



National Nuclear Security Administration

NEWS

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Kathleen Carlson Appointed Interim Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs

Administrator John Gordon of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has appointed NNSA Nevada Operations Office Manager Kathleen Carlson as interim acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs.

Carlson will serve in this capacity until the Deputy Administrator is approved by the U.S. Senate. President Bush has announced his intent to nominate Dr. Everett Beckner to the position. She replaces Air Force Brigadier General Thomas Gioconda, who retired in July. At NNSA, the Defense Programs office is responsible for maintaining the safety, security, and reliability of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile.

Prior to becoming Manager of NNSA's Nevada Operations Office, Carlson was an Assistant Manager for Defense Programs at NNSA's Albuquerque Operations Office. She has extensive experience in weapons activities, including weapons maintenance, dismantlement, safety, and stockpile evaluation. At Nevada, she is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the 1,350-square mile Nevada Test Site.

"I am very pleased that an experienced Field Manager like Kathleen Carlson is willing to step in and take on this responsibility," Gordon said. "As for Tom Gioconda, he has served this nation well, both as a member of the armed forces and as a key official in the DOE and the NNSA. He has been instrumental to the success of the Stockpile Stewardship Program over the last four years."

Gen. Gioconda held positions at the Department of Energy and NNSA beginning in August of 1997 when he became Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application. In August 1999, he became Acting Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs, and continued in this capacity with the creation of NNSA in March of 2000.

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