

Remembering the B-Complex

Piece by piece it was decommissioned through the summer of 2004. It came down slowly, almost imperceptibly at first, until August, when the bulldozers arrived to tear down all that remained of buildings B-1 and B-2. Soon after, the former office space for 650 NNSA/NSO contractor employees lay in the parking lot, a heap of rubble and debris.

The demolition of buildings B-1 and B-2 in the NNSA/NSO Nevada Support Facility complex surprised no one. The buildings were the subject of a lengthy investigation after it was revealed, in March 2002, that a contractor employee housed in B-1 was diagnosed with chronic beryllium disease. Beryllium, a naturally occurring non-radioactive metal found in rocks, coal, and oil, is commonly used in the commercial sector in products such as dental bridges, golf clubs and neon signs. Beryllium was used at the NTS in a variety of test components and in mechanical parts for sensors and diagnostics during underground nuclear weapons testing. When oxides produced during the beryllium manufacturing process are inhaled, sensitivity to beryllium or chronic beryllium disease may result.

Because the B-Complex formerly hosted machining operations using a copper-beryllium alloy in support of underground nuclear testing, this case caused the NNSA/NSO to launch a voluntary medical screening program to determine whether other employees tested positive for beryllium sensitivity. Out of 450 employees voluntarily screened, 11 employees tested positive for beryllium sensitivity, raising the level of concern and causing NNSA/NSO Manager Kathy Carlson to order the relocation of employees housed in all three B buildings.

NNSA began a comprehensive investigation in August 2002 to determine the source of the beryllium exposure within the B buildings. The resulting evidence caused the investigation team to conclude that beryllium found in the B-Complex and in the A-1 Building (the site of current beryllium machining operations) was inadvertently brought into the buildings from an outside source, most likely the NTS. Although the report does not specify the exact source of origin, it hypothesizes that "the mechanism for transport and introduction into the buildings appeared to be from contaminated personal articles." The team also concluded that there was sufficient reason to believe that the individual diagnosed with chronic beryllium disease may have received the exposure while working at the NTS.

Based on the concerns raised by the NNSA investigation team, a comprehensive characterization effort was undertaken by BN from April to October 2003. More than 12,000 samples in over 350 occupied facilities were taken at the NTS and other BN locations. The sampling results were compared to the beryllium found in the

B-Complex and A-1 Building. The samples showed no indication of a tracking of beryllium from the NTS to other sites and no readings for beryllium above the established DOE standards for beryllium.

In addition to the beryllium characterization, BN also assembled a Beryllium Investigation and Accident Team to review the findings of the NNSA investigation team and to determine the origin of the "suspected" beryllium tracking and its possible source. The team conducted a comprehensive investigation and confirmed that the most likely source for the contamination in the B-Complex was from legacy hazards due to machining and fabrication operations in the B-Complex. This report along with the data found during the characterization effort confirmed that there was not an uncontrolled beryllium hazard at the NTS.

Although the origin of beryllium was resolved, the fact remained that there were very low levels of beryllium present within the B-Complex. The question: remediate and restore the buildings, or demolish them? After much consideration, NNSA decided that due to the age of the buildings, and

the excessive cost of remediation and restoration, demolition was the most prudent choice. Demolishing the buildings also offered the added advantage of leaving the beryllium without having to remove it prior to demolition. The concentration of beryllium was negligible and could be disposed of as bulk waste in a safe, compliant manner.

The demolition project involved over 100 Bechtel Nevada employees, including support from Wackenhut Services Inc., NNSA/NSO and NNSA/Headquarters. **John Fowler**, Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture, and his staff were also extremely helpful with several decommissioning issues. Thorough planning and implementation was conducted with great detail to safety and worker protection. The facilities were first characterized for potential worker hazards as well as potential impacts to the environment. The characterization revealed that the

only risks in existence were those typically associated with light industrial work.

With a plan in place, preparation work began on buildings B-1 and B-2 in early 2004. The project team declared property lost, performed OPSEC clearances, had the NNSA Real Estate Operations Permit for demolition signed and approved, removed all hazardous materials from the buildings, and re-routed utilities to ensure that

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The B-2 building prior to demolition.



Piles of rubble replace what were once buildings B-1 and B-2.

STEEL LINES

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A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family

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other buildings would continue to have utility services. The B-1 and B-2 buildings were determined "cold and dark" on July 26.

Employees located at other buildings within the North Las Vegas facility arrived one morning in August to see the buildings gone, replaced with piles of debris. Final site grading and compacting began on September 7, and the project will be completed earlier than anticipated.

"I am pleased to say that safety has been the project's most significant goal," stated **Susan Livenick**, Bechtel Nevada project manager for the B-Complex demolition. "A large multi-disciplined, inter-organizational project team has worked safely, aggressively, and cooperatively to bring this project together. All demolition work at the former B-1 and B-2 buildings is expected to be completed by the end of October, two months ahead of schedule and \$900 thousand under budget. Performance has been above the baseline from all departments."

Although buildings B-1 and B-2 are a distant memory, building B-3 will remain in place until a final decision on its disposition is made.

A look back

Privately constructed in early 1980, buildings B-1, B-2, and B-3 were connected to form the B-Complex. The first leased occupant, EG&G Energy Measurements, used the B-Complex for the pre-staging and support equipment fabrication requirements of the U.S. Department of Energy's nuclear testing program. At the time, the complex contained offices, light laboratories, a large machine shop, electrical fabrication shops, chemical etching and plating shops, and a high bay area dedicated to the assembly of instrumentation trailers used for tests at the NTS.

From 1981 through 1994, EG&G Energy Measurements General Technical Services and General Management occupied buildings B-1 and B-2, while support groups for Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories occupied B-3. B-1 and B-3 have always been a mix of offices and light industrial workspaces. Since its construction, B-2 contained general management offices and administrative personnel.

In 1994, the B-Complex was remodeled into traditional office space. The reconfiguration brought changes to all three buildings in the complex, but the first floor of B-1 saw the biggest changes. Formerly the greatest concentration of industrial areas, B-1 was gutted and new horizontal heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning ducting, new ceiling tiles, new cable trays, and electrical components were installed. The B-1 remodel was completed in 1995, where office space on the first floor was highly coveted due to partitioned walls, new carpeting, and new office furniture. The B-Complex remained a bustling hub of activity until the last offices were vacated earlier this year.

Powell named new BN president and general manager

Bechtel National, Inc. recently announced **Dr. James E. Powell** as the new president and general manager of Bechtel Nevada. Powell has acted in this capacity since July 2004 when Fred Tarantino, former president and general manager, accepted a position with Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Powell holds a doctorate and master's degree from Texas A&M University and a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from Texas Christian University.

Joining Bechtel Nevada in March 2003 as president of Lockheed Martin Nevada Technologies and deputy general manager for stockpile stewardship programs and operations.

Prior to joining BN, Powell spent 33 years at Sandia National Laboratories in several capacities. As the Simulation Technology department



photo courtesy of Bechtel Nevada

manager, he revitalized and reconstructed the above ground nuclear testing program and helped develop the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Fast Reactor Safety Program at the laboratories. Powell was appointed director of the Applied Physics Center in 1988 and was accountable for several programs, including the underground nuclear testing program. In February 1999, following a brief absence to head up a family construction business, Powell returned to Sandia as director of the Nuclear Weapons Strategic Business Unit. In this capacity, he managed the planning and deployment of a \$1.25 billion annual budget.

"I am very proud and honored to be named the new president and general manager of Bechtel Nevada. This is a very exciting and challenging company, and I am looking forward to serving as the new GM."

- **Dr. James E. Powell**

Face-to-Face



Name: Luci Fila

Company: Wackenhut Services, Inc. - Nevada

Job Title: Physical Security Specialist

Hometown: Espanola, New Mexico

Hobbies/
Interests: Sewing, arts and crafts, and spending time with my granddaughter

Face-to-Face



Name: Terri Logan Cuttaia

Company: Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture

Title: Offsites/Soils/DTRA Administration

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Hobbies/
Interests: Shopping, shoes, tanning, accessorizing, feng shui, monthly quilting club at the Villa Serena Home for the Aged, and the annual Barbie Bingo Bust-out Tournament (I am the bingo caller)

Key to Acronyms

The following acronyms appear frequently in *SiteLines*:

BEEF	Big Explosives Experimental Facility
BN	Bechtel Nevada
DAF	Device Assembly Facility
EM	Emergency Management
EM	Environmental Management
ES&H	Environment, Safety, and Health
JASPER	Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (gas gun)
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
LLNL	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
NSO	Nevada Site Office
NTS	Nevada Test Site
PIP	Process Improvement Project
RSL-A	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Andrews
RSL-N	Remote Sensing Laboratory - Nellis
SC	NNSA Service Center
SCE	Subcritical Experiment
SNJV	Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
STL	Special Technologies Laboratory
WSI-NV	Wackenhut Services Incorporated - Nevada

OCC ready to operate

by Anna Strong

"The OCC is now one of the 'showplaces' at the Nevada Test Site."

"Everyone is owed a round of applause."

"A real team effort. . ."

"A can-do attitude is evident."

These are just a few of the well-deserved comments made on August 24, 2004, during a ribbon cutting ceremony to initiate integrated operations in the newly constructed, state-of-the-art NTS Operations Coordination Center (OCC). The OCC is comprised of the Duty Manager's Office (DMO), the Site Operations Center (SOC), and in the near future, the Communications Information Center (CIC). The DMO and SOC are now conducting integrated operations in the OCC, known as "BirdDog Ops," and upon the merger of the CIC, these three entities will truly function as an integrated operations center.

BN Operations Manager **Rob Mignard** welcomed everyone to the ceremony and expressed his sincere appreciation for the support and dedication of everyone involved in the project. Guest speakers included **Jay Norman**, NNSA/NSO deputy manager for test and operations; **Mike Childers**, NNSA/NSO Operations Management Division acting director; **Denise Ashurst**, NNSA/NSO site operations coordinator; **Thomas Monk**, BN deputy manager of technical, site and emergency services; and **Rick Higgs**, LLNL resident manager.

"This is what we need for the future of maintaining readiness...congratulations!" said Norman.

The ribbon-cutting was performed by **Maureen Hunemuller**, NNSA/NSO deputy manager, and **Brian Sheridan**, BN principal deputy general manager. An open house followed the ribbon-cutting, allowing guests to view the facility. Mini briefings were held inside the OCC on the implementation of various new technologies.

The OCC operates from Mercury in the secured area of Building 600 (a.k.a. the Blue Box). The primary number for SOC remains **(702) 295-4015**, and the primary number for DMO remains **(702) 295-0311**.

Throughout this project, the NTS community and NTS leadership have proven their ability to adapt and change in support of BN's growing operations. The OCC recognizes and appreciates the support they have received during this endeavor and looks forward to a future of excellence.



photo by Mary Scodwell

Brian Sheridan, BN deputy general manager, and **Maureen Hunemuller**, NNSA/NSO deputy manager, prepare to cut the ribbon at the brand new Operations Coordination Center.



photo by Mary Scodwell

BirdDog Operations poses for a photo in their new facilities. Standing from left to right are Henry Pazos, Donna Whitehead, Denise Langendorf, Anna Strong, Ken Yurek, Rob Mignard, J.D. Daniels, David Stuhan, Barry Langendorf, and Frank Spenia. Sitting from left to right are Glenda Tepatti and Mike Horst.

Bechtel Nevada acquires U.S. Customs vans

by Angela Anderson

Work that Bechtel Nevada is performing to support NNSA Headquarters' Second Line of Defense (SLD) program was recently enhanced through the acquisition of two vans from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The SLD program attempts to reduce the risk of nuclear proliferation and terrorism through cooperative efforts with the Russian Federation and other key countries. In order to deal with the threat of illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials across Russian and other international borders, SLD combines rapid deployment of radiation detection equipment, jointly developed training modules, and an integrated communications system.

The newly acquired vans are equipped with x-ray systems and radiation detection equipment. Bechtel Nevada supports the SLD program by performing maintenance, repairs, upgrades, and operator training on approximately 32 similar vans operated in approximately 20 countries throughout Eastern Europe and Asia.



photo by Mary Scodwell

RSL-Nellis Field Support Technicians **Shawn Muehlbauer**, **Kevin Thomas** and **Terry Smith** work on one of the vans acquired from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

RSL-Nellis technicians and mechanical engineers are currently reconditioning the two vans and the installed equipment. Following completion of the work, the Special Technologies Laboratory in Santa Barbara will receive one of the vans and the other will remain at RSL-Nellis. Bechtel Nevada will use both vans to enhance the technician training program and for testing parts intended for deployment overseas.

The successful acquisition of these vans resulted from the work performed by **Michelle Miller**, SLD project manager; **Gilbert Chavez**, assistant project manager; **Gary Chilton**, Response Operations section manager; **Rebecca Detwiler**, task leader; and the field support technicians – **Wayne Bearden, Sr.**, **Bert Cochran**, **Linda Hansen**, **James Helvie**, **Jon Leander**, **Jerry Lester**, **William Leyrer**, **Shawn Muehlbauer**, **Keith Roesner**, **Terry Smith**, **Kevin Thomas**, and **William Wright**.

The efforts of **Steve Zellers**, the RSL shipping and receiving coordinator, and **Craig Mercadante**, senior property specialist, also contributed greatly to the transfer of ownership from CBP to DOE.



photo by Mary Scodwell

A few members of the acquisition team pose in front of one of the vans. From left to right are Gary Chilton, Terry Smith, Jerry Lester, Michelle Miller, Shawn Muehlbauer, and Kevin Thomas.

NEWS BRIEFS

New procedures for desert tortoise sightings

In 1988, the desert tortoise was listed as a threatened species. Since that time, scientists have tried to learn more about desert tortoises on the NTS. Biologists have studied their behavior and movements to better understand and protect this species and have asked test site employees to help in this effort. Whenever you see a desert tortoise, please take a minute and jot down some information about the tortoise, i.e. date and time of sighting, where you saw the tortoise (area, distance to closest intersection), size, and whether the tortoise had any markings. In the past, if you saw a tortoise alongside a road, you were asked to build a rock cairn to mark the location. **These cairns may pose a safety hazard so this practice will be discontinued.** Please continue to be observant of desert tortoises, particularly on roadways. Call **Kent Ostler**, BN senior scientist, at (702) 295-0393 or **Cathy Wills**, BN senior scientist, at (702) 295-0392 if you see a desert tortoise. Your assistance will help protect this threatened species.



photo courtesy of Bechtel Nevada

The desert tortoise, a threatened species, makes its home at the NTS.

Safety on NTS roads

by Tom Leonard

Roads on the NTS are prone to flash flooding and debris deposition. Pahute Mesa Road was closed in August for several days due to flash flood debris deposited on the pavement. This road is unique in that there are swing barriers available for quick action to close off the road to travel while resources are mobilized for cleanup.

Whenever a road is deemed impassable, barricades are posted and radio broadcasts are made announcing the closure. E-mail and pager alerts are also issued. The key to your safety is to obey the postings and informational announcements. Do not drive around the barricades or attempt an off-road detour. Until road repairs are completed, utilize alternate routes.

NTS Operations reminds you to stay aware of your surroundings and drive carefully.



photo courtesy of Bechtel Nevada

Pahute Mesa Road is covered with debris following a rain storm in August.



photo courtesy of Bechtel Nevada

Crews clean the road so travel may resume.

Reproduction and printing services

The C-1 and Mercury Duplicating Facilities are equipped to provide high-volume reproduction and duplicating services in color and black/white, as well as related bindery services. **Additionally, the facilities are now equipped to provide duplication of CDs and various other electronic media.** The Duplicating Facilities can also provide printing services via the U.S. Government Printing Office.

Customers may submit their reproduction jobs via electronic media (zip disks, CDs, floppy disks), hard copy, or via our new e-mail address:

Reproduction/Duplication@nv.doe.gov.

The Duplicating Facilities are dedicated to serving the reproduction, duplication, and

printing needs for Bechtel Nevada, NNSA/NSO, the national laboratories, associated contractors, and outside agencies.

Services are available from the following sites:

C-1 Duplicating Facility	Mercury Duplicating Facility	GPO Liaison
NLV, Bldg C-1	NTS, Bldg 726	NLV, Bldg C-1
702-295-0447	702-295-6448	702-295-5768
Fax: 702-295-3974	Fax: 702-295-4598	Fax: 702-295-3974
Mail Stop NLV054	Mail Stop NTS216	Mail Stop NLV054

For additional information, please contact **Mark Shaw** at (702) 295-5768 or **Fina Martínez-Myers** at (702) 295-5091.

AMSI helps bridge the technological gap

by Nick Duhe

Innovative, sophisticated monitoring systems using advanced sensors are becoming critical components in a wide range of technology-driven fields such as medicine, interstellar exploration, and environmental quality. Researchers striving to move advanced sensors to the forefront of the technological stage often find it difficult, however, to successfully negotiate through the seemingly endless maze between initial concept and applied use.

The Advanced Monitoring Systems Initiative (AMSI) program is helping bridge this gap by providing scientists the tools to actually perform and verify their research. Utilizing what could be the nation's largest laboratory, the NTS, the AMSI program is able to provide a venue for rapid prototyping, systems integration, and field testing to customers like universities, national laboratories, DOE contractors, and the private sector.



photo courtesy of Environmental Management

Weatherproof chemiresistor-sensor package that can be used in air, water, or soil.

The advanced sensors tested at the NTS are used to monitor various environmental conditions such as the presence of contaminants (both radiological and chemical), temperature, and Ph levels in the surrounding soil or water. Information gathered by the sensors is then used to generate reports, models, and in some cases produce real-time data accessed via the Internet. The AMSI program approach is especially valuable to DOE project managers who are continuously looking for ways to get updated monitoring data at a reduced cost.

Advanced sensors come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes – from six-foot cylinders to only millimeters in length. All of the sensors are considered miniaturized because their diameter allows them to be placed inside monitoring wells to collect continuous data.

For more information on AMSI, visit http://www.nv.doe.gov/news&pubs/dirpdfs/DOENV_REV1.pdf

With over 1,375 square miles of remote, arid, secure land, the NTS provides an ideal location for large scale sensor testing. The AMSI program is also able to take advantage of the NTS' extensive test and evaluation infrastructure, which is already in place.

BEYOND

THE CALL

Stoller-Navarro Association for People (SNAP) helps a worthwhile cause

by Rosemary Rehfeldt

Waking up in the morning from a cozy bed; putting on comfortable slippers and a comfy robe; brushing your teeth; putting on a pot of hot, steaming coffee before taking a nice, warm shower; maybe even popping some bread into the toaster – sound familiar? This is a routine that most of us follow each and every morning – and usually take for granted without thinking twice about it. But for the homeless, this is a far-reaching dream, most especially for homeless teenagers out there on their own. That's right – *homeless teenagers!*

Off the beaten path

They're hard to recognize. Most people don't readily *see* homeless teenagers. With no real way to pinpoint their locations, or count them, homeless teenagers are often easy to miss and, more often, ignored.

These kids are on the streets for various reasons. Over 80 percent of homeless teens in Las Vegas have been sexually and/or physically abused before making the difficult decision to run away. They don't have the option of returning to a safe home. Some children may have been kicked out because they became pregnant, or may have told their parents they were gay. Whatever the reason, each situation has pushed these children into an "at-risk" and dangerous situation; and because it's hard to tell who they are, they wander the streets alone and off the beaten path.

SNAP to the rescue

On September 1, 2004 – after collecting a small truckload of supplies generously donated by SNJV employees – SNAP volunteers took much-needed supplies to a center known as "The Sanctuary" at Street Teens. Street Teens, a non-profit, volunteer-based organization, is dedicated to helping homeless and at-risk teens. Based in Las Vegas, Street Teens works to empower homeless teens to move from a high risk "street life" to one of stable self sufficiency. The organization is funded entirely by private donations and staffed by dedicated volunteers. All donations received go directly to providing supplies and services for at risk youth between the ages of 12 and 21.

The SNJV team supplied the teens with backpacks, school supplies, personal-hygiene products, clothing, food, bottled water, phone cards, and much more. In addition, gift certificates were given for Supercuts, McDonalds, the Boulevard Mall, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Target.

The center is consistently in need of donations for the teens. Some suggested donations include: prepaid phone cards; sunscreen; Chapstick®; canned foods with pop top lids; personal-hygiene products such as roll-on deodorant, shampoo and conditioner; lotions, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and nail clippers. Paper goods such as napkins, paper towels, disposable plates, cups and utensils, are always needed and appreciated.



photo by Rosemary Rehfeldt

Renee Jaszczak, SNJV employee and SNAP volunteer, loads up donations for Street Teens.

Hope on the horizon

The Street Teens' drop-in center is open four hours a day, seven days a week, every single day of the year. **Lisa Preston**, the Street Teens program director, is the only paid employee. Her dedication to the teens involves more than paperwork, coordinating volunteers and writing grant proposals. Preston truly cares about these kids. And it shows, not only in the drawings and notes of thanks from the kids that are posted on her walls, but also from the kindness in her eyes.

"Kids can come to the center and get something to eat, take a shower, or rest," said Preston. "We try to provide them with basic needs such as being able to brush their teeth or having clean clothes to wear. The teens can come here and do their laundry, look for a job, talk to caring adults, and basically just relax without worrying that someone is going to hurt them."

Preston went on to say, "our primary goal is to meet the survival needs of the teens by providing basic necessities in a safe, compassionate environment. We are able to provide access to educational, health care, and employment resource services through our drop-in center and by actively collaborating with community partners."

The center is not a shelter where the teens can sleep. Before they leave for the night, they are sent away with bus tokens, phone cards, fast food gift certificates, or an array of other basic needs they may have. Since opening their doors in October 2001, Street Teens has helped over 600 youths; and has even helped some teens start new, more productive lives. Several kids have taken and passed the GED and some are now working. One young woman is currently enrolled at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on Nevada's Millennium Scholarship and is planning on going to law school after graduation. Another recently joined the military and reported back that she's doing well, and yet another young man was happily reunited with his long-lost father.

For more information on Street Teens, you can visit their Web site at www.streetteens.org, or call (702) 215-4171 to find out more about making a donation or volunteering. To paraphrase a famous astronaut – each person's effort may be a small step, but for homeless teens, the generous donations of gifts and time are a giant leap – hopefully into a successful future for each child.

Bechtel Nevada wins Aviation Safety Award

Bechtel Nevada was recently awarded the DOE Aviation Safety Award. The award is in recognition of accident-free flying while maintaining an exceptional dispatch reliability rate for the DOE Aviation Program. The award was accepted by BN Aviation Section Manager, **J. Tony Shoemaker**, at the DOE Aviation Conference in July.

Congratulations!



Face-to-Face



Name: Sean Crawford

Company: Bechtel Nevada

Job Title: Senior Operations Specialist

Hometown: Elko, Nevada

Hobbies/

Interests: Web design, roller hockey, football referee, billiards, and conservative talk shows

This feature highlights various components of the Six Sigma process at the NNSA/NSO complex. A monthly article will detail the Six Sigma process, individual PIPs, the team members associated with Six Sigma, or the anticipated benefits and cost savings associated with implementing the PIPs.

Black Belts reintegrate

Three BN Black Belts completed their assignments in Six Sigma and reintegrated into new organizations during the summer of 2004. **Amy Moore** has joined Prime Contracts, **Lorraine Marshall** has joined Human Resources, and **Jan Renfro** has joined Stockpile Stewardship.

Black Belts are required to complete an intense training program over six months and then work full time supporting Six Sigma for no less than two years. In return for that commitment and their ability to meet ambitious and stringent performance expectations, they are reintegrated into leadership positions in the BN line organizations. There they are expected to use their process improvement expertise as Champions in their new roles.

"The Black Belt program provided me outstanding opportunities to contribute to BN," said Renfro.

Amy Moore gained an improved appreciation of the complex scope of work that BN performs. "My exposure to the senior leadership of this company has provided valuable insight into management's roles and expectations," she said.

Lorraine Marshall will miss working in the Six Sigma organization, but is "enthusiastic about the new opportunities that my new assignment will provide."

Brian Sheridan, BN principal deputy general manager, shared his perspective of the reintegration process: "The experience that a Black Belt gains in managing and improving processes is a terrific asset for BN and for our customers," he said. "Both the reintegrating Black Belts and their new organizations will benefit from these assignments."

BN employees who are interested in trading their comfort zone, peace of mind, and quality of life for two plus years of challenges with the possible reward of a great reintegration assignment should e-mail BNSixSigma@nv.doe.gov to discuss opportunities.

Congratulations to Jan, Amy and Lorraine!



photo by Bob Noto

BN Principal Deputy General Manager **Brian Sheridan** congratulates reintegrating Black Belts (from left to right) **Amy Moore**, **Lorraine Marshall** and **Jan Renfro**.

Partnering for Education

WSI goes back to school

by Sheril Hamlin

The peaceful days of summer have come to an end, and it's time once again to settle into those hectic schedules with which we are all so familiar. There is shopping for school clothes and supplies for the kids, not to mention encouraging them to get into the right frame of mind so they can achieve their best. With so much going on in our lives, it is easy to forget that many children do not have the luxury of buying school supplies necessary for productive students.

WSI believes every student should have the opportunity to reach their maximum potential. The company holds an annual back-to-school supply drive for Quannah McCall Elementary School, its Focus School partner. This year, employees donated boxes and boxes of school supplies for the children to ensure no child goes without the tools necessary for a well-rounded education.

Based on reactions from some of the children receiving school supplies, it was evident that the children, parents and faculty at Quannah McCall appreciate the assistance provided.



photo courtesy of Sheril Hamlin

Quannah McCall Principal **John Villarreal**, **Sheril Hamlin**, WSI, and Quannah McCall Counselor **Zola Sloop** present donated school supplies to some of the students.



photo by La Tomya Glass

Students at **Jim Bridger Middle School** pick out a few supplies from those donated by **Bechtel Nevada** employees during the annual back-to-school supply drive. The middle school is one of **Bechtel Nevada's** Focus Schools.



...To your health...

West Nile Virus: Fight the bite!

by La Tomya Glass



West Nile Virus (WNV) is a potentially serious illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has established WNV as a seasonal epidemic in North America that flares up in the summer and continues into the fall. As of mid-September, the state of Nevada has reported 30 cases of WNV.

Most often, WNV is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes are WNV carriers that become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread WNV to humans and other animals when they bite.

Typically, WNV symptoms develop between three and 14 days after a bite from an infected mosquito and generally last three to six days. There is no specific treatment for a WNV infection. People recently vaccinated for yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis and dengue may have a positive WNV serum test.

The following are symptoms of the virus:

Serious Symptoms in a Few People. About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The severe symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.

Milder Symptoms in Some People. Up to 20 percent of the people who become infected will display symptoms which can include fever, headache and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for as short as a few days, though even healthy people have been sick for several weeks.

No Symptoms in Most People. Approximately 80 percent of people (about 4 out of 5) who are infected with WNV will not show any symptoms.

People over the age of 50 are more likely to develop serious symptoms of WNV if they do get sick and should take special care to avoid mosquito bites.

When dealing with WNV, prevention is the best bet. According to the CDC, fighting mosquito bites reduces the risk of getting this disease, along with any others that mosquitoes may carry.

The following are suggestions for reducing risk:

When outdoors, use insect repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) and follow the directions on the package. **Karen Sondrol-Maxwell**, Bechtel Nevada occupational health nurse, notes the concentration of DEET varies among repellants. "Make sure you buy a repellent with 30-35 percent DEET concentration because this concentration is quite effective and should last 4 hours," she said.

Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours. Light-colored clothing can help you see mosquitoes that land on your body.

Ensure that screens are in good condition on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out.

Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools empty and turn them upside down when not in use.

Avoid bites and illness by cleaning out the mosquitoes from places of work and play. If a dead bird is found, do not handle the body with bare hands. Contact the local health department for instructions on reporting and disposing of the body.

For further information about WNV, visit the CDC Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

If you have questions, contact **Karen Sondrol-Maxwell** at (702) 295-1474.

Five Common Myths about West Nile Virus

Myth #1: There is not much I can do about West Nile Virus.

Truth: There is a lot that you, personally, can do to reduce your chance of West Nile Virus infection.

Reduce the number of mosquito bites you get. Make a habit of using insect repellent with DEET when outdoors. Spray repellent on exposed skin and clothing. Get details about safe repellent use.

Prime mosquito-biting hours are dusk to dawn. Pay special attention to protection during these hours, or avoid being outdoors.

You can reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home. Mosquitoes breed in standing water, so check your yard once a week: get rid of containers that are not being used, empty water from flower pots, change water in bird baths and maintain clean gutters.

Make sure window and door screens are in good condition. Have an older neighbor or family member? See if they need help installing or repairing screens.

Myth #2: Kids are at the most danger of getting sick from West Nile Virus.

Truth: People over 50 are at the highest risk for developing severe West Nile Virus.

Relatively few children have been reported with severe West Nile Virus. By contrast, most of the deaths due to WNV during 2002 were among people over 50 years old. Half of those deaths were among people over 77 years old.

It is always a good idea for children to avoid mosquito bites, but it is also important for adults - especially older adults - to take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

Myth #3: It is only people who are already in poor health who have to worry about West Nile Virus.

Truth: Healthy, active older adults who spend time working and exercising outdoors have been affected by severe West Nile Virus infection.

Being over 50 is a risk factor for developing severe West Nile disease if infected with the virus. There is a risk of getting mosquito bites while leading an active life outdoors. This does not mean you have to stay inside - it does mean that it is important to use repellent when you go outside.

Myth #4: Repellents containing DEET are not safe.

Truth: Repellents containing DEET are very safe when used according to directions.

Because DEET is so widely used, a great deal of testing has been done. When manufacturers seek registration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for products such as DEET, laboratory testing regarding both short-term and long-term health effects must be carried out.

There are products with different strengths (percentage of DEET) available. The longer the protection you need, the higher percent of DEET needed.

Repellent with DEET can be used for both adults and children, according to directions.

Myth #5: As long as my area has a mosquito control program, I do not have to worry about using repellent.

Truth: Mosquito control activities do not eliminate every mosquito so personal protection is still important.

Public activities, such as using products to kill mosquito larvae and adult mosquitoes, are one part of control. Personal protection, such as using repellent, keeping window screens in good condition, and control of household breeding sites are other important steps.

Collaboration between the community, the family and the individual is needed to achieve the best prevention of West Nile Virus infection.

In the next issue of *SiteLines*:

- Holiday messages
- WIPP shipments resume
- Staying healthy during the holidays

BN implements a unique electrical safety program

by Kurt Arnold

Developing and implementing an effective safety program is a monumental undertaking, but **Ed Laner**, principal engineer with Bechtel Nevada, accepted the challenge.

According to Laner, the Electrical Safety Program he created is specifically designed for Bechtel Nevada's electrical work environments and is compliant with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Electrical Code, U.S. Department of Energy, and Bechtel Corporate standards.

The Electrical Safety Program was created by incorporating components of other successful electrical programs to form a unique, tailored program. Due to Bechtel Nevada's diverse work tasks and multiple work locations, the program addresses an immense range of electrical activities including electronics, equipment approvals, excavation/penetration, Lockout/Tagout, and research and development work. As the program evolves, new components are integrated to form an encompassing electrical safety program.

"An empowered organization is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success."
- **Stephen R. Covey**

One of the unique aspects of the program is its oversight by a Senior Electrical Review Board (SERB). The board members, employee representatives from Bechtel Nevada, NNSA/NSO, and LANL, review recent electrical events and incident reports, and continually re-evaluate and recommend improvements for the program.

Recently, the SERB adopted National Fire Protection Association 70E arc-flash hazard and clothing requirements to protect electrical workers. As a result of the SERB actions, standard arc-resistant clothing and face shields are now provided to electrical workers to protect them from arc-flashes.

When asked about employees' feedback regarding the Electrical Safety Program,

SERB members noted that management has made greater efforts to encourage questions, respond to feedback, include craft participation in revising electrical safety procedures, and support "stop work" when the work situation is questionable.

Current SERB members include **Rhyan Andrews** (contractor assurance), **Don Bourcier** (LANL liaison), **Larry Eystad** (construction), **James Faglier** (utilities), **Carl Fleming** (NLV maintenance), **Tim Herting** (NTS maintenance), **Dewayne Jenkins** (lineman), **Mike Jones** (infrastructure planning), **Ed Laner** (chair), **Al Moeller** (experimentation support), **Jerry Owens** (contractor assurance), **Tony Renk** (safety and industrial health), **Glenn Schaefer** (safety and industrial health), **Mike Schnars** (training), **Lou Tharin** (utilities), **Mike Torikian** (engineering), and **Clark Weaver** (NNSA/NSO liaison).

An evaluation of the Lockout/Tagout (LO/TO) process has led to significant improvements. A rewritten LO/TO directive is now in alignment with Bechtel core process and standard work process procedures. A tagging authority process is in effect that independently reviews and approves all LO/TO work, and a challenging written test

with a practical exercise helps reinforce the correct steps for LO/TO.

"Over the last three years, Bechtel Nevada's Electrical Safety Program continues to improve," said **Ken Hoar**, Environment, Safety, and Health, NNSA/NSO. "Bechtel Nevada has a big challenge due to the enormous complexities of developing world-class detection/diagnostic instruments to managing an electrical infrastructure ranging from high-voltage transmission lines, sub-stations, transformers, to electrical tools. A work force of approximately 500 electrical workers ranging from electricians to scientists adds additional complications in managing National Security work. NNSA/NSO believes Bechtel Nevada can reach zero electrical incidents, but it will take the commitment from management, craft employees, and scientists to reach this goal."

LESSONS LEARNED

Innovations achieved in construction activities at the NTS

by Doris Burnett

Laboratory and contractor personnel's establishment of a collaborative review process after the completion of subcritical experiments has resulted in cost savings and safety improvements for these events. One innovative change made to the *Armando* experiment was the replacement of ladders with catwalks to improve worker safety.

The underground location at the NTS where the experiments were conducted had a ventilation line over the middle of the area, and a ladder was necessary to access experiment setup activity. This was not only a safety issue but a time-consuming way of accessing the ventilation line.

Experiment setup safety concerns from previous experiments, such as climbing ladders and working in awkward positions, were solved by building a catwalk for *Armando*. Catwalk handrails improved worker safety and eliminated the risks involved in working off a ladder. The ventilation line was offset to the side of the experiment rather than down the middle for easier access. This offset reduced the risks of having

tools and equipment falling onto experiment setups.

The use of catwalks is just one example of a lessons learned captured by the project teams for subcritical experiments. It is a very timely solution to a serious hazard that all sites encounter on a daily basis. Recently, a fatality occurred as an employee of a private company fell from a portable ladder while performing work to dismantle and move mobile office sections from the Hanford site. Employees and supervisors should review the two corresponding Bechtel Nevada Directives, Ladder Safety, CD-0444.065, and Fall Prevention/Protection, M-A11.061, to mitigate any ladder and/or fall hazards at this site.

For more information on this and other Lessons Learned, contact **Doris Burnett** at (702) 295-5580.

In Memory

Robert Carter – former contractor employee
Richard Kingery – former contractor employee
Jerome Pollock – former contractor employee
Olive Preston – former contractor employee
Doris Reith-Kreyer – former contractor employee
Glenn Yukihiro – former contractor employee

Retirements

Jadin Allmen – NNSA Service Center
Charles Baird – NNSA Service Center
David Givens – NNSA Service Center
Annette Hill – NNSA Service Center
Grover Lewis – NNSA Service Center
Cheng-Huei Lin – Bechtel Nevada
Deborah Manning – NNSA Service Center
Sharon Mulhall – Bechtel Nevada
Veomia Oso – NNSA Service Center
Janice Rainey – NNSA Service Center
Richard Schiltz – Bechtel Nevada
Ann Soares – Bechtel Nevada
Don Wrathall – NNSA Service Center

MILESTONES

Bechtel Nevada

- 40 years *Las Vegas* – Gayle Stastny
- 35 years *Las Vegas* – Mary Blake, Ronna Hoesch, Lawrence Trautner; *Nevada Test Site* – George Van Houten; *Special Technologies Laboratory* – Maryann Schaack
- 30 years *Las Vegas* – Delia Gomez, Richard Ivy, Lee Ziegler
- 25 years *Las Vegas* – Angela McCurdy, Alice Shillock; *Nevada Test Site* – B. Ann Sexton, Roger Wolfley; *Special Technologies Laboratory* – Vernon Hall, Michael Martinez
- 20 years *Las Vegas* – Lahoma Castellanos, Charlene Evans, Michael Frehner, Arthur Goldberger, Michael Izard, Terri Marotta, Frederick Muchow, Bonnie Spencer; *Nevada Test Site* – Rick Leonard, Donna Whitehead; *Los Alamos Operations* – Kenneth Sena
- 15 years *Las Vegas* – Carrie Brugger, William Colucci, Roger Flanagan, Richard Hansen, Alfred Karns, Rick Rieckmann, Randy Summers; *Nevada Test Site* – Morris Clark, Jamie Hawkins, David Lipkowitz; *Special Technologies Laboratory* – Jay Chotirmal, Leslie Drake, Eric Larson, Jerry Sherrod
- 10 years *Las Vegas* – Richard Tighe; *Nevada Test Site* – Stephen Bunker, Rhonda Foss, Patrice Sanchez
- 5 years *Las Vegas* – Gail Anderson, Russel Brill, Greg DeVault, Barbara Deck, Christopher Engebretsen, Mark Froehlich, Michael Gibo, Shannon Hatcher, Carolyn Lima, Robert McCook, Colleen Morris, Robert Noto, Sandra Owens, Jade Siddoway, Ralph Somers, Gary Sterling, Terry Wade, Randall Whitt; *Nevada Test Site* – James Allen, James Brown, Roger Clark, Ashley Cushman, Brent Egbert, Paul Greenbaum, Mark McMahon, Patrick Morris, Lisa Ortowski, Fred Pedersen, Eleno Ramos, Robert Schramm, Ingrid Siddoway; *Livermore Operations* – Kathleen Garcia
- New Hires *Las Vegas* – Angelica Carrillo, John Chapman, Jennifer Hildalgo, Kenneth McGuffey, Jr., Janice Johnson, Elizabeth Miley, David Mueller, Christopher Neuber, Jamie Scott, Matthew Trembley; *Nevada Test Site* – Theresa Alexander, Allen Allshouse, Robert Baumert, Harold Cooper, Jr., Kenneth Crow, Paul Fletcher, Michael Garry, Michael Giacomini, Lisa Goodfellow, Michael Millard, Sonja Spears, Marie Steele, Gregory Vincent; *Los Alamos Operations* – Caroline Garcia; *Special Technologies Laboratory* – Linda Chandos, Yasashi Ono

National Nuclear Security Administration - Nevada Site Office

- 35 years **Charles Baird**
- 25 years **William Shipley**
- 20 years **Roger Thompson, Jr.**
- 15 years **Christine Baker, Angela Colarusso, James Low**

10 years **Robert Bangerter, Jr., Dirk Schmidhofer**

ARL/SORD

30 years **Barbara Pierce**

20 years **Jim Sanders**

10 years **Ray Dennis**

Desert Research Institute

20 years **Lycia Ronchetti**

15 years **Robert Keislar, Kelly Redmond, Barbara Zielinska**

5 years **Scott Campbell, Mark McDaniel, Martha McRae, Melanie Scott, James Thomas**

Environmental Protection Agency/R&IE

25 years **Max Davis**

20 years **Roger Shura**

Los Alamos National Laboratory

30 years **Fred Homuth**

15 years **F. Ross Oblad**

Sandia National Laboratories

35 years **Michael Burke**

Team CNSI

10 years **Peter Wilson**

Wackenhut Services Incorporated - Nevada

20 years *Nevada Test Site* – Richard Gomez, Aaron Kramer, Jeffrey Monty, Aniah Randolph, Barton Roberts

15 years *Nevada Test Site* – Mark Hojnacke

5 years *Nevada Test Site* – Terrance Fagan, William Gomer, Gabrielle Lang, Phillip Mertz, John Ross, Terry Scobee, Ralph Vickrey

— Compiled by Kirsten Kellogg

Face-to-Face



Name: Cindy Fishbourne
Company: Team CNSI
Job Title: Configuration Manager
Hometown: Henderson, Nevada
Hobbies/
Interests: Girl scouting, reading romance novels, and scrap booking

Face-to-Face



Name: Sharon Hejazi
Company: NNSA Nevada Site Office
Job Title: Assistant Chief Counsel
Hometown: Fairfield, Connecticut
Hobbies/
Interests: Composing music, creative writing, sewing, and nutrition and herbal research

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 9

Bechtel Nevada Annual Corporate Picnic. Event begins at 11:00 a.m. Scandia Family Fun Center, 2900 Sirius Avenue, Las Vegas. For ticket information, contact **Phil Monette, BN (702) 295-9615**.

October 11

NNSA/NSO offices closed in observance of Columbus Day.

October 12

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Building 6, Conference Room A, Cheyenne Facility. Contact **Tonja Patton, BN (702) 295-2621**.

October 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**.

October 21

Project Management Institute monthly membership meeting. Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Palace Station Hotel and Casino, 2411 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas. Contact **Peter Fiala**, VP of Membership, at peterf@fialapr.com. For additional information, visit <http://www.pmi-snc.org>

October 26

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Building C-1, Room 6610, North Las Vegas Facility. Contact **Tonja Patton, BN (702) 295-2621**.

November 9

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Building 6, Conference Room A, Cheyenne Facility. Contact **Tonja Patton, BN (702) 295-2621**.

November 10

Community Advisory Board (CAB) for Nevada Test Site Programs public meeting. Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. Beatty Community Center, 100 A Avenue South, Beatty, Nevada. Contact **Kelly Kozeliski, NNSA/NSO (702) 295-2836**.

November 11

NNSA/NSO and contractor offices closed in observance of Veteran's Day.

November 18

Project Management Institute monthly membership meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Palace Station Hotel and Casino, 2411 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas. Contact **Peter Fiala**, VP of Membership, at peterf@fialapr.com. For additional information, visit <http://www.pmi-snc.org>

November 23

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 23

Energizers Toastmasters club meeting. Meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Building C-1, Room 6610, North Las Vegas Facility. Contact **Tonja Patton, BN (702) 295-2621**.

November 25

NNSA/NSO and contractor offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday.

December 9

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 24

NNSA/NSO and contractor offices closed in observance of Christmas holiday.

December 31

NNSA/NSO and contractor offices closed in observance of New Year's holiday.

Declassified Film Showings

For information on declassified film showings at NTS CP-1, call **(702) 295-4015**. For information on declassified film showings at NTS Yucca Mountain, contact **Rod Rodriguez (702) 295-5825**.

Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, and Trade Shows**October 20-23**

2004 Civil Engineering Conference and Exposition. Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland. For additional information, visit www.asce.org/conferences/annual04/

November 5-11

International Association of Emergency Managers 2004 Annual Meeting. Adams Mark, Dallas, Texas. For additional information, visit www.iaem.com/index.php

October is:

**National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
National Disability Employment Awareness Month
National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

November is:

**National American Indian Heritage Month
Aviation History Month**

**SITELINES**

Bechtel Nevada
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Kathleen A. Carlson, Manager, NNSA/Nevada Site Office.

Darwin J. Morgan, Director, Office of Public Affairs.

Submit articles or ideas to the editor at M/S CF003,

kellok@nv.doe.gov, or 702-295-1821.

Editor:

Kirsten Kellogg
Bechtel Nevada

Layout and graphics:

Jennifer Morton
Bechtel Nevada

Contributors:

Angela Anderson
Kurt Arnold
Doris Burnett
Nick Duhe
La Tomya Glass
Sheril Hamlin
Kirsten Kellogg
Tom Leonard
Fina Martinez-Myers
Michelle Meade
Darwin Morgan
Jennifer Morton

Contributors:

Kent Ostler
Rosemary Rehfeldt
Karen Sondrol-Maxwell
Anna Strong
Nancy Tufano

