



Laboratory scientists keep tabs on Santa

The Laboratory's Space Data Systems (ISR-3) is keeping an eye out for the jolly old man in the red suit, Santa Claus. Beginning at 6 a.m., Sunday, December 24, Los Alamos scientists will track Santa on his whirlwind travels around the world, and give hourly updates via its Web site at <http://santa.lanl.gov> online on Santa's progress toward Northern New Mexico.

"We expect Santa to arrive in Northern New Mexico around midnight, Mountain Standard Time on Christmas Eve," said Diane Roussel-Dupré of ISR-3. "Basically, we expect that he will be busy chasing midnight in all locations around the world as he makes his deliveries to the good girls and boys."

Laboratory space scientists will use the satellite tracking dish located in Los Alamos, to monitor Santa's progress as he races around the world delivering presents and goodies to children everywhere. In addition, Los Alamos scientists will keep an eye on St. Nick with sensors on the FORTE satellite. The U.S. Air Force with its nine tracking stations around the world also will help monitor the sleigh and its eight tiny reindeer.

"We like to think of our efforts as another way to help spread glad tidings," Roussel-Dupré said. "This is our present to the communities of Northern New Mexico."

Los Alamos
NewsLetter

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Unzipping the molecule of life

Scientist's model probes the mysteries of DNA enzyme bonding

by Todd Hanson

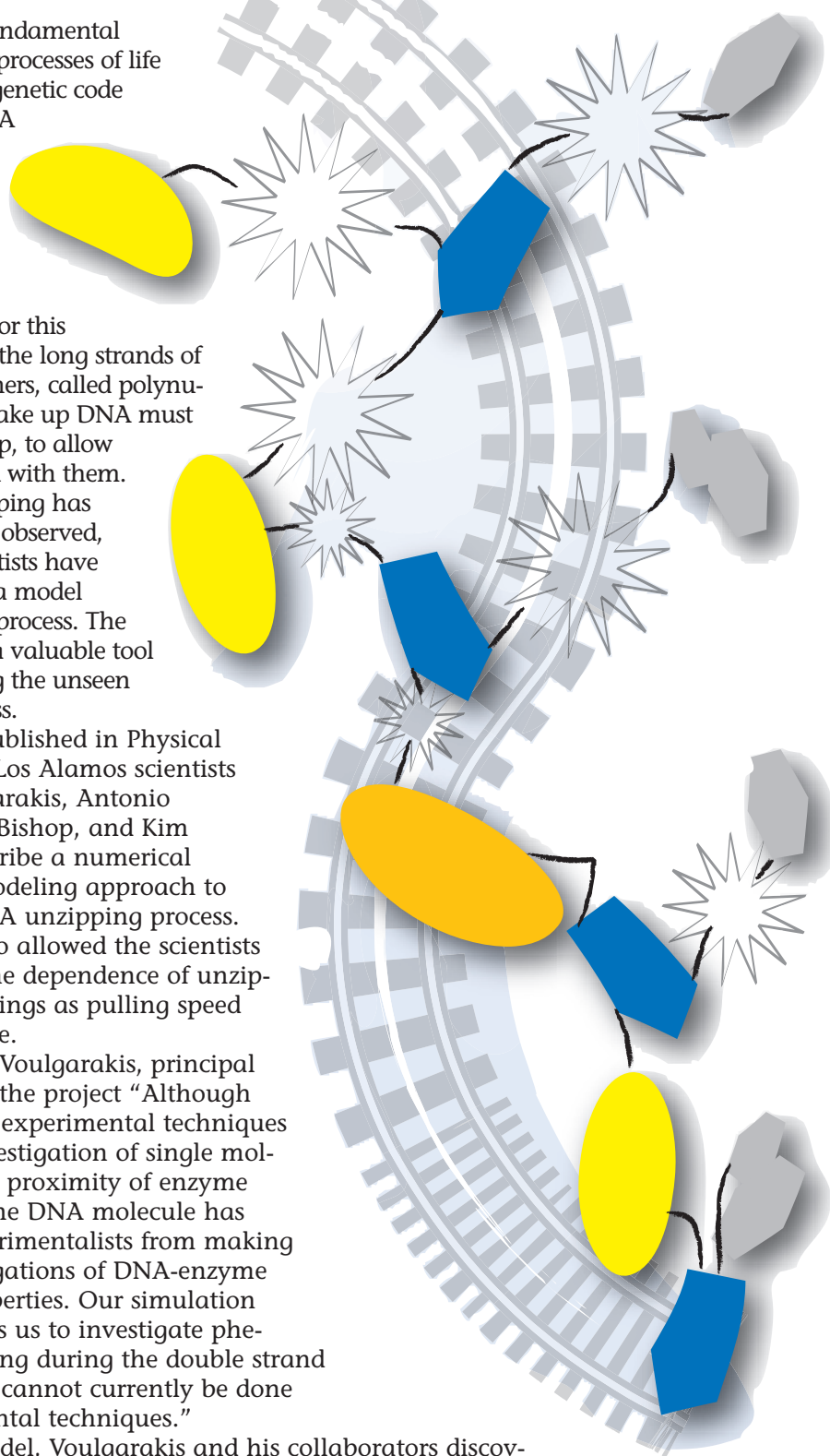
The most fundamental biological processes of life occur when the genetic code contained in DNA molecules is converted into the structures and functions of a cell, or is replicated in cell division. For this process to occur, the long strands of nucleotide polymers, called polynucleotides, that make up DNA must separate, or unzip, to allow enzymes to bond with them. While this unzipping has yet to be directly observed, Laboratory scientists have recently created a model that mimics the process. The model could be a valuable tool in understanding the unseen unzipping process.

In a paper published in *Physical Review Letters*, Los Alamos scientists Nikolaos Voulgarakis, Antonio Redondo, Alan Bishop, and Kim Rasmussen describe a numerical Monte Carlo modeling approach to describe the DNA unzipping process. The method also allowed the scientists to investigate the dependence of unzipping on such things as pulling speed and temperature.

According to Voulgarakis, principal investigator for the project "Although several modern experimental techniques allow direct investigation of single molecules, the close proximity of enzyme activity along the DNA molecule has prohibited experimentalists from making detailed investigations of DNA-enzyme interaction properties. Our simulation approach allows us to investigate phenomena occurring during the double strand separation that cannot currently be done using experimental techniques."

Using the model, Voulgarakis and his collaborators discovered a previously undetected force barrier in the unzipping process, creating what they believe to be accurate estimates of the force that enzymes must apply to gain access to the genetic information contained in the DNA strand. The model is expected to become a significant method for gaining greater biophysical knowledge from a new generation of single-molecule experiments.

Laboratory Directed Research and Development funding provided support for the DNA modeling research.



For Your Safety



Beware of slips and falls in winter

When employees drag water and ice

into the office on their feet and clothing, the danger of slipping and falling increases. It's one of the special safety hazards of winter and inclement weather, but also one that is easily preventable with awareness and foresight. Here are a few tips to help avoid this common winter safety risk.

Be prepared; watch the local weather news. If traveling, check out a national forecast to make sure you have the clothing and proper footwear for the weather at your destination. Knowing what to expect is essential for proper preparation.

To cut down the risk of slipping on wet indoor surfaces

- shorten stride lengths to maintain a center of balance;
- walk with feet pointed slightly outward, creating a stable base;
- make wide turns at corners;
- post signs to warn of wet areas;
- clean up water that drips from clothing and shoes; and
- be careful of wet shoes on a dry floor; they can be just as slippery as dry shoes on a wet floor.

The risk of slipping outdoors in inclement weather can be reduced by

- slowing down to allow time to react to a change in traction;
- wearing slip-resistant shoes, boots, or over-shoes (carry work shoes); and
- wearing sunglasses when outdoors in ice and snow to help see possible hazards.

Remember, proper footwear is important. Wear slip-resistant shoes appropriate for the job. Some have special sole patterns specifically engineered for slippery work areas. Or, use abrasive strips to increase traction.



Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

Wishing you peace and joy this holiday season

...and happiness throughout

the new year

Director Michael R. Anastasio

Los Alamos National Laboratory NewsLetter

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Los Alamos National Laboratory is a multidisciplinary research institution engaged in strategic science on behalf of national security. The Laboratory is operated by a team composed of Bechtel National, the University of California, BWX Technologies and Washington Group International for the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

Los Alamos enhances national security by ensuring the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear stockpile, developing technologies to reduce threats from weapons of mass destruction, and solving problems related to energy, environment, infrastructure, health and global security concerns.



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Moving for milestones

Relocating TA-18's critical assembly machines

by Nancy Ambrosiano and Tom Short

The phrase "end of an era" tends to be widely used when a sports legend passes on, but lately it's been the term of choice for activities at Technical Area 18, the Los Alamos Critical Experiments Facility.

In a challenging series of moves this fall, four critical assembly machines that formed the nation's last general-purpose, critical-mass laboratory were decontaminated, disassembled, and dispatched to storage at Technical Area 35. Having formed the core of the nation's criticality research ability for 60 years, it was time for the old machines, like treasured classic cars, to go in for an overhaul of their control and safety systems and move on to a new home. Their move, however, was characterized by a series of potential mishaps and show stoppers, averted at every turn.

The criticality machines' move to the Nevada Test Site's Device Assembly Facility had been planned by Nuclear Nonproliferation (N) Division for some time and would have been complete in fiscal year 2008. But in April 2006, the National Nuclear Security Administration called for an accelerated schedule to move the four machines (named Godiva, Flattop, Comet, and Planet) by September 30, 2006. The less-than-two-year shift of time frames put major pressure on all the players. NNSA did agree that the machines could be relocated to another Los Alamos site as the Nevada facility wasn't quite ready for prime time, but they had to clear out of their old home at TA-18.

One step at a time

For this speedy transition to occur, first the four uranium-contaminated machines had to be thoroughly decontaminated and moved to a radiological storage area.



Jim Dyson of Advanced Nuclear Technology guides hoisting of the uranium reflector from the Flat Top criticality machine in preparation for the machine's move from Technical Area 18, its home since 1958, to TA-35. Los Alamos National Laboratory photo

Applied Engineering and Technology (AET-5) offered their facility at TA-46, but in moving Planet to TA-46 in June, it became clear not all four would fit. In July, N Division located a storage building at TA-35, but it was filled, wall to wall, with furniture. Negotiations worked out, and staff from Facility Management and Engineering (FME), Threat Reduction and Physics Facility Operations and Plutonium Manufacturing and Technology (PMT) labored long hours to vacate the building by the end of July.

As the pre-move decontamination work was preparing in July, the radiological control technician realized that all of the face-mask respirators at TA-18 had been sent for cleaning but not returned. Myra Stafford of Institutional Programs (IHS-IP) explained that the glove box used for cleaning respirators was shut down for repairs and would not be available for several weeks. But a couple of days later

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Before you leave for the winter closure

by Kathy DeLucas

The Laboratory's annual winter closure begins December 25. While facility management teams will inspect major facilities and address problems during the closure, all employees should take precautionary steps to help secure their workspace before leaving for the break.

To that end, the Facility Management and Engineering (FME) Division offers the following guidelines:

- Turn off and unplug all electrical equipment, including coffee-pots, space heaters, humidifiers, office machines and all experimental equipment that can be turned off.
- Leave thermostats at their normal settings.
 - Close all exterior doors, windows and blinds to conserve heat.
 - Remove all private vehicles from Lab parking lots and park government vehicles where they will not interfere with snow removal operations.
 - Make sure plants have enough water to survive through the holidays.
 - Secure or lock all exterior doors from the outside.

The procedural guidelines for closing up leased space during the winter break should be the same as for Lab facilities, with regard to tenants unplugging their equipment and checking and securing doors and windows. However, residents of

Lab-leased space should communicate with their landlord about specific concerns and procedures related to their facilities during the closure.

The Security (SEC) and Safeguards (SAFE) divisions also offer the following reminders to ensure that security controls work smoothly during the closure:

- On the last business day before the closure, authorized workers must properly secure all classified matter.
- Area-access custodians with travel plans or other holiday activities that will prevent them from performing duties on December 22, such as end-of-day checks, should designate an alternate, authorized worker ahead of time to ensure that a substitute is available.
- Ensure that one or more of the authorized workers on the area-access list is available during the closure to make contact with the fire department and protective force personnel during emergency situations or in case a vault/vault-type room has to be re-entered. Update the access list if necessary by completing Form 1088 and send it to Security Systems (SAFE-3) at Mail Stop G725 or by fax to 5-8477. If the available workers are at the bottom of the list, consider posting a memo on the vault/vault-type room indicating which authorized workers to get in touch with during the closure to speed up the contact process.

Normal operations resume Tuesday, January 2, 2007.



Laboratory institutes site-w



New plan developed to move people off 'The Hill' fast

Laboratory officials have begun rollout of the institutional, site-wide evacuation plan. The evacuation plan, designed to maximize efficiency in getting people off the site in case of an emergency, will be incorporated with individual building emergency plans to help ensure the safety of Laboratory personnel in the event of an emergency.

The plan establishes specific evacuation routes and pre-evacuation steps or triggers in order to ensure the orderly and safe movement of people during an emergency. Incidents such as fire, flood, earthquakes, hazardous materials spills, or accidents could require site-wide evacuation.

While the plan could be used in the event of an early Laboratory closure due to inclement weather, use of the routes it establishes would be predicated on road conditions. "We certainly wouldn't require people to use their designated evacuation plan route if that route isn't safe due to snow-packed or icy roads," said Marla Brooks, security emergency preparedness project leader for the Emergency Response (ER) Division.

The evacuation plan applies to only Laboratory sites and not the entire county. Employees can access the plan at <http://policies.lanl.gov/pods/policies.nsf/MainFrameset?ReadForm&DocNum=ISD1201-2&FileName=isd12012.pdf> online.

"Basically, the problem we face in a Labwide evacuation is the gridlock that results when we evacuate people all at once," Brooks said.

Because there are limited roadways available for egress, employee cooperation and lead-time are necessary for sitewide evacuation to be effective, Brooks said. The Laboratory is fed by basically three east-west arterial roads and only one north-south route. All of the arterials feed into two-lane roads, and when the entire Laboratory population tries to leave at the same time, the result often is gridlock, Brooks said.

The evacuation plan separates employees into pre-defined evacuation sections with designated routes to spread out the traffic and keep it flowing. The plan also could be used to stage evacuation, releasing some sections first and holding others until traffic from the earlier release clears.

"Employees should learn and practice the evacuation routes for their section," Brooks said. "Awareness is the key."

Employees also should be familiar with their building emergency evacuation plans. The key to a successful, timely evacuation is not to panic, be prepared, and know and follow directions for evacuating safely.

Employees who car pool, use the Park and Ride commuter bus service, or a van pool should make back up arrangements with someone in their facility in the event of an evacuation, so the carpool vehicle can go straight down the evacuation route depending on the section of the driver. Brooks encouraged car and van pool riders to establish a meeting point off the hill in the event of an evacuation instead of criss-crossing evacuation routes to pick up riders.

Employees also should develop home back-up plans that include how to deal with children, pets, or similar situations that fall out of the routine due to an emergency.

"Parents should make arrangements with neighbors, friends and family to determine who will do things like pick up the kids from daycare or feed the family dog if there is an emergency," Brooks said.

Feedback on the plan has been mostly positive, said Brooks.

"The plan offers a logical, orderly plan to evacuate employees," Brooks said. "However, I am always willing to listen to constructive comments and make changes that may be necessary."

The plan divides the Laboratory into five sections, providing specific travel instructions for each section. (See the map at right. Copies of the map also are available at [online](#).)

Section A

Section A includes Technical Areas 69, 14, 49, 6, 15, 22, 37, 39, 40, 16, 33, 08, 11, 09, 28, and 36. Section A will travel west on West Jemez to NM 4 (State Road), then on NM 4 past Bandelier National Monument to White Rock or continue toward Santa Fe/Española, or to the Main Hill Road to Los Alamos. If cleared for travel, employees living in the Jemez area will be allowed to turn off on the West Jemez/ NM 4 intersection. As an alternate route, Section A may travel east to TA-18 onto Pajarito Road then east on Pajarito to NM 4 then toward White Rock, toward Santa Fe or up East Road (the Main Hill Road).

Wide evacuation plan

Section B

Section B includes TA-3, -59, and -60. Section B will exit using Diamond Drive, East/West Jemez Road or Pajarito Road. The direction of travel will be dependent on the employee's destination. Section B will evacuate using traffic routes similar to those used on a normal day of work.

Section C

Section C represents Technical Areas 64, 63, 46, 48, 35, 51, 55, 52, 18, 50, 66, 54, and 5. Section C will travel East on Pajarito Road

to NM 4. At NM 4, Section C will travel on NM 4 toward Santa Fe or up East Road toward Los Alamos. Residents living in the Jemez may travel on NM 4 past Bandelier to the Jemez.

Section D

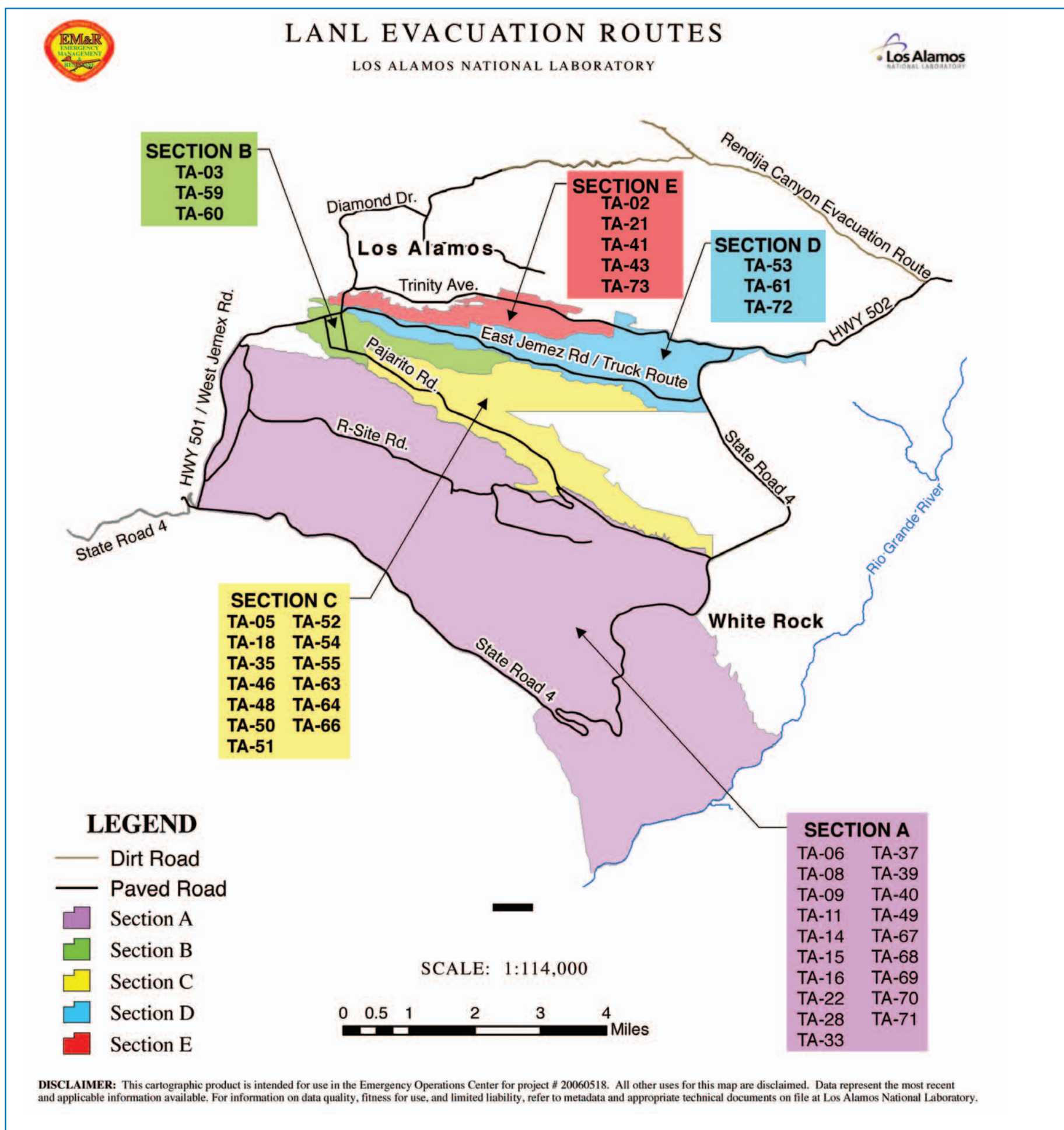
Section D includes TA-61, -53, and -72. Section D will travel east on East Jemez (Truck Route) to NM 4; at the intersection of NM 4 and East Jemez, they may turn right on NM 4 to White Rock or Jemez, or left to travel toward Santa Fe or up East Road into Los Alamos.

Section E

Section E includes TA-73, -2, -41, -21, and -43. Section E will evacuate using East Road if traveling toward Santa Fe /White Rock; they will use West Jemez if traveling toward the Jemez area or may proceed to a destination within the town site.

Townsite

Laboratory employees working in the town site will proceed to their destination using their normal route or as otherwise directed by the Laboratory or Los Alamos County.





Q: What is the one change or process improvement you'd like to see your group, division or the Laboratory in general make during 2007?



Guo Chen of Theoretical Biology and Biophysics (T-10)

Improve the taxi service at the Lab, because oftentimes my wait to get on a taxi can be very long and that impairs my ability to get my experiments done. Also, add a shelter at the Park and Ride stop.



Jane Martinez of Space Instrumentation Systems (ISR-4)

One thing I would like is more space for us to do our work. We are tight on facility space.



Shannon Baum of the Human Resources Service Center (HR-SVSCTR)

We need help, we have six positions and only three people to do the work; so we are busy doing the work of two or three people.



Sandra Rodriguez of the Prototype Fabrication (PF) Division

Continue to improve communication at all levels, from the top down. I think we have made a lot of headway and come a long way, but it is something we just have to continually work at.



Linda Anderman of the Community Programs Office (CPO)

Encourage more teamwork and break down organizational barriers at the Lab.



Cyndi Archuleta of the Human Resources Service Center (HR-SVSCTR)

The review process for employee performance. I know there has been talk about changing it, and I am hoping it will and be made more performance-based.

Lab adds 'FODs' to Facility Management and Operations improvement efforts

Need facilities and operations support but don't know who to ask? Interested in setting up a new process at a facility but unsure about how to get started? Don't worry. The Laboratory's new Facility Operations Directors, or FODs, are here to help.

FODs are tasked with operating and maintaining an assigned set of facilities in a manner that allows programs to effectively achieve Laboratory mission objectives. Along with their responsible associate director (RAD), they serve either several facilities that generally have similar functions or a group of facilities that work together to produce a particular product. Each FOD reports to a specific RAD, who has overall responsibility and accountability to the Laboratory's director for the safe, secure, and environmentally compliant operations of all work done within a facility. The FOD, in turn, acts as the responsible associate director's agent in establishing and maintaining the safety, security, and compliance envelopes for the facility. The roles, responsibilities, authorities, and accountabilities for a RAD and a FOD are noted in Implementation Procedure (IMP) 313.0, along with those of other key facility management and operations personnel. The Laboratory's IMPs are online at <http://policies.lanl.gov/policies/>.

The FOD: a service-based model

"Management of Laboratory facilities has evolved over several years from Facility Management Units to the introduction of responsible division leaders, to the new FOD model," said Ken Schlindwein of Facility Management and Engineering (FME) Division. "In the past, the facility organizations have operated somewhat independently, differently, and often inefficiently. With the new FOD model, the end goal is to help line organizations and building tenants doing work within the facilities to meet their mission objectives, to optimize facility operations and management in a similar institutional fashion, and to enable cost savings and improved efficiencies.

The FOD organization is equivalent to a division and is a matrix of groups and teams that support seven basic functional areas: maintenance, operations, ESH&QA, waste management, engineering, support functions, and security. These groups and teams are a mix of professionals assigned from their institutional home organizations in a manner that promotes standardization and shared resources for improved efficiency.

"A standard service-delivery model has been developed that allows for transparent operation of the FOD organizations," noted Schlindwein "The model is a three-tiered approach that allows flexibility — while providing details of the services rendered — and enables the true cost of services to be defined. Once the cost of facility management and operations support are better understood, we can work to reduce costs and improve efficiency."

Tier I of the service-delivery model has the largest scope and is the base-service level, which includes services that are common to all facilities and which all FODs provide institutionally. Tier II supplements the base service in that it includes need-based services FODs provide to tenants and programs. Consequently, only those who receive the services pay for Tier II. This allows the FOD organizations to be structured so that operational support is optimized and business needs are met. Tier III services, on the other hand, are a collection of services that the FOD organization can provide on a fee-for-service basis or that can be obtained from other sources. This "ala carte" provision offers flexibility and also provides a safety net to those tenants/programs that may not have the resources to accomplish them on their own. More information about this tiered approach is in the Institutional Support Document (ISD) 312-2, which is available on line at <http://policies.lanl.gov/policies/> (enter ISD 312-2 in the search box).

Standard approach to implementing institutional programs

One of the initial challenges for FOD organizations is working with responsible line managers to implement the Formality of Operations program. Formality of Operations is the institutional plan to implement Conduct of Operations, Conduct of Engineering, Conduct of Maintenance, and Conduct of Training for the Laboratory. This formal approach to implementation will ensure consistency and document target dates for completing implementation of each of the major functional areas.

Implementation of Formality of Operations is a graded approach based on how facilities and operations are categorized. This risk-based approach will ensure that the level of rigor being applied to a facility and operations is appropriate and that requirements are simplified for office facilities as opposed to chemical laboratories, shops, etc.

FOD implementation plans for Formality of Operations are due to be completed in early January 2007, and all the FODs are on track to achieve this goal.

Tools are available

The Laboratory now has a Web-based work-request tool, called the Facility Service Request system, that allows building tenants, line managers, program organizations, and others to go to one place to request work from their FOD organization. Anything from safety-basis support to maintenance can be entered on line and tracked. Customers receive electronic feedback forms so performance can be measured. For more information, contact the appropriate Facility Operations Director.

Another Web-based tool that is available is the FATMAN database. The FATMAN features detailed data about an organization's RAD and FOD, as well as information about building contacts. The FATMAN tool is at <https://ssip-prod.lanl.gov/ssip/home.cfm> online.



Relocating TA-18's ...

continued from Page 3

Stafford called to say she had canvassed organizations across the Lab and located enough spare respirators (eight) for staff to proceed with the decontamination work.

What else could go wrong?

The path still was not clear for the move, however. The targeted building at TA-35 had a leaky roof, several corroded electrical raceways, and bad potholes in the floor that would require patching. The TR-FOD team rallied with support from KSL Services to expedite the repair work. Crews leapt into action, and the building was declared useable on September 18.

Hiccup number 20-something hit when the Q-cleared decontamination crew from TA-54, WS-FWS, was pulled off their work on the classic machines to tackle urgent work at DARHT. With a major milestone looming and no cleared cleanup crew, Deployed Security Services (S-9) agreed that the work could be performed with uncleared, escorted workers.

The next step involved staff with Advanced Nuclear Technology (N-2) and Applied Engineering and Technology (AET) removing the 2,000-pound uranium reflectors from the Flattop machine, but planners discovered that the threads on the hoist adaptor were pipe threads; they needed machine threads. Crews busily created a custom adaptor for the hoist.

Hitching a ride

Less than a week before the move, the moving truck became inoperable and was sent in for repairs. Another query was sent out to property administrators across the Lab. "Within three hours we received notice that a truck capable of moving the 7,500-pound machine was owned by Atmospheric, Climate, and Environmental Dynamics (EES-2) and could be made available to us," said Tom Short of Program Projects, Strategic Research and Threat Reduction (PP-SRTR).

Finally, during the walk down of Building 34 at TA-35, the interior crane revealed itself to have a capacity of only three tons, which was insufficient for the 7,500-pound machine. The Facility Operations Division arranged for a portable crane through KSL, who also agreed to supply the necessary riggers to unload the machine and move it into place within the building.

By September 28, 2006, with the help of a diverse team of Laboratory divisions and groups, all four critical assembly machines had been safely and successfully removed from TA-18, thereby meeting the milestone set by NNSA.

And the ending of the era of critical experiments at Los Alamos now has been documented by David Loaiza and Daniel Gehman, both of N-2, in a booklet available to the public, titled appropriately, "End of an Era for the Los Alamos Critical Experiments Facility: History of Critical Assemblies and Experiments (1946-2004)."

Lab technologies win Mid-Continent Technology Transfer awards

Laboratory scientists received two of the Federal Laboratory Consortiums' Mid-Continent Technology Transfer Awards, given for outstanding achievement in the technology transfer arena. The winning principal investigators and technologies include



Torsten Staab of Applied Engineering and Technology (AET-5) for Hands Off Sampler Gun and David Reagor of the Superconductivity Technology Center (MPA-STC) for Underground Radio.

"The winners are all exceptional examples of the talent, the quality of research, and diversification at our Mid-Continent Laboratories, said FLC Regional Coordinator Patrick Rodriguez. "Although member laboratories represent practically every agency, the labs all have something in common – they are driven to find solutions that benefit everyone in every facet of life."

The Hands Off Sampler Gun, developed in response to growing terrorist threats, won the award for Outstanding Technology Development. The portable, rugged and inexpensive device enables first responders to rapidly collect samples by integrating different technologies such as GPS, pocket PC, sensors, etc. A universal, sample-media adaptor eliminates the possibility of contamination from a

human hand while manual record keeping also is eliminated. The Hands-Off Sampler Gun has a large market in forensic biology and crime scene investigation and may even be used for testing athletes for performance-enhancing drugs.

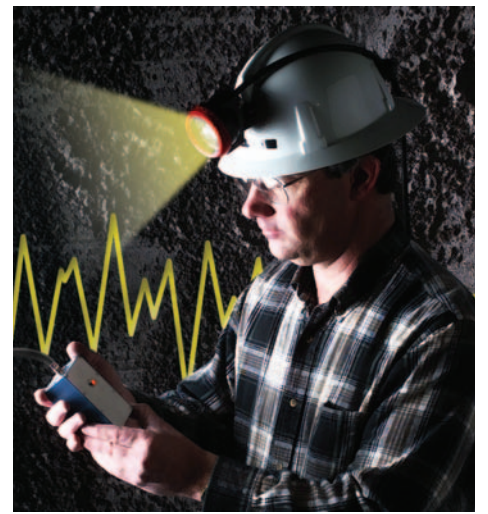
Underground Radio™, also a winner in the Outstanding Technology Development category, provides through-the-earth communication (two-way voice and text) for first responders, rescue and security teams, underground miners and the public in critical emergency situations around the world.

It uses very low frequency (VLF) electromagnetic radiation and digital audio compression technology to carry voice and text data. The VLF signals also can transmit tracking and location data for radio users in the case that they are unable to respond.

Underground Radio can be used to alert individuals of conditions during blasts, fires or collapses, or to locate trapped miners. The technology provides convenient, portable underground communication and a data link to robotic machines.

The FLC, formally chartered by Congress in 1986 to promote and strengthen technology transfer activities, is a nationwide network of federal laboratories that strives to link laboratory-developed technologies and expertise with the private sector. More than 700 major federal laboratories and centers and their parent departments and agencies are FLC members. The Mid-Continent region of the FLC includes fourteen states and more than 100 laboratories. For more information, go to www.federallabs.org online.

Established in 1994, the awards are a highlight of the FLC Mid-Continent annual meeting.



When it's snowing outside

With the winter season fast approaching, so is the possibility of snow as seen in this photo taken behind the Administration Building in Technical Area 3 last week. In the event of inclement weather, Laboratory workers should call the Laboratory's UPDATE phone line at 667-6622 or toll free at 1-877-723-4101. The Lab's UPDATE phone line, which employees should call to find out if the Lab's operating schedule is affected by winter storms, is the Lab's official, primary source for obtaining such information. The entire process for delayed opening or Lab closure usually is completed before 5:30 a.m., giving Lab employees and contractor personnel time to find out what the situation is at the Lab. In the case of an early dismissal, e-mail announcing the early dismissal is immediately sent to all employees, including contractors. A message also is recorded on the UPDATE phone line and published in the Daily Newsbulletin online. Photo by Nancy Ambrosiano



Lab employees' generosity shines during the holidays

Tis the season for giving

by Krista D. Wilde

"It is better to give than to receive." This is the philosophy of many Lab employees this holiday season, including employees from the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE), Acquisition Operations (ASM-AO), Technical Area 55, Protection Technology Los Alamos, and KSL Services who have volunteered their time and resources to help those less fortunate.

At LANSCE, employees plan to brighten the holidays for "100 + Special Children." For the ninth year, LANSCE employees are helping 100 children in Northern New Mexico who are less fortunate by purchasing Christmas gifts, such as toys, clothes, and shoes, said Ginger Grant of LANSCE-DO. As the children's cards are chosen, an ornament with the child's name is placed on a Christmas tree in the TA-53, Building 1 reception area. The gifts will be picked up by Social Service on December 18 and distributed to the children at a Christmas party that same week.

This year, ASM-AO plans to help 130 needy children and seniors. Almost all of the 130 people already have been "adopted" by employees in this group and several employees took more than one tag, said Sulema Martinez of ASM-AO. The gifts for the seniors will be collected this week, and the children's gifts will be collected on December 14.

"The members of this group feel that this is a special time for giving, and it makes everyone feel wonderful to share their good fortune with the needy," said Martinez.

At TA-55, fifty needy children and seniors were adopted. TA-55 employees worked with the Community Programs Office (CPO) to identify children and seniors who are in need this holiday season, said Karen Walterscheid of the Associate Directorate for Stockpile Manufacturing and Support (ADSMS). Employees at TA-55 pick up a card with a person's name on it, get gifts and needed items that are described on the card, and drop their donations off at TA-55.

Employees who work at PTLA, the Laboratory's protective force subcontractor, plan to show their generosity this holiday season through a silent auction. Each year, PTLA collects about twenty items from employees and local organizations and auctions the items off at a silent auction. The proceeds are then given to a charity chosen by the employees. This year, the items include a platter, a silver bracelet, flower arrangements, and metal work, said Ken Freeman, PTLA general manager.

"Our employees like to be active and participate in these types of charitable events. Because of their willingness to give, we have worked closely with CPO to identify worthy causes that we can help," said Freeman.

KSL Services employees also donate generously during the holiday season. This year, KSL has teamed with CPO to provide a holiday feast for 50 families. KSL employees also have agreed to provide 100 children and seniors with holiday gifts, said Marie McClard of Engineering and Construction Project Management (SSS-EP-CO4).

"KSL always has taken an interest in the community. We just feel fortunate that we have employment and the means to help others during the holiday season," McClard added.

Tim Martinez of CPO said participation in the Lab's Holiday Drive has been excellent. "We placed 900 tags with the names of needy children and elderly citizens across the Laboratory and almost all of the tags have been taken," said Tim Martinez. "However, there are still some tags available at Otowi and CPO, so it's not too late to help someone out."

In addition to the Lab's Holiday Drive, Tim Martinez and CPO are looking to Lab employees for support of a food drive that will benefit the San Martin de Porres Soup Kitchen in Española. Any canned or non-perishable food item often seen in a holiday dinner can be donated at CPO through December 15. "We also are accepting turkeys and hams, but ask people not to deliver them until December 14 or 15," he said.

Tim Martinez also remarked upon the generosity of Lab employees, saying, "Once we let people know about the Holiday Drive, the response was tremendous, but what is most exciting is that people want to find other avenues of giving as well. Employees across the Lab are not only helping with the Holiday Drive and the food drive, but also are asking who else needs help during the holidays. To me, this shows that Lab employees want to go the extra mile to help their communities."



Joyce Foropoulos of Deployed Services reads cards with the names of needy children and seniors. This wall is located at Technical Area 55 where employees have been taking names of people to help this holiday season. Photo by Sandra Valdez, Records Management and Media Services and Operations



Last year, Protection Technology Los Alamos personnel added to the collection of gifts that had been purchased for children and seniors as part of the Laboratory's annual Holiday Drive. PTLA, the Laboratory's protective force subcontractor, plans to show their generosity again this holiday season through a silent auction. Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez, Records Management and Media Services and Operations