Nevada National Security Site

ONE VOICE

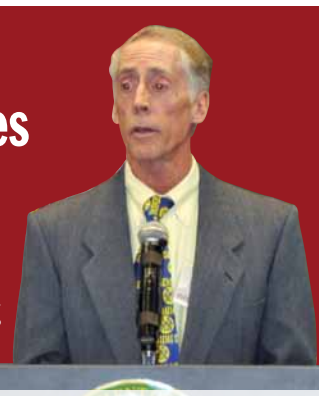
January 2013

A Publication for the Entire Nevada Enterprise (NvE) Complex

NNSS Drills With Local Hospital

Decon-12 helps emergency responders prepare for radiological threat.

See page 3.



NNSA Commemorates Milestone

NNSS marks the 20th anniversary of the end of underground testing

See page 4.

Drilling Gives Insight into Groundwater

NNSS continues drilling program to look at possible contamination.

See page 8.

NNSS Completes Pollux Experiment in Wrapping Successful Gemini Series

By *OneVoice* Staff Reports

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced that Pollux, a subcritical experiment, was successfully conducted Dec. 5, 2012, at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

The experiment, conducted by staff from the NNSS, Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, gathered scientific data that will provide crucial information to maintain the safety and effectiveness of the nation's nuclear weapons.

"Challenging subcritical experiments maintain our capabilities to ensure that we can support a safe, secure and effective stockpile without having to conduct underground testing," said NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino. "I applaud the work done by the men and women who worked to make this experiment successful. Experiments such as this help deliver President Obama's nuclear security agenda."

Pollux was the 27th subcritical experiment to date. The previous subcritical experiment, Barolo B, was conducted Feb. 2, 2011. Pollux employed a superb new diagnostic that recently won an R&D 100 award.

"Diagnostic equipment fielded by our scientists resulted in more data collected in this single experiment than all other previous subcritical experiments," said NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Don Cook. "This type of data is critical for ensuring our computer simulations can accurately predict performance of the nuclear stockpile as it begins to enter into a era of modernization of older weapons."

Christopher Deeney, NNSA assistant deputy administrator for Stockpile Stewardship, added, "Pollux will provide a significant data set to verify codes important to laboratories' stockpile missions."

Subcritical experiments examine the behavior of plutonium as it is strongly shocked by forces produced by chemical high explosives. Subcritical experiments produce essential scientific data and technical information. The experiments are subcritical; that is, no critical mass is formed and no self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction can occur; thus, there is no nuclear explosion.

CASTOR POLLUX
Ex pede Herculem
GEMINI SERIES
LANL • NSTec • SNL • NNSA

NvE Makes Holidays Brighter for Those in Need

By *OneVoice* Staff Reports

"Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give." — Ben Carson

Every year during the holidays, National Security Technologies (NSTec) employees are asked to donate toys, gift cards, money or food to several company-sponsored charities or schools, and every year, NSTec employees give in a big way. This year was no exception. Here are a few examples:

Focus School Adopt-a-Family Program

Thanks to several organizations within NSTec, 20 families from our Focus School, Kit Carson College Preparatory Academy of Creative Arts and Technology, were presented with food and gifts for the holidays. According to a letter from the school principal, the gifts were met with tears of joy and relief from the families that otherwise would have gone without.

Because of the generosity shown by NSTec employees, hundreds of children and their families will have a holiday season to remember.

Continued on page 5

NvE Executive's Corner

Dave Bradley, General Manager, WSI-Nevada

Everyone Plays a Role in Security

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2013, and evidently the Mayans were mistaken in their end-of-the-world prediction! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends, and is re-energized to take on the New Year challenges that lie ahead for our Nevada Enterprise (NvE). As we return to the business of our important national security work, there is a constant challenge associated with it that is not new – yet, always essential to our shared success: Safe and Secure operations.

Without question, the NvE community is committed to a safe and secure workplace; our many wonderful accomplishments are proof of this. The challenge I point out for us is to take the admirable focus we put toward our task work and expand it to observe what is going on in our broader work surroundings. We are not immune to the actions of others that could threaten our work environment, especially those outside our community. Watching the local and national news provides a glimpse of what those with bad intent can do.

Shortly after the homeland attack on 9/11, the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority implemented the "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign, which was eventually taken nationwide by the Department of Homeland Security. Keeping with the intent of this program that focuses on the safety and security of our nation, we can certainly apply the spirit of it in our operations. As we go about our daily work, take a long moment to really look around beyond your immediate work area, and if you notice an item or activity that causes you concern, quickly report it to your supervisor or, if possible, directly to a WSI-Nevada security police officer.

Although the WSI-Nevada security force is on watch around the clock, there are many more of you than there are security police officers, and we need and rely on your assistance and vigilance. In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters office that routinely inspects site security programs recently announced their inspectors will create "activities" intended to assess the overall security awareness and response. Some of these activities may be conducted with very little notice.

I believe this announcement makes our cooperative effort all the more important.

My thoughts here are not intended to alarm you or to imply a future event that would affect our operations, not at all. It is my purpose to highlight our cooperative success in performing important national security work in a safe and secure manner and to emphasize the vital role our collective vigilance contributes to this outcome in an even more successful 2013!

Dave

NNSA Deputy Bids Mellington Farewell; Lawrence Named NSO Acting Manager

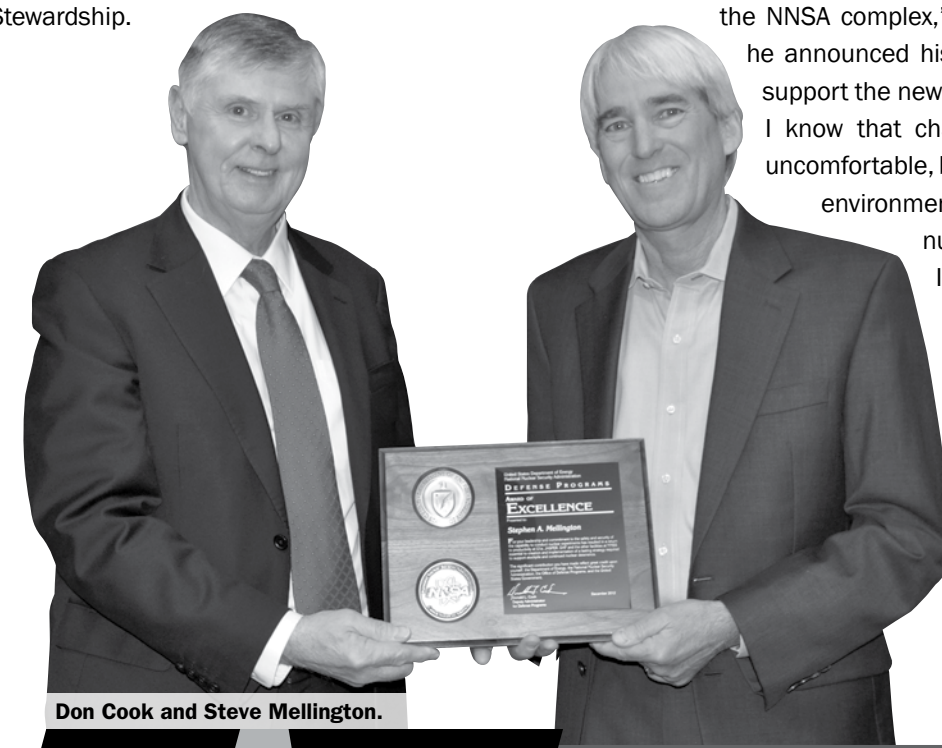
By *OneVoice* Staff Reports

Dr. Donald L. Cook, deputy administrator for Defense Programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), visited Las Vegas in December to bid farewell to Nevada Site Office (NSO) Manager Steve Mellington, who retired after five years as manager.

NSO Deputy Administrator Steve Lawrence has been named acting manager indefinitely.

A 25-year veteran of the NSO, Mellington was presented with a special award for his service that has helped bring the Site forward as one of the nation's leaders in national security.

Cook applauded Mellington's efforts with the Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER) facility, the National Criticality Experiments Research Center (NCERC) and U1a, as well as a host of subcritical experiments that have revolutionized Stockpile Stewardship.



Don Cook and Steve Mellington.

"It's been my pleasure to know Steve," Cook said. "He met full measure of the challenges we needed to accomplish. He would have received this award even if he wasn't retiring for all of his work with the NNSS. He oversaw the remarkable Gemini subcritical series, as well as Barolo and Bacchus. We really wouldn't be able to do what we do without his support."

In response, Mellington said he felt the recent Gemini experimental series will usher in a new future of cooperation between the NNSS, National Security Technologies (NSTec), the management and operating contractor for the Site, and the national laboratories. He said he plans to travel now and spend time at his cabin in Utah.

"Together we have taken this office to the next level and helped it become one of the leading site offices in the NNSA complex," Mellington said earlier when he announced his retirement. "I believe in and support the new vision of our NNSA leadership. I know that change is hard and sometimes uncomfortable, but it is necessary in our current environment if we are to maintain a viable nuclear weapons enterprise. I ask that you embrace this change as an opportunity to excel and set the standard for the complex."

The retirement officially took effect on Dec. 31.

ONE VOICE

Published for all members of the Nevada Enterprise (NvE) Complex

Steve Lawrence, Acting Manager, NNSA/Nevada Site Office • Darwin Morgan, Director, Office of Public Affairs

Editors: Jeff Donaldson and Lory Jones. Submit articles or ideas to: donaldjw@nv.doe.gov.

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Contributors: Dan Burns, Dave Bradley, Dona Merritt, Darwin Morgan and Angela Ramsey

U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Site Office
P.O. Box 98518, Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518
Phone: 702-295-3521

NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration

NNSS Emergency Response Organization Teams Up With Local Hospital for RadCon Exercise

By Jeff Donaldson, *OneVoice* Editor

It was Dec. 12, 2012, or 12/12/12 – a date that was as unique as was the first-ever collaborative effort between the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) and Centennial Hills Hospital Medical Center (CHHMC) – when emergency responders came together to demonstrate the hospital's ability to handle a radiological contamination incident.

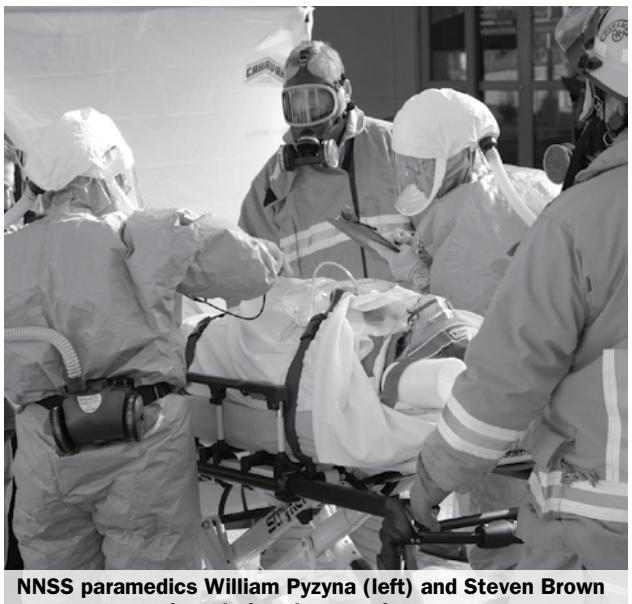
Operation Decon-12 was a full-scale exercise held by the hospital, with NNSS Emergency Response Organization personnel playing a supporting role, designed to test the facility's operational response capability. More than 50 doctors, nurses, administrators and radiological experts participated, along with NNSS Fire and Rescue and Las Vegas Metro ARMOR officers.

Hospital Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Nancy Newell said the exercise was the first in Centennial Hills' five-year history to address radiological issues. She said the hospital's proximity to the NNSS – and the Site's expertise in radiological consequence and management – made the joint-effort an opportunity they couldn't pass on.

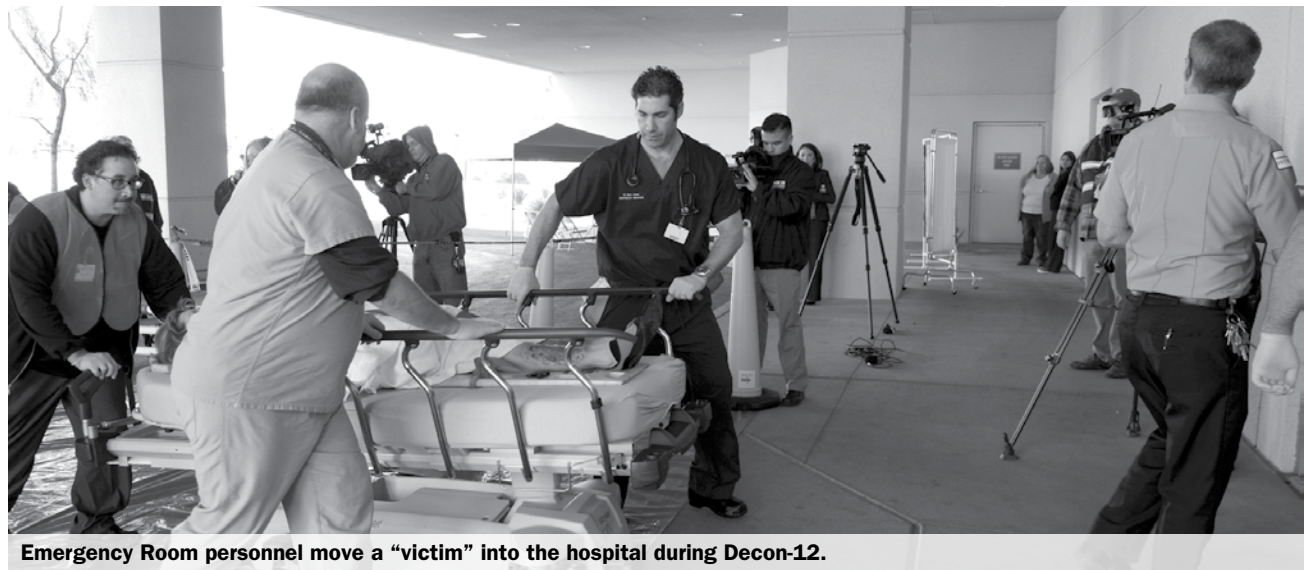
"You have to be ready for anything – it's about being prepared," Newell said. "We'll use the lessons learned to direct our procedures and staffing for future exercises or potential events." Everyday hospital operations were not impacted by the exercise, which was conducted at one end of the 177-bed facility.

For Operation Decon-12, exercise planners created a scenario to support the hospital's exercise objectives that involved a radiological dispersal device (RDD), or dirty bomb, that was simulated to have detonated near the boundary of the NNSS, about 65 miles outside of Las Vegas, where protestors were assembled. More than 20 actors were moulaged – or made up – to depict attack victims.

Two patients were transported by NNSS ambulance to CHHMC, and 18 were pre-staged to simulate those that would arrive by private vehicle from the incident.



NNSS paramedics William Pyzyna (left) and Steven Brown transport a patient during the exercise.



Emergency Room personnel move a "victim" into the hospital during Decon-12.

Emergency Room personnel assessed the level of contamination and moved the patients through decontamination tents that isolated the radiation. Clothing was removed and the actors were rinsed with water to remove the simulated radioactive particles. The patients were then processed for admission to the hospital.

"The chance of a radiological attack is remote, but the consequences are very high," said NNSS Fire Chief Charles Fauerbach, who served as a member of the planning team and Chief Controller. "As first responders, we have to be prepared for the possibility of anything. This scenario provided the opportunity to work with Centennial Hills, so that the first time we share procedures and capabilities isn't during an actual emergency."

CHHMC developed the exercise with Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Grant dollars awarded earlier in 2011, and exercise planning support from the NNSS. The planning occurred over six months, with NNSS Emergency Planning and Preparedness Senior Director Todd Davidson taking a leading role supporting Newell.

Exercises like Operation Decon-12 are a normal part of operations at the NNSS. The NNSS has demonstrated its radiological contamination capabilities through other exercises prior to Operation Decon-12. However, Davidson said this was an important step in supporting CHHMC by demonstrating its capability to handle medical surge for multiple injured and radiological contaminated patients.

"What made this exercise unique is that it not only provided us an opportunity to exchange information with a hospital that we would definitely turn to if this were a real-life event, but it also demonstrates to the community our commitment to ensuring their safety," Davidson said.

Indeed, numerous news stations covered the exercise, with major reports airing on local Las Vegas channels. According to Newell, the benefit of practicing scenarios like this one far outweighs the effort put into planning it.

Newell served as the Unit Commander for Nevada's Disaster Medical Assistance Team under the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), which responded to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Lessons learned at Katrina were used to develop and plan Operation Decon-12.

"There were many lessons learned from Katrina that might have been avoided or better handled if we had exercises like this one," Newell said of the pilot program. "Exercises like this help us to build and develop our Emergency Response Program which Centennial Hills Hospital has made a priority. We understand our responsibility and remain committed to our patients, employees, providers and community" to be prepared.

Results of the exercise evaluation will be compiled into an After Action Report that the hospital will use to improve its capabilities, Newell said.

NvE Calendar of Events

Jan. 18-19:
Science Bowl and Operation Clean Desert Exhibit, Rancho High School, North Las Vegas

Feb. 12:
Nevada High School Science Bowl

Anniversary Celebration Compares Stockpile History, Future

By Lory Jones, *OneVoice* Editor

Dignitaries from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and its Nevada Site Office (NSO), and many Nevada Enterprise employees, gathered Dec. 12 to celebrate and remember an historic moment: the last underground nuclear test conducted at the Nevada National Security Site. The celebration commemorated the 20th anniversary of such an event that, at that time, startled many at the Site and in the national laboratories, leaving them wondering, "What now?"


Dr. Christopher Deeney

On Sept. 23, 1992, scientists at Yucca Flat at the Site conducted "Divider," the last underground nuclear test in the "Operation Julin" series. Two weeks later, on Oct. 2, the United States suspended all nuclear weapons testing programs, anticipating the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, which was designed to ban all nuclear explosions globally. Little did the scientific community imagine that the moratorium would launch unimagined and significant turning points in stockpile weapon technology.

Sometimes, change is good.

Before live and teleconference audiences at the NSO in North Las Vegas and NNSA headquarters in Washington, D.C., guest speakers recalled those tenuous days. They compared the past of underground nuclear testing with the present and future: our stockpile stewardship program (SSP), one of the major definers of our mission at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

National Security Technologies (NSTec) President Raymond J. Juzaitis, who served as master of ceremonies at the anniversary celebration, recalled his early days of working in the control room during "Divider." "Sept. 23, 1992 was a bittersweet day because it was significant for many Americans. It had us wondering, 'Without underground testing, what is the role of the Site now?'" Two decades later, Juzaitis admits, "We can celebrate that we're still here, conducting more remarkable work than ever before."


Workers prepare the Divider underground test (1992).

Gary Wall, a weapons designer and physicist from Los Alamos National Laboratory, gave his perspective of transitioning from a nuclear weapons program with nuclear testing to a stockpile stewardship program without nuclear testing. "The shot named Divider was prophetic. At the time Divider was fired, we had no idea it would be our last nuclear test. Negotiations were identifying the last few tests that should be conducted before the moratorium. We had the rack for the next test already built and ready to go. I was pessimistic about our ability to continue to certify stockpile performance without the ability to conduct [underground] nuclear tests."

However, Wall added, Divider proved to be "an extremely successful test of a design concept still relevant to future stockpile options." Wall worked with NSTec on the Gemini subcritical experiment series – a ground-breaking advancement in diagnostics and data measurement never realized during the days of underground testing. "Scaled subcrits like Gemini can be used to improve and validate physics models as well as investigate aging effects to support stockpile assessments," he said.

Before Divider, new nuclear tests were a fundamental part of the methodology for predicting stockpile "life." Model predictions for stockpile performance were based on a small number of nuclear test tie points in the system – that is, measurement predicted performance against years that weapons were stockpiled. Now with weapons stored in the stockpile much longer, aging issues become important in predicting nuclear stockpile performance.

Or, as Wall pointed out, "Unlike good wine, nuclear weapons do not improve with age."

After Divider, there were improvements in stockpile stewardship computing and simulation: Exponential increase in high-performance computing capabilities; incredible advances in visualization tools for analyzing results of large simulations; and new simulation codes with improved physics models.

Dr. Christopher Deeney, assistant deputy administrator, NNSA Defense Programs, told how stewardship has transformed the stockpile program in the last 20 years. "We are learning more than we did in the underground testing era. The computer has transformed our industry, a predictive capability framework integrates experimental advances with computer [technology], and we conduct annual assessments."

Dr. Deeney explained that, in the pre-moratorium years (1945-1958), the U.S. conducted 194 nuclear tests. Data was retrieved from atomic fireballs, photos, seismic measurements, radiological/chemical data and the history of the public's reaction to atmospheric testing. Post-moratorium (1961-1992), scientists performed 860 tests in vertical shafts or horizontal tunnels and took extensive diagnostic data. Data quality at the Site improved as weapons physics code capabilities improved.


Gary Wall

Martin White, head of Strat-Tech with the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence, praised the UK and U.S. partnership in the SSP. Dr. David Crandall, senior policy advisor in DOE's Office of Science, extensively shared the history and challenges of starting the SSP.

NNSA's Kasia Mendelssohn, speaking on behalf of Anne Harrington, deputy administrator in Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, lauded how far we have peacefully advanced in diverse experiments. "It is because of the dedication of you, the NNSA team working with our colleagues from the United Kingdom, that we are able to mark this occasion today and to look ahead with confidence... We salute the outstanding legacy that got us to the point where we can consider seriously a future without nuclear explosive testing. The world is a safer and more certain place if nuclear explosive testing is relegated to the pages of history."

Don Cook, deputy administrator of Defense Programs, emphasized that, to be effective, NNSA's stockpile management strategy must successfully sustain the stockpile and effectively respond to geopolitical challenges, arms control opportunities and technical surprises. "The Stockpile Stewardship and Management Plan provides a roadmap for the advanced science and technology development required to maintain the safety, security and reliability of the stockpile," Cook said. At the same time, he added, "A well-planned and well-executed strategy will enable the NNSA and the Department of Defense to build a deployment and hedge strategy consistent with the goal to establish a smaller, yet effective, nuclear deterrent."

Read more about the Stockpile Stewardship Program at: http://www.nv.energy.gov/library/factsheets/DOENV_1017.pdf

After "Divider," new experimental facilities were built:
- The Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Z Machine at Sandia National Laboratories
- U1a at the Nevada National Security Site
- JASPER at the NNSS

Scientists also discovered new diagnostic capabilities:
- The Cygnus radiography at U1a
- Proton radiography
- Photon Doppler Velocimetry

Challenges now and into the future:
- Maintaining healthy skepticism toward simulation results
- Maintain design expertise
- Attract and retain bright young scientists
- Continue pushing the envelope in experiments and computational capabilities

Source: Gary Wall, LANL

NvE Makes Holidays Brighter for Those in Need

Continued from page 1

Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program

The wishes of 99 "angels" came true this year when employees "adopted" them by bringing in toys and gift cards totaling more than $4,600. "I am so proud of our employees. They have such generous hearts, to help bring joy to a child at this time of the year," says Jennifer Morgan, NSTec's Workforce Enhancement & Communications manager who supervised the program. Angel Tree benefits approximately 6,000 less-fortunate children in Southern Nevada that might not receive any gifts during the holiday season.

Toys for Tots

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program

More than 104 bicycles and 17 barrels overflowing with toys were donated during this year's Toys for Tots campaign. Since 2004, employees have donated, on average, 100 bicycles and 20 barrels of toys annually. Since beginning the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program in 1947, Marines have distributed more than 452 million toys to more than 209 million needy children.

Business Operations' BBQ Help Support Local Communities

Supporting our local communities is nothing new to the NSTec family. The Business Operations directorate did it in a big way Dec. 11, when "barbecue elves" cooked up some impressive proceeds and adoptions for local charities.

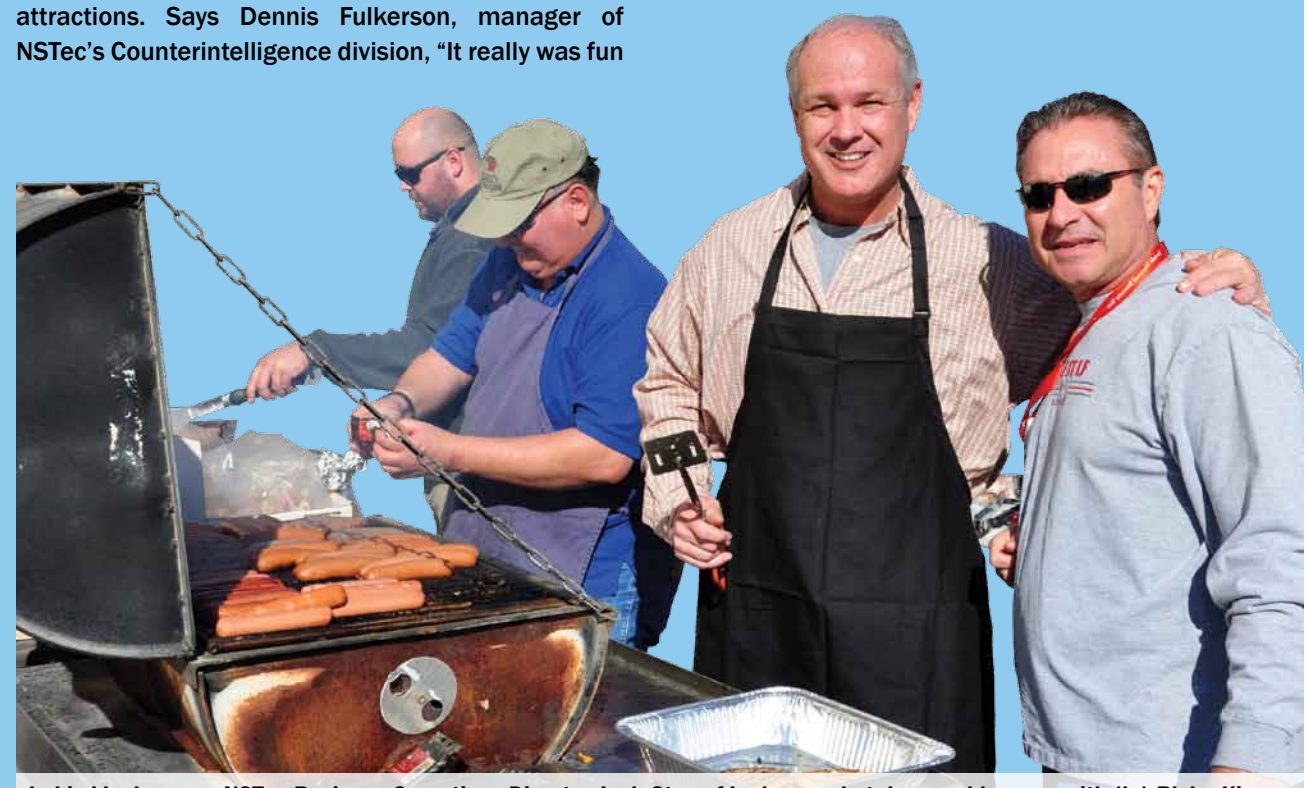
Business Operations served hot dogs and hamburgers, chips and drinks for $5 to 225 employees. Hungry attendees also bought raffle tickets for a variety of great prizes. In all, the directorate raised $8,400 that support Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, our Employee Crisis Fund and employee food bank, U.S. Vets and gifts for five families through the Adopt-A-Family program.

Business Operations says the committee wanted to do something to give back to charities that NSTec supports, so the holiday committee discussed various options and decided on a barbecue. They were very humbled by the huge outpouring of support and generosity from the entire company. The directorate is looking forward to a mid-2013 event because helping our community in need is a year-around commitment for NSTec.

Volunteers Help Maneuver the Crowds at the Magical Forest

In all the holiday rush, 15 employees from the Nevada Enterprise dedicated their personal time Dec. 22 to help Opportunity Village manage the throng of nighttime holiday crowds at the Magical Forest. They loaded passengers into choo-choo trains, helped secure children on animal figures at the merry-go-round, served food, escorted children to Santa and attended the slides. The night may have been a chilly 45 degrees, but hearts warmed to holiday-inspired fantasies of brightly lit trees, ice castles, elves' workshops and many other attractions. Says Dennis Fulkerson, manager of NSTec's Counterintelligence division, "It really was fun helping out at the Magical Forest. I volunteered at the slides, picking up tubes the kids used to slide down the incline. After a while, some kids waiting in line struck up the song, 'Feliz Navidad.' I got into that and started conducting the crowd into the song. Before long, everyone was singing!"

NSTec's Elaine Solzano worked the eager crowds at Santa's Workshop in the Magical Forest.



In his black apron, NSTec Business Operations Director Jack Stumpf barbecues hot dogs and burgers with (l-r) Blake King, Joe Suarez and Craig Mercadante.

Navarro-Intera Helps Family Dealing with Leukemia

Navarro-Intera associates (right to left: DeAnn Divers, Stacey Alderson, Kim Hunsinger, Sam Marutzky and Helen Stolz) delivered Christmas gifts to the family of Jose Garcia (left with mother, Guadalupe) who is undergoing treatment for acute myeloid leukemia at Sunrise Children's Hospital. The Garcia family, from Bullhead, Ariz., were selected by the Candlelighters for Childhood Cancer Adopt-A-Family Program to receive some much-needed relief and joy during the holiday season while Jose, who is 16, undergoes his month-long treatments away from home.

Navarro-Intera Adopt-A-Family

NNSA's Contractor Employees Recognized

By *OneVoice* Staff Reports

In the first part of 2012, two employees of National Security Technologies (NSTec) were recognized as the Contractor Employee of the Quarter in successive quarters: **Kevin Thomas** (for January – March) and **Eric Loros** (April – June). Thomas and Loros are the most recent contractor employees to receive the award presented by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

During the quarter, Kevin Thomas, senior engineer, received numerous accolades from the Remote Sensing Laboratory, Render Safe and Stabilization program manager and multiple NA-42 federal team leaders. Thomas's contributions are highlighted by his innovation, quality improvement of a product, leadership and teamwork, specifically citing his role in developing a stand-off X-ray generator controller. Thomas has demonstrated his commitment to providing a superior product by improving upon the already impressive performance of the Mini-MIRA III instrument. Thomas can be relied upon to provide leadership and technical assistance during any NNSA emergency response, ensuring that the operator on the ground has the best information available to conduct exceptionally important tasks. His commitment to completing all tasks to the best of his ability has greatly enhanced the nation's preparedness for responding to acts of nuclear terrorism.


Kevin Thomas

Loros has provided outstanding leadership in improving definition and execution of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Nuclear Criticality Safety Program (CSP). As manager, he effectively led the reengineering of the process for elevating criticality safety controls for inclusion in the safety basis, and established a CSP Description that defines and manages the criticality safety interfaces of all organizations that perform fissionable material operations at the NNSS. His leadership on these mission-essential initiatives fulfilled NNSA incremental milestones to achieve an integrated CSP that enables the work jointly supported by the National Weapons Laboratories and NSTec to be performed seamlessly. Due to his efforts, a joint process for Criticality Control Reviews has created a tailored, agreed-upon set of criticality safety controls that facilitate work process improvements to attain safety and operational efficiency.


Eric Loros

Hundreds Sign Up for Nevada Science Bowl; Volunteers Still Needed

By Dan Burns, NSTec

Question: What can you do to help prepare the next generation of scientists, engineers and doctors?

Answer: Volunteer for Nevada Science Bowl!

Students all over Nevada are practicing their answers for science and math questions in preparation for the 2013 Nevada Science Bowl. There will be separate academic contests for high school students and middle school students. There will also be model car races for middle school students, who will work in teams to build cars with kits provided by the U.S. Department of Energy. The students choose their own designs; the cars are powered by lithium-ion batteries.

The high school academic competition is scheduled for Feb. 1-2, 2013. The middle school academic competition is set for Friday and Saturday, March 1-2, 2013. The green flag will drop on the middle school car races on Saturday March 9. So far, more than 300 students and teachers have signed up for Nevada Science Bowl events.

We are still looking for volunteers, especially with the middle school academic competition. We need timekeepers, scorekeepers, judges and other helpers. We provide training for a fun and fulfilling day of volunteering! If you can volunteer to help, please email Daniel Burns (NSTec) at nevadasciencebowl@nv.doe.gov.

Sponsors of the Nevada Science Bowl include: U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office, National Security Technologies (NSTec), Northrop Grumman, U.S. Department of the Interior, Cox Communications, WSI-Nevada Team, Navarro-Intera, VegasPBS, Desert Research Institute, Barrick Mining, Caesars Entertainment, UNLV, the National Atomic Testing Museum, and the CH2M Foundation.

More NNSS News Now Available Through GovDelivery!

By Dona Merritt, Navarro-Intera

The GovDelivery subscription service for Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) news now offers even more! In addition to EM News Flash articles on Environmental Management activities, you can now expand your subscription to receive this monthly publication covering news relating to the entire NNSS community.

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NvE VOICES

Far'd Thomas

Current Position
As a senior computer systems analyst for WSI-Nevada subcontractor Lockheed Martin, Far'd is responsible for database and web development solutions in the Information Services Department.

Career Path (past 10 years)
- Transportation Officer, Nevada Army National Guard, North Las Vegas, Nev. (August 2011 – Present)
- Customer Support Engineer, Inspectron Inc./U.S. Government Printing Office, Stennis Space Center, Miss. (March 2010 – August 2011)
- Signal Officer, Mississippi Army National Guard, Gulfport, Miss. (April 2010 – August 2011)
- Computer Operator, U.S. Government Printing Office, Stennis Space Center, Miss. (May 2008 – March 2010)
- Deputy Sheriff, Harrison County Sheriff's Department, Gulfport, Miss. (June 2007 – May 2008)
- Communications & Information Systems Officer, U.S. Air Force, Hickam AFB, Hawaii (December 2004 – August 2007)
- Systems Engineer, Verizon Datacenter, Pearl River, N.Y. (January 1999 – December 2004)

Notables (awards, honors, achievements, published works, etc.)
- Air Force Achievement Medal (USAF)
- Army Achievement Medal (USA)
- Distinguished Graduate, Highest Academic Average (Police Academy)
- Franklin Peer Award, Special Act of Service Award (U.S. GPO)

Education
- B.S., Computer Information Systems, Herbert H. Lehman College, Bronx, N.Y.
- M.S., Information Systems, University of Phoenix, Online (currently pursuing)

Far'd, you're relatively new to the Site mission. Why did you join WSI-Nevada?
"My wife is currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force and we recently moved to Nevada as a result of her changing duty stations. I came across a requisition that fit my qualifications with WSI-Nevada as an Information Services specialist and was sold."

What was your first impression as a new employee?
"'This company has really old furniture!' But the employees I had the pleasure of interacting with were all very personable and welcomed me with open arms… until I took over LANDesk (now a cyber security function) and started pushing patches. Warm embraces quickly turned into cold choke holds and snarling glares replaced smiling faces."

Jane Ann Pete-Kasik

Current Position
As project manager for Defense Experimentation and Stockpile Stewardship (DE&SS) at National Security Technologies (NSTec), Jane Ann is responsible for oversight of the planning resources and processes within DE&SS. She ensures that the DE&SS portfolio is planned according to the company's and director's requirements, and that the plan fits within the anticipated funding. She ensures the DE&SS portfolio is reviewed regularly, and she interfaces with Nevada Site Office's Assistant Manager for National Security regarding DE&SS task plans, baseline changes and monthly reporting. The DE&SS project controls engineer (PCE) supervisor and PCEs are part of her planning team.

Notables (awards, honors, achievements, published works, etc.)
Award of Excellence for the Nuclear Weapons Program in 1997 for her efforts supporting the new Bechtel Nevada Contract during their first year-end closing.

Education
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, University of Nevada at Las Vegas

Jane Ann, you've been serving the Site mission for, remarkably, 30 years. Why have you stayed so long?
"When I first went to work at EG&G, I hadn't stayed with any company longer than two years, and I couldn't imagine working anywhere longer than maybe five years. I had attended a retirement party for an accountant that had worked at EG&G for 35 years, and I remember thinking that wasn't going to be me. I've been fortunate that I have been allowed to grow within the three companies that have had this contract. I have moved around within different organizations and been allowed to take on new roles and challenges, and I didn't realize it's been so long."

What has been your most significant contribution to your job?
"Planning and executing the Integrated Business Information Delivery System project on time was very significant for our team. We were very important to the Oracle Enterprise System, since it allowed us to store information and retrieve information from the new accounting and procurement applications. The applications changed, but the look and feel of the reports remained very familiar for the users."

What do people NOT know about you (special talent, hobby, desire, etc.)?
"I was a junior varsity cheerleader, since someone convinced me that if I didn't make cheerleader I would be a shoe-in for the drill team. I somehow made cheerleader, so I had to wait an entire year to realize my dream of being on my high school drill team."

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New Wells at NNSS Provide Information on Groundwater at Pahute Mesa

By Angela Ramsey, Navarro-Intera

New wells drilled near historic underground test areas in Nevada are helping scientists get a clearer understanding of the groundwater in these areas while contributing to the design of a long-term monitoring system.

Drilled from September to October 2012, these two wells will supplement a network of more than 20 existing characterization wells in an area called Pahute Mesa, which extends from the northwestern portion of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) to the adjacent Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR).

For more than two decades, groundwater specialists from the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration's Nevada Site Office have drilled dozens of these deep characterization wells near former testing areas throughout the NNSS and the NTTR as part of a full-scale groundwater program.

Through well sampling, groundwater specialists can identify specific characteristics of the groundwater, including contaminant levels, water chemistry, pressure levels, temperature and geologic features, such as fractures and faults. Experts say information gathered from each well works cumulatively to help build a more complete picture of the complex subsurface.

"This data helps us better understand what's going on in the groundwater in the vicinity of that well," said Bill Wilborn, federal sub-project director from the Nevada Site Office. "We can then input data from multiple wells into computer modeling software that produces three-dimensional images of the larger subsurface environment."

NNSS scientists use these models to make forecasts about where contaminants from historic testing reside, whether or not these contaminants are moving, and if so, at what speed. Protecting offsite populations is the ultimate goal.

"Though no contamination from historical underground NNSS activities has ever been detected in public water sources," Wilborn explained, "we are continually working to make sure a reliable monitoring network is in place that ensures the long-term protection of the public and the environment."

The new Pahute Mesa wells, designated ER-20-11 (bottom) and ER-EC-14 (above), were drilled to 3,003 and 2,378 feet, respectively. Depths of characterization wells typically range from 800 to 4,000 feet beneath the surface.

Crews at the NNSS and NTTR will spend the winter months conducting post-drilling development and testing activities at two other wells on Pahute Mesa. Meanwhile, groundwater specialists will continue to compile findings from wells sampled this year.

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