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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office



March/April 2008 - Issue 130

A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family

New addition to NSO

Teri Holland has joined NSO as the new Assistant Manager for Business and Contract Management (AMBCM).

Holland came from Headquarters European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. She served as a civilian employee to the Joint Command as the Resource Manager for Command and Control Warfighter Integration. In short, she was responsible for leading the money, contracts and long-range planning.

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 Gerald L. Talbot, Jr., Manager, NNSA/Nevada Site Office
 Darwin J. Morgan, Director, Office of Public Affairs
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Milestones

Milestones

Los Alamos National Laboratory **30 years**

Bill Haag

10 years

Steve Clement, Richard Ziegenbein

5 years

Eugene Christensen

1 year

Gordon MacLeod

National Security Technologies, LLC

40 years

Johnny Marcus, Liberato Sandoval

35 years

Paul Wargo, Ronnie Owens

30 years

David Nichols, John Mahan, John Robertson, Nellie Williams, Robert McCamant

25 years

Cleandrew Threats, Julius Dotson, Raymond Nichols, Wayne Bearden Sr.

20 years

Jeffery Berstler, Richard Coleman, Katrina Grizzle

5 years

Beronica Guerra, Daniel Ramirez, Gary Olson, Harvey Ash, Rick Leonard, William Huffman, Alex Norwood, Anthony Duarte, Billy Borden, Crystal Corbin, Debora Boyd, Debora Bryson, Douglas Good, Gina Ravetti, Gracia Guzman, Irene Cata, Jeanette Davison, Jessica Thomason, Ke-Xun Sun, MaryLou Hewitt, Patricia Ewing, Paula Lynch, Roberto Rodriguez, Roy Stewart, Sean Toomey, Stacey Dallas-Kelly, Wendi Dreesen

WSI

15 years

Douglas R. Osborne

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Face-to-Face

U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

Face-to-Face

Name: Gabrielle Davenport
Company: WSI - Nevada
Title: Performance Testing Specialist
Hometown: Amarillo, Texas
Hobbies: Watching her boy play football, gardening, cooking for family and friends, and movies. She would say hiking, camping, and fishing like everybody else, but she never does that.



Gabrielle believes that her most significant contribution to the Nevada Site Office is that she has been afforded the opportunity to bring her personal perspective from experience to this site as well as another facility in DOE to a newly formed section. She has learned that with age has come an increased ability to control how she expresses herself. She doesn't always have to say what she's thinking although she re-learns that lesson from time to time. Gabrielle believes she currently has her "dream job" here in WSI. She loves the team she works with and believes in what she does everyday. The work that she does in the Performance Testing and Assessment Section has purpose and the character of the individuals she works with make each day fun. Most people wouldn't believe Gabrielle has a soft, gentle quiet side that loves raindrops and little kittens.

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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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Masthead

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Publication Management:

NSTec Public Affairs
NSTec

Layout and graphics:

Shelli Hadley
Team CNSI

Contributors:

Tom Bixby
 Stephen Bunker
 Shawn Cadwell
 James Catlin
 Mary Camp
 Mark Cicoria
 Kathy Elizalde
 Shelli Hadley
 Kirsten Kellogg
 Samuel Kilpatrick
 Darwin Morgan
 Sally Perea
 Katie Reynolds
 Mary Richards
 Alyssa Robbins
 Kevin Rohrer
 Gillian Silver-Rodis
 Kathryn Skelley-Bird
 Bill Skyles
 Kelly Snyder
 Dona Stevens
 Nancy Tufano
 Don Van Etten

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New Addition to NSO

Teri Holland has joined NSO as the new Assistant Manager for Business and Contract Management (AMBCM).

Holland came from Headquarters European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. She served as a civilian employee to the Joint Command as the Resource Manager for Command and Control Warfighter Integration. In short, she was responsible for leading the money, contracts and long-range planning.

Prior to this position she worked for the CIO Office at Headquarters, Pentagon.

Holland has 34 years of federal service with the last 15 years focused on resource management, planning, program management, and policy development.

She is an avid wine collector, a hot-air balloon enthusiast, and loves to travel.

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Nevada Site Office issues report on Nevada Test Site radioactive waste shipments

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently released an annual report summarizing routing information on low-level waste (LLW) and mixed low-level waste (MLLW) shipments to and from the Nevada Test Site Radioactive Waste Management Sites (RWMS). Summaries provided in the report include the origin of, and carriers for, LLW and MLLW shipments to or from the NTS; the number and volume of LLW and MLLW shipments; the identification of highway routes used by carriers; and incident/accident data applicable to LLW and MLLW inbound shipments.

Frank Di Sanza, Waste Management Federal Project Director and Acting Transportation Program Director, says the DOE strives to ensure safe and compliant transportation of LLW and MLLW shipments. "To ensure we accept and dispose waste in a safe manner, we work very hard to ensure that waste arriving at the NTS meets all waste acceptance criteria," says Di Sanza.

Various highlights of information in the report include the following:

- A total of 134 MLLW inbound/off-site shipments were received at the NTS in fiscal year (FY) 2007, from seven approved generators, totaling 140,144 cubic feet. These shipments were transported on approved motor carriers.
- A total of 734,047 cubic feet of LLW was disposed at the disposal facility in FY 2007, consisting of 1,002 inbound/off-site shipments, from 16 approved generators.
- Two approved on-site generators disposed 59,469 cubic feet of LLW in 110 shipments during FY 2007.
- 20 on-site transfers accounted for 10,169 cubic feet of MLLW being disposed by two on-site generators in FY 2007.
- 17 out-of-state approved generators shipped LLW and MLLW to the NTS for disposal in FY 2007.
- No Transuranic waste shipments were made from the NTS to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (near Carlsbad, NM) in FY 2007.

For complete and detailed information, you may review the entire report online at <http://www.nv.doe.gov/library/publications/environmental.aspx> or in person

by visiting the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office Public Reading Facility located at 755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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The EM Student Forum Returns to A-TECH

The creative and fresh ideas of the Environmental Management (EM) Student Forum are back. This group of talented high school students is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Site Office EM Program and the Advanced Technologies Academy (A-TECH), a Las Vegas high school. Originally formed in 2001, the group provides essential feedback on the EM Program's outreach materials.

Through this partnership, the A-TECH students have provided the EM Program with invaluable products such as the highly successful Operation Clean Desert learning trio (display, activity book, and computer game) that is geared toward young children. A-TECH has agreed to continue this highly facilitative partnership which has provided students with precious real-world experience and helped to mold future leaders.

The new EM Student Forum, which historically consisted of four to six students, will work with the EM Public Involvement (PI) team to develop and produce outreach products consistent with the Operation Clean Desert learning trio. Additionally, students will better understand the EM Program's mission through optional participation in EM-sponsored community outreach events, and a tour of the Nevada Test Site.

This year, the EM Student Forum will be selected by the A-TECH Computer Science program area teacher. Of the seven program areas available to A-TECH students, EM chose the Computer Science



Student Forum member Raul Beltran, wearing a Tyvek protective suit, at the White Pine county fair and speaking to the children about the Environmental Management Program at the Nevada Test Site.

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program area to be involved with this year's EM Student Forum, as they will be creating an interactive computer-based timeline of historic and current activities on the Nevada Test Site, focusing on environmental management projects. The students will use the computer expertise they have acquired at A-TECH to develop and work in a real-world environment while earning credit for their educational class.

As a previous EM Student Forum member states, "I chose to be involved with the EM Student Forum because I knew I would gain invaluable experience that could not otherwise be attained while being a student." The selected students participate voluntarily and may choose to be graded on their contribution and involvement in the product developed.

The new EM Student Forum formally launched at its first meeting on December 19, 2007.

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Chem Busters!

What do you do with potentially explosive, dangerous chemicals left over from a previous project? You call the chem-busting NTS Fire & Rescue (F&R) team.

A collaborative effort between NTS F&R and the Nonproliferation Test and Evaluation Complex (NPTEC) resulted in a realistic training opportunity that provided the solution to the safe disposal of unneeded chemicals. Nitric acid had been left over from a project at the NTS and the remainder of the chemical needed to be properly disposed. The situation provided a hands-on practical test of the emergency responders' hazardous material operations training under controlled, safe conditions.

Disposal of the nitric acid during the training exercise provided a clear demonstration of chemical behaviors in a live environment that is otherwise difficult to recreate in a simulated training situation. Thirty-two NTS F&R staff members, certified to the hazardous materials technician-level, cycled through the training during a three-week period. The training counted towards annual recertification requirements for the emergency responders.

NTS F&R Chief Charles Fauerbach stated, "Fire Department Hazardous Material Technicians rarely have the opportunity to practice mitigation skills with live chemicals prior to actual emergency situations. The collaboration between the two organizations provided extremely valuable hands-on training for our personnel in a controlled and safe environment. This live experience, combined with the rigorous F&R hazmat training program, will make our firefighters and paramedics safer during hazardous emergency operations. We look forward to future training opportunities in this mutually beneficial relationship."

Shawn Line, the NPTEC Facility Manager was also enthusiastic about the effort. "I believe that collaborative efforts across NSTec make it a great place to work. Teamwork divides the task and doubles the success." He stated.

Based on this success, NTS F&R will be working closely with NPTEC management to identify possible



Members of NTS F&R release a neutralizing agent into the nitric acid.



The reaction with the neutralizing agent prepares the nitric acid for disposal.



NTS F&R staff collects and places the neutralized nitric acid in 55-gallon drums for disposal.

future projects. Further expansion may include offsite agency emergency response training in hazardous material response.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

A new generation of sub-critical experiments: NTS Powder Gun

As part of the Stockpile Steward mission to ensure the integrity of our nation's nuclear stockpile, scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) developed the latest in a suite of sub-critical experiment capabilities for use at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The NTS Powder Gun will provide data to complement the data already being provided by the two-stage gas gun at the NTS Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experiment Research (JASPER) facility, and a smaller gun located in Technical Area-55 (TA-55) at Los Alamos.



Each target containment system will be entombed at U1a after each experiment.

What it does

Located in a specially mined alcove at U1a, the NTS Powder Gun will provide data that fills the gap between the data produced by the JASPER two-stage gas gun and the TA-55 gun. The NTS Powder Gun will be capable of accelerating projectiles to a moderately high velocity of 1.5-2 km per second at a plutonium target. The moderately high velocity will provide a way to examine the reaction of the impacted plutonium over a wider range of stresses.



Once fully assembled, the NTS Powder Gun will be approximately 20 meters (65 feet) in length.

The NTS Powder Gun contains an 80-millimeter bore (the actual diameter of the gun barrel); larger than the JASPER bore (28-mm) or the TA-55 gun bore (40-mm). Why is the larger bore better? In these types of gun experiments, the center of the target is the area which will provide the most significant data. The edges of the target are subject to masking edge effects that cause the shock waves to travel outward toward the edges of the target rather than directly through the target, which is the preferred method for data collection. A larger target yields more data. The larger bore on the NTS Powder Gun will significantly reduce the data masking-edge effects of the smaller bore guns by enabling the use of larger targets with larger center areas from which data will be collected.

How it works

Unlike JASPER, the NTS Powder Gun is a single-stage gun. Upon firing, the projectile accelerates down the barrel through the explosively driven

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valve and impacts the target located within the disposable target containment system (TCS). The explosively driven valve seals the TCS, including the target chamber, and a projectile stop consisting of steel plates. The entire TCS is contained within a secondary containment system. Once the experiment is complete, the TCS is removed and entombed within U1a.

At the moment of impact, an advanced combination of diagnostics such as VISAR, photon doppler velocimetry, piezoelectric transducer pins, and electrical short pins will record the target's reaction to the projectile impact.

Experiments at the NTS

Beginning in 2009, several series of NTS Powder Gun experiments at U1a will gather data on shock velocity, particle velocity, and projectile velocities. A second set of experiments will address sound speed measurements and employ more complicated diagnostics to examine the details of phase boundaries and material strength. This data will provide valuable information regarding the dynamic properties of materials contained in the aging U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile.

NTS Powder Gun stats

The NTS Powder Gun:

- Has a breech containing propellant.
- Has 30 centimeters of mild detonating fuse.
- Contains a detonator.
- Has an 80-mm bore.
- Has two six meter barrel sections.
- Has a primary and secondary containment system.
- Is almost one meter wide and approximately 20 meters long.

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Emergency!

A fire breaks out at the Nevada Support Facility; a tornado rips through Area 5 at the NTS; a truck transporting hazardous chemicals jackknifes in Mercury. Emergency situations may occur at any time of day or night. If an emergency occurs at the Nevada Test Site or a North Las Vegas facility, do you know where to get the latest information regarding the situation?

The NNSA/NSO Office of Public Affairs has launched an Emergency Public Information website (<http://www.nv.doe.gov/emergency>) for use during emergency situations occurring at the NTS or any North Las Vegas facilities. The website provides the latest approved information regarding significant emergency incidents, such as facility and road closures. It also contains helpful phone numbers and emergency preparedness links. Because the website is on the internet, employees may access this information from their workstations or from home.

If you do not have access to a computer, you may also obtain brief updates on the status of an emergency by calling the NNSA/NSO hotline at 702-295-NNSA (6672).

Specific questions on whether or not to report to work during potential emergency-related facility closures due to emergencies should be coordinated with your supervisor.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

Nevada Test Site facilities on track to transition to M&O

Since the mid 1990s management and operation activities at the Nevada Test Site have been contracted by the federal government to a single contractor. The contractor has been responsible for the day-to-day operations of everything from housing services, road maintenance, mining, and scientific support to the National Laboratories in the fielding of diagnostics for experimental programs.



The underground U1a/h Complex will be one of the facilities affected by the transition.

Yet in a few cases, the National Laboratories, Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, have had the responsibility for the management and operation of a number of facilities at the Nevada Test Site. The list includes the Device Assembly Facility, the U1a/h underground complex, the Big Explosive Experimental Facility, and the Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research Facility.

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In a move to better manage safety, security, compliance, and operating procedures of Nevada Test Site facilities, the management and operations of all Nevada Test Site facilities has been delegated to the current site management and operating contractor, National Security Technologies, LLC. One common facility manager, using a consistent set of requirements, will increase the efficiencies in the management and operation of the Nevada Test Site.

Transition from management by the National Laboratories to the site contractor is expected to be completed by August 31, 2008.

“We will have an integrated and uniform application of operational standards and practices as a result of this transition. In addition, we will gain consistency in the formality of operations and uniform line oversight. This allows the Nevada Site Office one seamless way of doing business within all test site facilities,” stated the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office Acting Manager, **Stephen Mellington**.

Historically the National Laboratories would manage the Nevada Test Site facilities using established home laboratory practices, principles, and health and safety requirements. As such, implementation of health and safety, security, and compliance

requirements would vary among the Nevada Test Site facilities.

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NSTec continues support of UNLV

Dr. Steve Younger, President of National Security Technologies, LLC. (NSTec), recently presented Dr. David B. Ashley, President of the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), with several checks as part of NSTec's continued investment in their partnership with UNLV. Contributions include:



Younger presents check.

- \$200,000 to support the new College of Engineering building - new distance learning center will be housed there and named after NSTec
- \$50,000 to support the 2008 and 2009 regional FIRST: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology competitions.
- \$25,000 invested in the UNLV Academic Corporate Council.
- \$10,000 invested in the UNLV Minority Engineering Program scholarships fund.
- \$1,000 invested in UNLV College of Engineering Deans Associates organization.

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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office

RSL presents mayor of North Las Vegas with unique perspective

RSL provides mayor a bird's eye view

On January 30, 2008, **Jerry Talbot**, Manager of the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office; Mike Butchko, Chief Operating Officer of National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec); and representatives of the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) presented North Las Vegas Mayor Michael Montandon with a unique mounted aerial view of North Las Vegas. The images were a result of a training proficiency mission flown over North Las Vegas.



Jerry Talbot, Michael Montandon, and Mike Butchko study satellite images overlaid with aerial measuring survey results produced by RSL.

The highly specialized, flights "call for the helicopter to follow grid patterns about 150 feet above the ground," says Karen McCall, Manager, Aerial Measuring Section. "The intention is to identify and then distinguish background radiation from other anomalous sources."

The mounted view presented to the mayor consists of detailed satellite images. The images are overlaid with data obtained from aerial measuring surveys conducted by RSL to identify background radiation in North Las Vegas. This national security mission was executed with the full support of Mayor Michael Montandon.

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