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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office



August/September 2007 - Issue 127

A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family

New Test Site is an evolving process

NSTec continues to work on a change plan for the *New Test Site* to support, enhance, and implement the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) vision of Complex Transformation (formerly Complex 2030).

"The objective is to achieve a holistic, innovative, and more efficient management and operation of the NTS," explains **Jim Holt**, NSTec's Director of Defense Experimentation and Stockpile Stewardship.

The plan will be implemented through a series of mini-transformations that will modify the current operation and more structure toward configuration of the *New Test Site*. As a result of cost-saving initiatives, some of these transformations have already begun. Others are proposed. [Read full story >](#)

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- [CEF Mission moves to the NTS](#)
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- [Younger and other experts assess the threat of nuclear terrorism](#)

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 Gerald L. Talbot, Jr., Manager, NNSA/Nevada Site Office
 Darwin J. Morgan, Director, Office of Public Affairs
 Submit articles or ideas to the editor at M/S NSF119, restivnm@nv.doe.gov, or (702)

295-7045

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Milestones

Milestones

Desert Research Institute

35 years

John Bowen

25 years

John Watson

20 years

Clay Cooper, William Coulombe, Barbara Hinsvark, Arlen Huggins, Darko Koracin, Dorothy Miller, Steve Mizell, Karl Pohlmann, Lyle Pritchett

15 years

William Arnott, Stephen Batie, Russell Cullison, Susan Edwards, John Gardner, Saxon Sharpe, Walter Shingles

10 years

Thomas Bullard, Dawn Coots, Ahmed Hassan, Barbara Jackson, Hampden Kuhns, Eric McDonald, Morien Roberts, Barbara Talkington

Los Alamos National Laboratory

25 years

Gerald Schotik

10 years

Douglas Weaver

5 years

Donald Bourcier, Nathanael Farnham, Morgan LaVelle, Edmond Shivers, Scott Traeger

National Nuclear Security Administration

30 years

Michael Marelli, Darrel McPherson

25 years

Victoria Niemann, Kevin Thornton

20 years

James Blodgett, Robert Friedrichs, Bobby Golden, Sharon Hejazi, Ricky Honaker, Bruce Hurley, John Mallin, Edwin Martinez, Monica Sanchez

15 years

Linda Cohn, Timothy Cooper, Cheryl Landholm, John-Paul Martinez, Peter Munding, Colleen O'Laughlin

10 years

Eric Amarescu, Xavier Aponte

5 years

Denise Ashurst, Raeford Phifer Jr

National Security Technologies, LLC**40 years**

Michael Lukens, Raymond O'Connor

35 years

Emeldia Washington

30 years

Gene Capelle, Raymond Eichholz, Martin Gonska, Jose Gonzales, Ronald Gross, Henry Jackson, Crestle Watson

25 years

Barbara Berry, Lilia Dumlao, Gary Hanson, Kathy Lombardo, Jane Pete, Karen Theuer, Kenneth Whalum, Mark Williams, Patricia Williams, Maceo Woolard, Karen Worth

20 years

Duane Gardner, Bahman Maccabee

15 years

Brian Allen, Tamara Christian-Sheddy, Gregory Shott, Louis Tharin, Tracy Whiteside, Thomas Williamson

10 years

Cindy Brown, Karen Caneva, Jerry Daniels, Edwin Doak, Mary Drake, Charles Finch, Anthony Garcia, Jason Jenkins, Gregory Lare, James Lawler, Alberta Patterson, Richard Schmidt, William Swena

5 years

Joseph Archer, Gregory Barstow, Wayne Bearden, David Beck, Brian Berg, Albert Bernard III, Michael Berninger, John Boufford, Gordon Canning, Warren Canning, Frank Cork, Joseph Cummings, David D'Anna, Ernest Davidson, Matthew DeRose, Terri Dionizio, Terry DuBry, Dion Gettrost, Stephen Gibson, Shaun Hampton, Philip Harpster, Keith Hogge, Michael Jenkins, Kerry Kackman, Richard Klitzing, Charles Lingenfelter, Dale McCannon, Kevin McGillivray, Michael McKinnon, Jeffrey Morrison, Christopher Naffziger, Dolores Nizich, Jerry Owens, James Russell, Christopher Schultz, Galyn Schumacher, Joshua Schwarz, Jerome

Shakal, Teresa Shaw, Cheryl Shoemaker, Thomas Smith, Pamela Soper, Kari Stringfellow, Joann Thomas, Richard Ward, Johnson Watts, Kristopher Work, Ming Wu, Yuping You, Kenneth Zubka

Ruchman and Associates, Inc.

10 years

Michael Brown

5 years

David Werner

Sandia National Laboratories

5 years

James Jones

Team CNSI

20 years

Earlena Giddings-Hill

WSI

15 years

Trudy Rocha

5 years

John P. Hazuka

Retirees

Ronald Chaney, Richard Sam Day, Ronald Hansen, Charles Meyer, Charles Schaefer, Don Walker

In Memory

Charles T. Brock, Max Carns, Laura Hong, Edward Y. Kitazaki, John B. McEntire, Charles A. Mills, Fred Root, George S. Ryndak, Preecha Sempolkrung, Jerry R. Thompson

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

Project demands answer to: What happened at Pluto?

With the success of the Super Kukla decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) under its belt, the Nevada Site Office's Environmental Management Program is preparing to take on the D&D of the Pluto Disassembly Facility. Leading the effort is the Stoller-Navarro Joint Venture Industrial Sites Project, who had to first determine what happened at Pluto before moving forward.

The Pluto Disassembly Facility was part of Project Pluto, which started in 1957 to apply heat from nuclear reactors to ramjet engines. The principle behind the ramjet is to draw in air in the front under great pressure, heat the air to expand it, and exhaust it out the back to provide thrust. One project goal was to use the nuclear ramjet engine in a supersonic low-altitude missile capable of operating over an extended range and time. The nuclear reactors for the Pluto Project would have to be small enough to fly, yet durable enough to survive trips thousands of miles to potential targets. The reactors also had to withstand temperatures of 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit. The 500-megawatt reactor designed for Project Pluto came to be called "Tory," and contained 500,000 pencil-shaped fuel elements.

To test the Tory reactor, six miles of roads and two miles of fully automated railroad were constructed at Jackass Flats on the Nevada Test Site. The critical assembly building, the control building, the disassembly facility, and support utilities were also constructed for testing. A two-mile railroad would move the highly radioactive reactor back and forth between the disassembly building and its static test stand. The disassembly facility was used for remote disassembly and inspection of the ramjet reactors after testing events.

On May 14, 1961, Tory II-A, the world's first nuclear ramjet engine, was tested for a few seconds on a rail car. The Tory II-A would be tested a total of four times. Three years after the first Tory II-A test, the Tory II-C was tested. A week later, it ran at full power for five



The Pluto Disassembly Facility will be investigated in Corrective Action Unit 117.

Interesting Facts

It required 25 miles of oil well casing pipe to store the million pounds of pressurized air required to simulate ramjet flight conditions for Pluto.

Operations in the Pluto Disassembly Facility were viewed through six-foot-thick windows containing leaded glass panes immersed in oil. These windows provided the same shielding capability as the building's concrete walls.

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minutes, producing 35,000 pounds of thrust.

Despite this success, several concerns clouded the project. Before a nuclear ramjet reached its target, it would deafen, flatten, and irradiate everything along its path. Additionally the Air Force had already begun using alternative methods capable of completing the missions planned for the nuclear ramjet. On July 1, 1964, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Air Force cancelled Project Pluto.

Currently, the Industrial Sites Project is finalizing the Streamlined Approach for Environmental Restoration (SAFER) plan for Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 117, the Pluto Disassembly Facility. Field efforts will likely begin in the spring of 2008 to address any environmental concerns, and to prepare the facility for future demolition. Unlike the Super Kukla effort—which included demolition of the support buildings and entombment (filling with grout) of the reactor building—the present work scope for CAU 117 only includes decontamination and decommissioning. However, several lessons learned at Super Kukla will be implemented at Pluto.

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Face-to-Face

U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

Face-to-Face

Name: Holly Dale
Company: Stoller Navarro Joint Venture
Title: Network Administrator
Hometown: Las Vegas, Nev.
Hobbies: Skiing, figure skating, roller skating, camping, hiking, listening to music, and working with computers.



Holly has more than 10 years of work history in the Information Technology field and five-plus years experience with the National Nuclear Security Administration. She is currently working toward a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Security, as well as certifications as a Systems Engineer, Microsoft Professional + Internet, Novell Administrator, and A+. Her most significant contribution to the company is bringing more cyber security awareness to the group. In about 10 to 15 years she would like to be doing more cyber security research, possibly working for a university. Something about Holly no one would know is that she reads technical computer manuals and computer books in her spare time for fun.

Name: Earlena Giddings
Company: Client Network Services Inc. (CNSI)
Title: Senior Business Analyst
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Hobbies: Reading, writing, and scrap booking.



Earlena believes her most significant contribution to the company is her commitment to consistently deliver quality services by assessing and meeting customers' information technology (IT) needs. Something she has learned that makes her better at what she does is listening, which she considers an essential communication skill. By seeking a better understanding and seeing things from the customer perspective, Earlena can set realistic expectations to address issues or solve IT challenges. If she could have any job, Earlena would teach and develop youth. Most people wouldn't know that Earlena would love to write a children's book.

Name: Mark O. Herrin
Company: WSI-Nevada
Title: Training Captain
Hometown: Columbus, Indiana



Hobbies: NASCAR and football —“Go Colts!”



Mark believes his most significant contribution to the company is training police officers to standard. Something he has learned that makes him better at what he does today is to be a more qualified instructor. If he could have any job, Mark would own his own business because he likes being the boss. Most people wouldn't know that Mark strongly believes that family is the most important thing in the world.

Name: Dolores Nizich, Certified Safety Professional

Company: National Security Technologies

Title: Senior Scientist

Hometown: El Paso, Texas

Hobbies: Hiking, interior design, and reading.



Dolores believes her most significant contribution to the company is the variety of technical skills she possesses. She is adept at thinking “outside the box” to find solutions to issues. Something Dolores has learned that makes her better at her job is to always ask if there is a more efficient way to do a particular task. If she could have any job she wanted, Dolores would be a foster grandparent to disadvantaged children. Most people wouldn't know that Dolores previously had her own cosmetic company. This company sponsored a beauty pageant scholarship program for young Hispanic women, which provided funds to help contestants further their education. The first-place winner then went on to win several pageant titles and also competed in the 2006 Miss America Pageant, held in Las Vegas.

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September 3

Federal and contractor offices closed for Labor Day.

September 12

The Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs (CAB) will hold its bi-monthly full board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2007, at 5 p.m. The meeting takes place in Las Vegas at 7710 W. Cheyenne Avenue, Suite 130. The agenda includes an update on the Transuranic Waste Sub-Project, approval of FY2008 Committee Work Plans, and chair and vice-chair elections. For additional information, contact **Rosemary Rehfeldt** at (702) 657-9088, or via e-mail at ntscab@nv.doe.gov.

November 20

NTS Public Tour that includes Sedan Crater, Icecap and T-1 Training Area, Bilby Crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, and Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, NSTec**, at (702) 295-0944. Tours are booked on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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To Your Health

Immunizations are an essential step for health and wellness

Now that school is in session and the flu season is pending, it's especially important to increase awareness about immunizations across the life span, from infants to the elderly.

Why are immunizations important?

Immunization is one of the most significant public health achievements of the 20th century. Vaccines have eradicated smallpox, eliminated wild poliovirus in the United States, and vastly reduced the number of cases of measles, diphtheria, and other diseases. But despite these efforts, tens of thousands of Americans still die from these and other vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines offer safe and effective protection from infectious diseases. By staying up-to-date on the recommended vaccines, individuals can protect themselves, their families, and friends from serious, life-threatening infections.

Who should be immunized?

Getting immunized is a lifelong, life-protecting community effort regardless of age, sex, race, ethnic background, or country of origin. Recommended vaccinations begin soon after birth and continue throughout a person's lifetime.

When are immunizations given?

Because children are particularly vulnerable to infection, most vaccines are given during the first five to six years of life. Many adults also may need these immunizations, as they may not have received the required vaccines in childhood. Doctors recommend that individuals work with their doctor to find out what vaccines are necessary and available.

Other immunizations are recommended during adolescent or adult years and, for certain vaccines, booster immunization are recommended throughout life. Doctors recommend vaccines against certain diseases that may be encountered when traveling outside of the United States to specific world regions. For more information, go to <http://www.immunizationinfo.org>.

If you have any questions regarding immunizations, please contact the registered nurses through the NSTec Occupational Medicine Department. **Karen Sondrol-Maxwell** is available in North Las Vegas at (702) 295-1474; **Nancy Newell** is located at the Nevada Test Site at (702) 295-4736.

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Acronyms

Acronyms

The following acronyms appear frequently in *SiteLines*:

BEEF	Big Explosives Experimental Facility
CTOS	Counter Terrorism Operations Support
DAF	Device Assembly Facility
DOE	Department of Energy
EM	Emergency Management
EM	Environmental Management
ES&H	Environment, Safety, and Health
FRMAC	Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center
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
NSTec	National Security Technologies, LLC
NTS	Nevada Test Site
PIP	Process Improvement Project
R-MAD	Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly Facility
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 Inc. - Nevada

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 LeeAnn Inadomi
 Al Karns
 Darwin Morgan
 Gary Mousseau
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 Kevin Rohrer
 Mitzi Sears
 Gillian Silver-Rodis
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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

New Test Site is an evolving process

NSTec continues to work on a change plan for the *New Test Site* to support, enhance, and implement the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) vision of Complex Transformation (formerly Complex 2030).

"The objective is to achieve a holistic, innovative, and more efficient management and operation of the NTS," explains **Jim Holt**, NSTec's Director of Defense Experimentation and Stockpile Stewardship.

The plan will be implemented through a series of mini-transformations that will modify the current operation and more structure toward configuration of the *New Test Site*. As a result of cost-saving initiatives, some of these transformations have already begun. Others are proposed.

As part of this plan, NSTec is positioning the NTS as a receiver site for various missions through consolidation and upgrades of its key support areas and infrastructure. Some specific examples include: footprint reduction, recapitalizing and extending the useful life of some facilities, and new buildings.

NSTec has demolished more than 500,000 square feet of non-critical and non-mission dependent buildings. Additionally, the amount of the NTS area maintained by NSTec consolidates Mission Critical facilities and infrastructure. This "Mission Critical Corridor" is about one-third the size of the NTS and contains all of the current Stockpile Stewardship missions. Potentially, it can accommodate all of the proposed NNSA Complex Transformation missions. By reducing the maintenance of roads, power, and water systems outside the Mission Critical Corridor, the cost to maintain the site is reduced. This results in lower operating expense to NTS users.

As part of a longer-term effort, several NSTec teams are looking at ways to improve weapons complex operations. This effort also includes developing business cases to support the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Complex Transformation (PEIS).

Both the Device Assembly Facility and U1a locations offer a range of synergistic capabilities for a proposed Consolidated Nuclear Production Center (CNPC) for long-term research and development; surveillance of the nuclear weapon stockpile; and consolidation of the nation's strategic reserve of special nuclear material (SNM).

These business cases will help position the NTS as the potential preferred alternative for complex transformation missions in the PEIS. A Record of Decision for Complex Transformation is scheduled for early FY 2009.

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CEF mission moves to the NTS

The Criticality Experiments Facility (CEF) is the only project in the entire U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) complex where general research and hands-on training can be conducted into nuclear safeguards, criticality safety, and emergency response using Category I level nuclear materials.

Categorization is based on the potential risk of the material being used for a nuclear explosive device, which depends on several factors, including the radiation level and quantity of material. This research and training will be conducted at the Device Assembly Facility (DAF), located at the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

The project is one of the highest priorities for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and involves a complex orchestration of expertise, equipment, scheduling, and dollars.

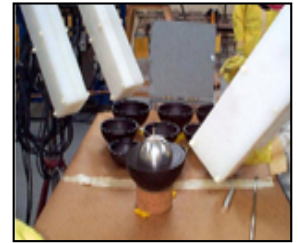
"With the start of construction in the DAF, the CEF Project has taken a big step forward in the relocation of the TA-18 mission" says **Bob Bangerter**, NNSA's Federal Project Director for CEF. "The project team is committed to a best practice approach in all facets of this project."

The history of the CEF Project at the NTS

In December 2002, the DOE announced its decision to relocate TA-18 mission and testing equipment from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico to the DAF at the NTS to enable the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to quickly establish critical national security missions in Nevada while consolidating special nuclear materials in a newer, more secure facility. Accordingly, a particular section of the DAF was designated as the CEF.

Relocation of the TA-18 missions and necessary support logistics to the DAF is a complex retrofit project. It involves the coordinated efforts of National Security Technologies LLC, LANL, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), and Wackenhut Services Inc. as the execution entities, and integrated by the CEF Central Project Office.

"The CEF Project underscores the vital importance of collaboration — especially in the execution of high-priority, complex projects — and will provide an



There are four CEF critical assemblies, which require diligent care and handling during transport and upon arrival at the NTS.

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important model for subsequent mission work at the test site," says NSTec President **Steve Younger**.

The relocation includes the successful completion of all design/engineering, construction, machine relocation, control system installation, acceptance testing, and successful completion of operational readiness reviews for four criticality assemblies. This equipment provides an experimental capability to test and qualify nuclear materials.

The DAF is being modified to accept these machines and provide two storage vaults. Additionally, the facility will feature two general purpose bays, two control rooms, health physics areas, offices, shipping and receiving, and conferencing areas to allow for a successful transition of equipment and operations to the NTS as the new host site. However, LANL will continue to operate the program.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

NSTec addresses challenges, meets milestones in 1st year of operation

When National Security Technologies LLC (NSTec) assumed operational control of the Nevada Test Site (NTS) in July 2006, the new team was eager to assess and support this vast and complex site.

"I believe we've experienced both successes and challenges in our first year of operation," says NSTec President **Steve Younger**. "And we anticipate a promising future as we continue to chart a course that allows us to leverage the unique elements of the NTS to help defend America in a dangerous world."

NSTec has been successful in its inaugural period—which has included reaching key milestones as well as addressing complex issues. The company remains committed to its original covenants of *Vision Service Partnership*. These words underscore a management philosophy that NSTec continues to pursue for the NTS and its related facilities, on behalf of the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO).

From the start, these covenants seemed to jump-start the company's success. For example, senior management counts a smooth transition as one of the company's biggest initial accomplishments.

"The Department of Energy told us that the transition was one of the best they had ever seen," says NSTec Chief Operating Officer **Mike Butchko**. "There were minimal disruptions in day-to-day operations and critical mission work was accomplished without a hitch."

With NSTec at the helm, all NNSA programmatic deliverables were met. Mission work included the successful execution of Unicorn, a collaborative subcritical experiment that took place August 2006. Additionally, there were a series of on-schedule and within-budget experiments through the Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research Facility (JASPER) and the small-container Thermos series.

All experiments provide stellar data to help scientists certify nuclear stockpile safety and reliability. Construction is also underway to bring the Criticality Experiments Facility to the NTS,



This perspective shows the breech end of the gas gun, down the barrel, to the secondary containment chamber. JASPER provides a way to generate and then measure data that is crucial to certify the safety of the stockpile. JASPER supports a key NSTec vision -- to transform the Nevada Test Site into the preferred place to conduct high-hazard experiments to support America's security.



Subcritical experiments are a complex orchestration of science and expertise, according to NNSA/NSO Test Controller Debbie Monette. The Unicorn

which will provide a platform to research the design, development, and application of nuclear criticality experiments.

*subcritical experiment
was placed in the center
of this rack.*

To execute this broad mission work, one of the key challenges that NSTec faced early on was heightening facility safety and security—from operations and procedures to employee actions. In the company's first year, safety and security practices ramped up to a higher level. NSTec cultivates a work cultures that emphasizes situational awareness by encouraging the reporting of any perceived safety or security issues.

"Senior management responds immediately to any security or safety issue identified *anywhere* in the complex," says Butchko. "We also reward alert employees when they take the initiative to identify and address safety issues."

Additionally, the company regularly communicates with employees on a wide variety of topics ranging from software to best practices. Such measures have resulted in significant safety improvements. NSTec also had the first compliant cyber security plan in the Nuclear Weapons Complex.

Ultimately, NSTec strives to make safety, security, and excellence integral drivers of its work culture. To underscore that focus, the company launched the Project Management Improvement Initiative, which empowers managers to lead with vision and execute exemplary work. The company touts a *best practice* approach to systematically improve performance, reduce costs, and eliminate inefficient work policies.

"Our work is an important part of the nation's overall defense strategy," explains Younger. "That translates to a high level of precision and responsibility, both individually and collectively. A committed, well-trained workforce will help us achieve our goals."

Dr. Younger made a commitment early on to enhance employees, and recruit new talent. Key refinements have been made in training, benefits, and working conditions. Now there are greater and more varied training classes available throughout the complex and NTS workers are enjoying improved roads, lighting, meals, and social opportunities.

Underscoring these efforts was the formation of an employee-led Diversity Council. This group helps NSTec identify and implement opportunities for employees to enhance intellectual skills and embrace their differences. In addition, the company was recently recognized by the Southern Nevada Hispanic Employment Program for its efforts to support education and recruit future scientists and engineers.

As the company enters its second year, it is poised

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to meet future challenges and opportunities with a focused, proactive attitude. This includes serving a multi-faceted customer base as well as anticipating the changing environment of U.S. policies and programs affecting the NTS.

“NSTec will continue to strive for operational excellence and collaboration while we pursue the goals of Complex Transformation,” says Younger. “That means contributing to an overall nuclear weapons arena that is safer, more secure, and more efficient.”

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

Younger and other experts assess the threat of nuclear terrorism

Nuclear terrorism may be one of the most potentially devastating threats facing the world.

NSTec President **Steve Younger** — and other community and industry experts — provided perspective and relevance to this topic at a panel discussion in August. The UNLV-hosted forum provided a venue for citizens to gain relevant facts, hear expert discourse, and obtain answers to their questions and concerns.

The event kicked off with a viewing of the docudrama *Last Best Chance*. The film, created by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), depicts al Qaeda operatives organizing separate operations to access nuclear weapons. Terrorists then fashion the material into crude nuclear weapons and recruit bomb-making experts to help manufacture the weapons. Governments worldwide discover clues to the plot, but can't uncover the scheme and secure the weapons before they're en route to their destinations. Consequently, the governments are helpless to prevent an attack.

After the film, audience members queried the panelists on a variety of issues. In addition to Younger, panelists included Carie Lemack, President of Families of September 11®; NTI's Corey Hinderstein; and Troy Wade, Chairman of the Nevada Alliance for Defense, Energy and Business. One individual wondered how the threat of a nuclear incident could be a higher priority for the United States. Younger responded that the government must commit to make the threat a national priority.

"Good work is being done, but we need to break through bureaucratic hurdles on both sides and focus on the mission," he said. He also emphasized that America, as well as other countries, must make a concerted effort to understand the culture of terrorists. His newly published book, *Endangered Species: How We Can Avoid Mass Destruction and Build a Lasting Peace*, offers a comprehensive strategy for reducing the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

"We must understand terrorism as a social disease," he explained. We plan everything else, from space launches to wars. We need to plan how we are going to reduce the ability of terrorist groups to recruit new members. Not just hope for the best, but make it



Expert panelists (from left to right, Steve Younger, Corey Hinderstein, Troy Wade, and Carey Lemack) provided an eye-opening perspective on the threat of nuclear terrorism.

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happen.”

Later in the program, Wade noted that positive events have occurred to secure nuclear materials. For example, post-Cold War, a number of Soviet nuclear weapons were consolidated in one central area.

“These types of weapons are less of a threat than loose nuclear material,” Wade explained. “Now, our enemy is not predictable and it’s difficult to control materials.”

Lemack, whose mother died as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attack, teamed up with the non-partisan, nonprofit NTI to create the panel. Their collaboration is part of a national public education project to raise awareness of the nuclear terrorism threat. Congresswoman Shelly Berkley (D-Nev.) moderated the forum, hosted by UNLV’s Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering.

Although the docudrama is fiction, Berkley pointed out that it based on the following facts, which are also listed on NTI’s Website (<http://www.lastbestchance.org>):

- The bipartisan 9/11 Commission reported that al Qaeda has been trying to acquire nuclear weapons for a decade and that bin Laden wants to carry out a “ Hiroshima.”
- There are more than 100 research reactors around the world with enough highly enriched uranium to potentially build a bomb.

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Industry collaboration results in state's first fire science bachelor degree

A unique industry/education collaboration has resulted in a distinctive new educational program for Nevada State College (NSC) — the first ever Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Fire Science degree in Southern Nevada.

A variety of like-minded community partners developed an initiative to create and deliver the program. The Nevada Test Site, Bureau of Land Management, the Henderson Fire/Rescue Department, Clark County Fire/Rescue Department, North Las Vegas Fire/Rescue Department and Las Vegas Fire Department were the leading organizations who came together. A pilot offering of two classes launches this fall.

"This degree program is the direct result of a very effective collaboration among a number of agencies," says NSTec's **John A. Rynes**, Deputy Chief for the NTS Fire/Rescue Department. "The NTS is very pleased to have been a part of this endeavor and we look forward to some of our own staff completing the program."

NSC enlisted the support of several fire chiefs throughout Southern Nevada who worked with the college's Fire Science Advisory Committee to update and establish curricula for the program. Dr. Mark Rivero of the Las Vegas Fire Department, chaired the committee. The fire chiefs also conducted their own unofficial surveys among their battalions to gauge program interest.

A vast majority of the firefighters surveyed indicated an interest in the new degree, which trains students to hold managerial positions in a fire department. It also allows students to transfer and apply 100 percent of their Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree credits from any regionally accredited community college fire science program toward a BAS degree.

"There is always a risk in becoming a firefighter, and it's our job as a state college to provide Nevada's fire science students with as much training as possible before they ever fill out an application," said NSC President Dr. Fred Maryanski. "We determined that a bachelor in applied science degree is best suited to provide all potential firefighters, regardless of rank, with the practical knowledge and leadership skills that will help keep them and others safe."

Courses for the degree are based on the National Fire Administration's Fire and Emergency Service Higher Education strategic direction. They include: *Advanced Fire Administration, Analytical Approaches to Public Fire Protection, Applications of Fire Research, Disaster and Fire Defense Planning, Managerial issues in Hazardous Materials and Personnel Management for the Fire Science.*

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

Lawrence selected as NSO Deputy Manager; Colarusso selected as Deputy Assistant Manager for AMSO

Steve Lawrence was recently selected as the new Deputy Manager of the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO). While Lawrence is currently completing his one-year detail to the National Defense University Industrial College of the Armed Forces, R.T. Brock will serve as Acting Deputy Manager. For information on Lawrence's detail, go to <http://www.nv.doe.gov/library/publications/sitelines/SL125.pdf>.

Additionally, **Angela Colarusso** has been selected as the Deputy Assistant Manager for Safety and Operations (AMSO) for the NNSA. In this capacity, she is responsible for the Facility Representative Program; site planning, development, and operational coordination; emergency management program; Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program (FIRP); and capital construction and maintenance of Nevada Test Site (NTS).

"The work is very challenging and covers a variety of complex programs," says Colarusso. "I look forward to working with the federal and contractor personnel, all of whom are extremely competent and knowledgeable."

Colarusso is a Certified Project Management Professional with more than 20 years experience with the Department of Energy (DOE), National Laboratory, and DOE contractor organizations. Her expertise lies in the areas of program/project management, oversight, assessment, weapons testing, waste management, emergency management, community relations, project control, nuclear facilities, and authorization basis.

Previously, Colarusso worked in the DOE Health Physics Branch, Nevada Operations Office, supporting the Nevada Test Site mission for nuclear weapons testing program as a health physicist. Following that, she worked for Los Alamos National Laboratory at Technical Area 18 supporting the Transuranic (TRU) characterization program. She later worked for Science Applications International Corporation on the Yucca Mountain Project before returning to DOE in 1990.

Additionally, Colarusso supported the waste



Angela Colarusso

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management program as a Team Leader, Acting Division Director, and as the Acting Waste Management Program Federal Project Director. Her areas of responsibility included TRU/low-level/mixed low-level wastes projects, site office Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program, and program integration and control, among others. She has also supported the Stockpile Stewardship Program, managing the Atlas Pulsed Power Facility and Offsite Source Recovery Program.

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NSTec Mine Rescue Team Wins Competition

The NSTec Mine Rescue team recently garnered a number of hard-won awards.

For two days in June, NSTec's Mine Rescue Team (MRT) competed in the 2007 Colorado State Metal/Non Metal Mine Rescue Contest in Golden, CO. Previously categorized as *novice* (none of the participants had competed in any previous contests) the group was one of eight that competed.

The team, which took first place in its category, included **Ryan King** (captain), **James Lujan**, **Jeff Culbertson** and **Justin Putnam**. **George Hamrick** attended as the team trainer and **Rex Livingston** served as the team coordinator. **Pat O'Connell** took first place in the "bench" contest and **Dan Jensen** took fourth place in "gas detection."

NSTec's MRT was among more than 40 participants who trained for a *what-if* situation: searching and rescuing for trapped workers from a tunnel cave-in. These *miners*, who work in NSTec's Construction Department in Zones 2 and 3, volunteered to get the extra training. This enables them to become officially qualified as rescue team members by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, under the U.S. Department of Labor. Among those participating were the NTS Fire & Rescue, U1a Operations and Operations Coordination Center staff.

"These individuals are the reason that underground work can be conducted here," says Mining Superintendent Rex Livingston. "The training was invaluable and strengthens their skills in case there is a mine collapse anywhere west of the Mississippi River."



Dan Jensen (left) and Pat O'Connell show off their hard-earned awards for winning first place in the mine rescue team gas detection and bench contests, respectively.

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CIAD conference auditors hear from federal expert

The national Contractors Internal Audit Directors (CIAD) Conference took place in mid-August at the Atomic Testing Museum, giving audit professionals throughout the Department of Energy (DOE) community a week of intensive training and planning.

Assistant Inspector General for Performance Audits George Collard served as keynote speaker. **Dr. Steve Younger**, President of NSTec, provided opening remarks on how ethical considerations impact the audit profession. The event was co-hosted by Kathryn Skelley-Bird, NSTec Audit Manager, and Paul Schafer, Audit Manager, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Each year, as part of the DOE Cooperative Audit Strategy, conference attendees earn credits, which fulfill maintenance requirements for their professional designations. Event discussions included how performance indicators and benchmarking can help professionals monitor the quality of internal audits, and an examination of professional standards.

Other featured speakers included Donald Espersen, an independent internal audit practitioner, business risk/control advisor, and professional trainer; and Robert Mainardi, a Chief Audit Executive (Penn Mutual, The Vanguard Group) who is certified in both Six Sigma (Green Belt) and Control Self-Assessment. John Tonsick, who is a Certified Fraud Examiner and a Certified Public Accountant, lectured on multiple topics including *Fighting Fraud*, *Whistleblower Complaints*, and *Conducting Forensic Investigations*.



From left to right, Steve Younger, George Collard, Kathryn Skelley-Bird and Paul Schafer participated in a recent week-long conference of intensive information and training geared toward audit professionals.

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