



National Nuclear Security Administration

NEWS

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Anson Franklin, 202/586-7371

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2001

NNSA Administrator Gordon Assesses Security Of the Nuclear Weapons Complex

John Gordon, Administrator of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), conducted a two-day tour of NNSA laboratory and plant facilities in five states to assess security preparations and to thank security guard force personnel for their work to protect the nation's nuclear weapons complex.

Gordon made the trip to review the current security posture at each site and to identify any additional requirements that may be needed. The Administrator met with local NNSA and facility managers and with members of the protective forces. He discussed unique security issues at each site and the financial and human impacts of heightened security levels.

In response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., Gordon immediately ordered all NNSA sites and facilities to implement increased levels of security. During his trip Wednesday and Thursday (Sep. 19-20), he visited the Savannah River Site near Aiken, S. C., the Y-12 National Security Site in Oak Ridge, TN, the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, TX, the Kansas City Plant in Missouri, and Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico.

"I am impressed by the dedication and commitment of the men and women who are protecting NNSA facilities," Gordon said today. "We've put extraordinary demands on them during the past nine days and their performance has been exemplary."

NNSA's mission is to carry out the national security responsibilities of the Department of Energy, including maintenance of a safe, secure and reliable stockpile of nuclear weapons and associated materials capabilities and technologies; promotion of international nuclear safety and nonproliferation; and administration and management of the naval nuclear propulsion program.