if field instrumentation has temperature sensitivities. Provide temperature limitations for each instrument to users to reduce the incidents of instrument damage caused by exposure to extreme heat.

If you have a lessons learned to share, contact your organization's lesson learned point of contact or **Dawn Starrett, site lessons learned coordinator (702-295-4297)**.

Protecting your valuable assets

Your eyes and hands are complex parts of your body. Their intricate structure is a finely tuned movement of nerves, tendons, tissues and bones working together as a unit. Hand/eye coordination skills develop early in life and let you perform a variety of jobs. Your eyes and hands can be very important tools that make you a skilled and valued worker.

Most people are careless about eye and hand safety. About 180,000 people suffer each year from hand injuries alone - many of them from job-related accidents. Hand injuries at Bechtel Nevada make up 40 to 59 percent of all injuries.

Reasons for Eye and Hand Injuries

- Inattentiveness to details and safety procedures.
- Distractions in the workplace. Minor injuries are a warning that you are not paying close attention to your work.
- Boredom with a routine job.
- Lack of compliance with procedures.
- Failure to wear required protective equipment.

The first step in preventing eye and hand injuries is to know the dangers involved with a job and how to avoid them. Some hazards include the following:

Pinch Points – Danger zones are found between a moving object and stationary object, or between two continuous moving objects. Avoid placing your hand or any part of your body in the danger zones.

Flying objects – Dust, dirt and small rocks re-suspended in air during windy weather or from dust storms, metal or word objects generated from use of hand and power tools, etc. Never enter a posted eye hazard area without safety glasses with permanently affixed side shields.

Hot Spot – Some machines, like copy machines and air compressors, have built in heaters or hot areas in the machine. Burns can occur when trying to remove paper from a jam in a copy machine if a finger or hand is placed in a hot spot.

Rotating Machine Surfaces – Rotating devices and material generated from drill bits, saw blades and milling cutters can be extremely hazardous to the eyes and hands.

Automated Machinery – Relays, delays, timers, remote controllers and robotics can cause machinery to start up suddenly even when it appears to be turned off.

Jewelry – Remove jewelry before using hand tools or operating equipment.

Hand Tools

Using the wrong tool for a job can result in a serious eye or hand injury. Always inspect tools before use and remove defective tools from service.

Wrenches – Whenever possible use a box-end wrench instead of an open-end wrench to avoid slipping. Always pull on a wrench, never push.

Screwdrivers – Never hold the object you are working on in your hand; use a vice or a flat surface.

Knives – Keep knife blades sharp. Remember to always cut away from your body. Never use a knife as a screwdriver. Store knives separately from other tools.

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Protecting your valuable assets

cont. from page 13

Defective wooden handles – Defective wooden handles can splinter and be driven into the hand or be propelled into the eye.

Mushroomed chisels or other tools – Damaged tools can become lethal flying metal objects, cause hand or eye in jury when struck with a hammer.

Machine Safeguards

Many machines have built in safeguards in order to protect your eye and hands. Never remove a safeguard. Never operate machinery that has had any guards removed.

Tips When Working with Machinery

- Always use a push stick when working with table saws and jigsaws.
- Clamp your work to a flat surface before beginning to drill.
- Use a magnet attached to a stick to remove a piece of metal from a machine.
- Assure face and eye guards are positioned properly.

Protective Gloves

Wearing the appropriate gloves is an important part of protecting yourself from hand hazards, but you also should be aware when not to wear gloves.

- Wear gloves when working with hot machinery, knives and hand tools unless advised not to.
- Never wear gloves when working near machinery gears or other devices in which the glove could get caught.
- Wear only the proper rubber or polymer gloves to work with chemicals. To prevent chemicals from leaking down your arm, wrap tape around the upper portion of your glove.

Remember: Never use your hands to perform a job that can be performed by a tool. Treat all minor cuts and abrasions immediately.

By recognizing hand and eye hazards, following established safety guidelines and using protective guards, shields, gloves, safety glasses, and other personal protective devices as needed, you can save your eyes and hands from injury and unnecessary disability.

Preventing eye and hand injuries is everyone's responsibility. First and foremost, you should place emphasis on engineering out the hazards. Hazard awareness information must be provided to workers at safety meetings and pre-job meetings. Supervisors and workers must promote and encourage safe work practices and the use of personal protective equipment in daily activities.

Thunderstorm season is here

By Kirsten Kellogg and Darryl Randerson

As warm weather approaches, the potential for thunderstorms on the Nevada Test Site (NTS) increases. Thunderstorms are a serious hazard to people, equipment, facilities, and power systems. This hazard results from the lightning, strong surface winds, heavy rainfall, and hail that can accompany thunderstorms.

Be alert to these hazards. Watch the sky, access the NTS weather forecasts, and monitor the NTS Weather Website (www.sord.nv.doe.gov). Weather conditions on and around the NTS are monitored continuously by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Air Resources Laboratory (NOAA/ARL) meteorologists and technicians who issue twice daily weather forecasts and hazardous weather warnings for the NTS.

Lightning

While lightning can be fascinating to watch, it is also extremely dangerous. According to the National Weather Service, lightning kills an average of 73 people per year – this is more than the average deaths caused by tornadoes and hurricanes. With common sense, we can greatly reduce the number of lightning deaths.

The time between seeing a lightning flash and hearing the thunder it produces is a rough guide to how far away the lightning was. Normally, thunder is heard up to 10 miles from the lightning that makes it. Lightning heats the surrounding air to as much as 60,000 degrees, producing sound waves by the quick expansion of the heated air. Since light travels at 186,000 miles per second, you see lightning the instant it flashes. Sound, including thunder, travels about a mile in five seconds near the ground. If 15 seconds elapse between seeing a lightning bolt and hearing its thunder, the lightning was about three miles away.

Lightning closer than three miles away is a warning to take shelter immediately. Successive lightning strikes are often two to three miles apart. If the first stroke is three miles away, the next one could hit you.

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Thunderstorm season is here

cont. from page 14

Cloud-to-ground lightning (CG) is the most serious safety hazard to NTS personnel. In the United States, there are an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes each year.

Safety Actions

When thunderstorms threaten, get to a safe place and stay there longer than you think you need to. Move to a sturdy building or vehicle. Do **not** take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees, or in convertible automobiles. Stay away from windows and doors and avoid contact with anything that conducts electricity. Remember that telephone lines and metal pipes can easily conduct electricity.
The first stroke of lightning is just as deadly as the last. If the sky looks threatening, take shelter before hearing thunder. The threat of lightning continues for a longer period than most people realize. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash before leaving shelter. Sometimes a day with bright sunlight and a blue sky can fool the unsuspected. If you hear thunder, you are within striking distance. Seek safe shelter immediately!

Additional Resources

NTS lightning conditions and activity are monitored continuously by Special Operations and Research Division (SORD) personnel who operate and maintain the NTS Automatic Lightning Detection System (ALDS). This system detects CG lightning flashes immediately and promptly displays their location on a map of the NTS. This graphic updates in real time and can be viewed on the SORD Website. Moreover, the user can focus on a specific operational area on the NTS and zoom in or out. However, remember that thunderstorm intensity can change quickly; therefore, the user should consult a SORD meteorologist with regard to storm movement, intensity, and accompa nying weather conditions.

A forecaster can be reached at the NNSA/NSO Weather Forecast Center (**702-295-1255**) or by contacting a meteorological technician stationed at the Desert Rock Meteorological Observatory (**702-295-7180**).

NTS Thunderstorm Facts

Although thunderstorms can occur anytime on the NTS, the most active months for thunderstorms are June through September with July and August being the most active months.

Climatologically speaking, NTS thunderstorm activity reaches its peak during the first two weeks of August**.**

There tends to be little thunderstorm activity on the NTS between sunrise and 11:00 a.m. PDT; however, after 11:00 a.m. the potential for thunderstorm activity increases rapidly, reaching a peak by 1:00 p.m. on the mesas and by 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. over the dry lake beds.

Normally NTS thunderstorms move from south to north; however, there are exceptions; especially with the more intense storms.

Face-to-Face

Name: Richard Dague

Company: Wackenhut Services Inc. - Nevada

Title: Security Police Officer II

Hometown: Marion, Michigan

Hobbies/
Interests: All shooting sports, riding horses, reading, and spending time with my wife and daughter.

Face-to-Face

Name: Nancy Wilson

Employer: Bechtel Nevada

Title: Office Assistant

Hometown: Waterloo, Iowa

Hobbies/
Interests: Singing, playing the piano and organ, collecting treasures, working on an undergraduate degree in human services at the University of Phoenix

BN leads effort to secure new NTS work

cont. from page 1

"Every Bechtel Nevada group contributed significantly to the accomplishment," said Dionizio. "Waste operations and site services maintenance personnel led the way. All Area 3 and Area 5 employees assisted with the DSA implementation while maintaining their 'normal' workload," he added.

Nuclear operations' accomplishments since October 1, 2002:

Completed the Management Self Assessment, Contractor Operational Readiness Review, and DOE Headquarters Operational Readiness Review in 10 months

12 new safety management programs put in place in Area 5 and Area 3 in 10 months

50 new procedures written or rewritten in support of the DSA implementation

60 new qualification standards put into place

27 new operational procedures

Milestones

Bechtel Nevada

35 years — *Las Vegas* - **Charles Logan**

25 years — *Las Vegas* - **Marsha Jackson, Doris Walker**

20 years — *Las Vegas* - **Khy Senh**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Larry Stigen**

15 years — *Las Vegas* - **John Kiser III, Kevin Marah, Tonja Patton**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Michael Young**; *Special Technologies Laboratory* - **John Pittman**

10 years — *Las Vegas* - **Patrick Matthews, Keith Miller, Frederick Ruth**

5 years — *Las Vegas* - **Stephen Hill Jr., Angela Nawrocki, Heather Noto**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Esthery Boykin, Edward Duran, Gary Gilpin, Kenneth James**

New Hires — *Las Vegas* - **Christopher Barto, Alfred Cawthon, Jeffrey Cowell, Michael DiMartino, Sean Doyle, Heather Hernandez, Kirsten Kellogg, Yang Lee, Stuart Meredith, Kirsten Mourant, Namphuong Nguyen, Michael Pelletier, Terry Putman, Jeff Reed, Daniel Rider, Steven Riley, Randolph Rollins, Levell Sims Jr., Robert Sledzik, Daniel Steinberg, Gregory Strawn, Rebecca Thompson, Vicki Tong, Lawrence Trautner, Sherri Wall, Lawrence Wallace, Kaitlin Washburn-Towne, Wallace Womble Jr., James Wood**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Sheldon Alt, James Carillo, James Daniels, Todd Hartwell, David Hubble, Denise Langendorf, Thomas Monk, Bret Moscon, Michael S. Murphy, Carol Neal, Richard Sitts, Jeffrey C. Smith, Theresa Stuhff, Glenda Tepatti**; *Livermore Operations* - **Saeid Nahavandi**; *RSL-Andrews Operations* - **Annette Swindell**

National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office

30 years — **William White**

5 years — **Violet Szczepkowski**

Shaw E&I

5 years — **Stanley Klainer, Michael Sully**

Los Alamos National Laboratory

5 years — **Jon Oien**

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

20 years — **Donald Ecker**

Team CNSI

25 years — **Richard Holmes**

10 years — **Sandra Allen, Felicia Thompson**

5 years — **Tamara Collins Culbertson**

— Compiled by Tamiko Brown

Calendar of Events

September 1
NNSA/NSO and contractor offices closed in observance of Labor Day.

September 6
University of New Mexico Las Vegas Alumni Chapter's Fresh Green Hatch Chili Roast. Proceeds support scholarships for Las Vegas students. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Rotary Park, Las Vegas, Nevada. Contact **Pat Mulhall, BN (702-295-3007)**.

September 24
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)**.

October 22
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)**.

November 25
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)**.

December 16
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

September 14-17
The Academy of Certified Hazardous Material Managers 2003 National Conference. The Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas. For additional information, visit www.achmm.org/achmm-new.

September 21-23
PMI Global Congress 2003 - North America. The Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland. For additional information, visit www.pmiglobalcongresses.fusionproductions.com.

November 12-15
Civil Engineering Conference and Exposition. Gaylord Opryland™ Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee. For additional information, visit www.asce.org/conferences/annual03/.

November 15-19
International Association of Emergency Managers' 2003 Mid-Year Meeting. The Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida. For additional information, visit www.iaem.com/conferences.html.

SiteLines

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NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration