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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office



January/February 2010 - Issue 141

A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family

DESS Programs Earn National, International Recognition

Defense Experimentation and Stockpile Stewardship (DESS) program accomplishments have received national and international recognition recently.



Newsweek magazine highlighted the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's National

Ignition Facility (NIF) and its efforts to achieve fusion ignition. A featured picture in the November 14 article showed two National Security Technologies (NSTec) employees working in the NIF target chamber.

Dr. Chris Hagen, NSTec principal scientist, also has just returned from Warsaw, Poland, where he was invited to represent the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) on an international advisory panel for Dense Plasma Focus research held at the International Centre for Dense Magnetized Plasmas (ICDMP) in Warsaw. Dr. Hagen delivered a paper on recent studies of the potential applications for pulsed neutron sources in

defense science, forensics, and threat reduction using NSTec's DPF machines.

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*Published for all members of the NNSA/Nevada Site Office family
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Defense Experimentation and Stockpile Stewardship (DESS) program accomplishments have received national and international recognition recently.

Newsweek magazine highlighted the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's National Ignition Facility (NIF) and its efforts to achieve fusion ignition. A featured picture in the November 14 article showed two National Security Technologies (NSTec) employees working in the NIF target chamber.



NSTec, Special Technologies Laboratory (STL) and LANL officials pose for a photograph while receiving the R&D 100 Award. They are: Back row, left to right: Mike Grover [NSTec STL], Dan Sorenson [LANL P-23], Morris Kaufman [NSTec LAO], Mike Butchko [NSTec NLV/NTS]; Front row, left to right: Dave Esquibel

[NSTec LAO], Robert Malone [NSTec LAO], Brent Frogget [NSTec LAO], and Pete Pazuchanics [LANL P-23].

Dr. Chris Hagen, NSTec principal scientist, also has just returned from Warsaw, Poland, where he was invited to represent the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) on an international advisory panel for Dense Plasma Focus research held at the International Centre for Dense Magnetized Plasmas (ICDMP) in Warsaw. Dr. Hagen delivered a paper on recent studies of the potential applications for pulsed neutron sources in defense science, forensics, and threat reduction using NSTec's DPF machines.

Additionally, *R&D magazine* recently announced the 2009 R&D 100 Award went to NSTec's Los Alamos Operations (LAO) and the Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) co-development of a new capability in UV holography systems. A joint NSTec team developed the lens to help scientists measure the size and velocity of particles ejected from a piece of metal after it is hit by a shock wave. The lens improves current resolution capability significantly, potentially allowing particles as small as 0.5 microns in diameter to be measured.

The LANL part of the team developed the high-power laser system. "There are no other UV holography systems on the market capable of measuring ejected particles of this size," LAO Diagnostic Instrumentation manager David Esquibel said. "This represents a unique capability for our weapons program."

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NSTec Awarded One-Year Contract Extension Through 2013

Company Recognized for 'Outstanding' Program Performance

The U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has awarded National Security Technologies (NSTec) a one-year, cost-reimbursement and operating type contract extension valued at approximately \$450 million to manage and operate the Nevada Test Site (NTS) through 2013. The Northrop Grumman joint venture earned the contract extension through its continued exceptional performance, which led to a customer performance assessment of "outstanding" for its performance at the site in 2009.

"This is the second year in a row NSTec has earned an 'outstanding' performance rating, and again we exceeded all key metrics for being awarded an additional term year, extending our contract through 2013," said Dr. Stephen Younger, president of NSTec.

Under the terms of the contract, NSTec manages and operates the NTS facility and provides infrastructure support. NSTec's primary mission includes stockpile stewardship as well as management of the nuclear explosives safety team that supports the Department of Energy's efforts to prevent or slow the spread of nuclear weapons, while bolstering its counter-terrorism mission. The contract also supports hazardous chemical spill testing and emergency response training. NSTec also operates facilities for the NNSA in California, New Mexico and Maryland.

"Without question, NSTec's world class leadership team, proactive program management and a commitment to excellence are what allow this program to continue its superior performance," said James Cameron, corporate vice president and president of Northrop Grumman's Technical Services sector. "This award is reflective of our strong partnership with our customer and our steadfast support to NNSA's initiatives to evolve the

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complex to meet future requirements."

Northrop Grumman is the managing partner of the joint venture that includes team members AECOM, Los Angeles; CH2M Hill, Englewood, Colo.; and Nuclear Fuel Services, Erwin, Tenn.

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Valuable Groundwater Information Found at Four New Wells

New Wells Drilled around NTS

The remote area around Pahute Mesa has seen a flurry of activity since May, when the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) began construction of new groundwater characterization wells both on and adjacent to the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

Drilling and sampling of these wells provides valuable information and a better understanding of the groundwater and subsurface environment. This knowledge is essential to assure that DOE protects the public from exposure to water sources contaminated by historic underground nuclear testing.

Funding was identified for the construction of nine wells over three years (including some from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to accelerate the work). However, an additional unplanned well was constructed in order to overcome subsurface environmental challenges experienced while drilling the second planned well. This additional well also addressed feedback communicated by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP).

The NNSA/NSO has regularly communicated drilling progress and sampling results to both the NDEP and the Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Programs (CAB) throughout well construction and laboratory analysis. As scientific transport modeling had predicted, sampling results confirmed the presence of radioactive contamination at all four wells drilled this year. Three of the four wells, including the well located beyond the NTS boundary on the federally-controlled Nevada Test and Training Range, were below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act Standards.

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Development of the transport model is a foundation of the Nevada Site Office Underground Test Area (UGTA) Sub-Project strategy for ensuring public safety. The transport model is a predictive graphic representation of data gathered from well drilling and sampling and is constantly refined with the incorporation of new information. Hence, the locations for the new characterization wells were chosen for optimal information gathering, and are prioritized based upon the need for more specific data to improve the model.

The confirmation of contamination in the groundwater at the newly constructed characterization wells increases the confidence of the transport model. The knowledge that it took 40 years for the contaminated groundwater to move approximately two miles from nuclear test locations to the well location is important data that will be input back into the model. The nearest public water source is located approximately 14 miles from this well location.

With this knowledge, the NNSA/NSO continues to move forward with its UGTA strategy and is committed to working closely with NDEP, the CAB, and the public to share information. Earlier this year, the NSO held an Open House in Beatty to speak with residents and other stakeholders about the transport model predictions. The NNSA/NSO plans to conduct another Open House in the spring of 2010 to discuss the recent sampling results and plan for further characterization wells. This Open House will be held in conjunction with well drilling at three new locations, two of which are located southwest of ER-EC-11 on the Nevada Test and Training Range. As well drilling and sampling progresses during the spring 2010 campaign, information will be communicated to the public at a variety of venues, including the CAB.

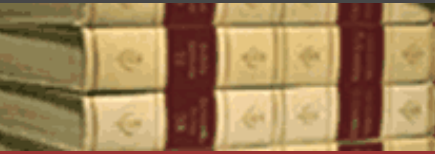
Additional information on Nevada Test Site groundwater and/or the UGTA Sub-Project can be obtained by e-mailing envmgt@nv.doe.gov or by calling 702-295-3521.

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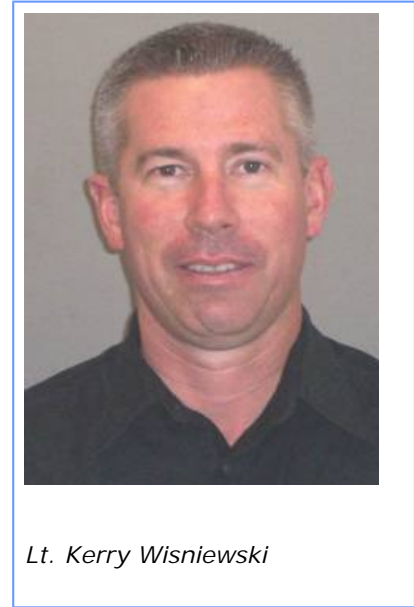
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WSI-Nevada Lieutenant Honored with Leadership Award



Lt. Kerry P. Wisniewski, WSI-Nevada, Protective Force Special Response Team (SRT), has been awarded the annual Elliott P. Sydnor Jr. Leadership Award for his work at the Nevada Test Site.

Annually, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Health, Safety and Security gives the Sydnor Award to the Composite Adversary Team (CAT) member that demonstrates overall excellence in individual initiative, skill, and leadership during the annual CAT training event. Department of Energy CAT members are hand-selected from DOE/National Nuclear Security Administration protective force organizations and trained to elite standards to conduct adversary actions in testing and evaluating protective force organizations.

Lt. Wisniewski becomes the first Nevada Site Office-based person to win the award.

The namesake of the award, Colonel (US Army, Retired) Elliott "Bud" Sydnor, led the U.S. Special Forces ground assault team to free American

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prisoners-of-war from the Son Tay prison in North Vietnam in 1970. Sydnor is the recipient of the U.S. Army Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award for valor for U.S. military personnel, and works today very closely with the DOE CAT training program. He also supports the DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security in security force assessments.

Lt. Wisniewski has been with WSI-Nevada for five years and served his country in the U.S. Marines from 1984 to 2005. A formal award presentation ceremony is being coordinated to take place at the Nevada Site Office.

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NTS Fire Station Construction Continues

Construction of two new fire stations at the Nevada Test Site began in April 2009 by Martin-Harris Construction, of Las Vegas. Fire Station #1 (above) is being



constructed in Mercury. A smaller fire station is concurrently being built in Area 6. Both fire stations are approximately 50 percent complete, and construction is expected to be completed by summer 2010.

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STL Engineer Receives 2009 Director's Award



Richard Lynn presents the Director's Award to Duane Gardner.



Duane Gardner (GPR operator, left) conducts a coal measurement experiment with GPR for representatives of U.S. Bureau of Mines (standing on mound of coal).

Duane Gardner, principal engineer, has become the winner and fourth recipient of the Special Technologies Laboratory (STL) 2009 Richard Lynn Director's Award. Gardner is credited

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with taking STL to new heights. Colleagues say he is a technical force multiplier and a member of the lab who continues to achieve new levels of professional excellence.

In 2006, STL began a tradition of recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions in support of the STL mission by presenting them with a special award named in honor of the “founding father” of STL and the first award recipient, Richard Lynn. The award is given to provide lasting recognition, and to inspire others to perform exceptional work and commendable achievements which contribute to the success of STL.

History of Achievements

During his high school years, Gardner operated a HAM radio which sparked his interest in electronics and radio frequency (RF) technology. When he was 15 years old, he ran the HAM radio station for a forest station responding to the Marble Cone Fire in King City, Calif. After graduating from high school, Duane attended the California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering.

Gardner joined the STL team straight out of college in August 1987; a short time after the laboratory was formed.

Throughout his 22-plus year career at STL, Gardner has contributed in several technical areas including radar technology and RF technology, his specialty. In the RF field, Duane has excelled in antenna design, and development of high performance RF transmitter and receiver systems. He is considered a subject matter expert in the world of RF technology.

“Duane is known throughout the laboratory as a free thinker, someone you can bring a problem set to and will most likely receive a solution. I speak from personal experience as I have relied heavily on Duane’s expertise in RF, as well as when I needed someone who could provide an honest and sound opinion on the technical feasibility of a concept,” says Mike Martinez, STL Director.

Gardner's contributions have been significant and have helped advance STL's reputation in key technology areas of tracking and sensor systems.

Additionally, Gardner was involved in an excavation project in New Mexico utilizing GPR to find the bones of the world's longest dinosaur, the Seismosaurus, also known as the earth-shaker. The radar designed by Duane eventually received a patent, and he is one of the few recipients of royalties from a patent within the DOE complex.

"I cannot think of a more deserving individual for the Richard Lynn Director's Award than Duane Gardner. Many of the successes of STL over the years are due to Duane's dedicated efforts and exemplary engineering expertise. Although technical development is not a sport, failure has always been our opponent, and Duane has been an outstanding team player who has always assisted in, or contributed significantly, to our victories," Martinez said during the recent STL Director's Award presentation to Duane.

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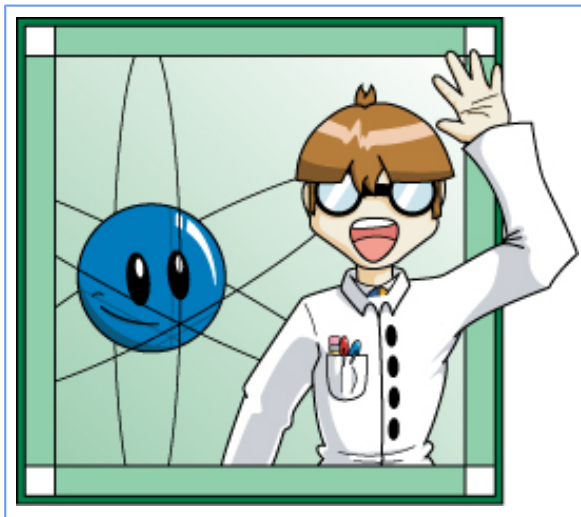
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Operation Clean Desert: Cleaning Up the NTS – One Class at a Time



Some real characters are promoting environmental cleanup projects at the Nevada Test Site.

Dr. Proton and Adam the Atom are on a mission to share the story of Operation Clean Desert with students, grades 3 through 6. The Operation Clean Desert adventure is experienced through an activity book, computer game, and display which is available to individuals, schools, libraries, community centers, and at events.

Contact envmgt@nv.doe.gov to learn more or visit the Internet website at <http://www.nv.doe.gov/kidszone/cleandesert.htm>.

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NSO, RSL Engineers Recognized As Employees of the Quarter



Les Winfield

Les Winfield, general engineer for the Nevada Site Office (NSO), and Harry "Chip" Louft, principal engineer for National Security Technologies (NSTec), are recognized as National Nuclear Security Administration Headquarters (NNSA/HQ) NA-10 and Contractor *Employees of the Quarter*.



Chip Louft

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Winfield successfully served as the NSO *Fall Classic* Program Manager. He effectively orchestrated the complex execution of *Fall Classic*, the first of its kind exercise sponsored by NA-40's Nuclear Counterterrorism Office and conducted at the Device Assembly Facility (DAF).

This exercise offered more than 200 multi-agency scientists, engineers, and emergency responders the opportunity to test and validate skills, tools, equipment, procedures, methods, techniques and new

developments in nuclear diagnostics and modeling on radiation test objects that contained significant, unknown amounts of special nuclear material (SNM). Les was responsible for coordinating all aspects of *Fall Classic*, including several not previously conducted at the DAF.

Louft is recognized for his “conspicuous and noteworthy performance” while serving as the NSTec, Remote Sensing Laboratory, Render Safe and Stabilization program manager.

During this quarter, Louft received regular and noteworthy praise by NA42, Albuquerque Field Office and the FBI for his many contributions to the NNSA NA42 mission. His contributions are highlighted by his innovation, bringing added value to NNSA through his job performance, leadership, and teamwork.

His innovative role in developing and fielding a versatile unsecure and secure communications system; and his leadership in developing and implementing a unique training and operational site for the Stabilization Program will greatly enhance the nation’s preparedness for responding to Domestic Nuclear Terrorism.

Other Federal winners of the award this year are: Cheryl Landholm (Jan.-March 2009), Colleen O’Laughlin (Apr.-June 2009) and Robert Bangerter Jr. Contractor winners have included: Jim Walker (Jan.-March 2009), Stefan Duke (Apr.-June 2009), and Harvey Clark (July-Sept. 2009).

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National Security Technologies

30 years

Carl Carlson, Daniel Solaegui, Dennis Chapman, Duane Swenson, Michael Clark, Robert Corrow

25 years

Janice Langley, Regina Woolard, Richard Waters

20 years

Elizabeth Kirkwood, Patrick Sawyer, Rita White

15 years

Cheryl Oar, Emma Fox

10 years

Beth Knotts, John Wesolowski, Michael Buss, Sonia Bonilla, Tina Smith, Troy Belka

5 years

Arthur Van Prooyen, Darrell Goeckner, John Halas, Michael Eshleman, Randall Rampke, Thomas Allen, Trenton Strain, York Lee.

WSI-Nevada

45 years

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Robert Ready

35 years

Robert Fletcher

25 years

Graig Newell

5 years

Leland Maestas, Kevin Klingenberg, Jesus Avina, Robert Bernardo, Erik Bozan, Donald Cottom, Robert Cratty, James W. Dunn, Joseph Figueroa, Margarito Gomez, Julio Granados, Alejandro Gutierrez, William Lemon, Luis Medina, Julio Nieves, Michael Olson, Angel Rodriguez, John Rust , Chad Shevlin, Max Shope, Patrick Stevens, Otis Weathersby, Peter Reimer, Daniel Sands, Kerry Wisniewski.

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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
NNES	Navarro Nevada Environmental Services
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
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
STL	Special Technologies Laboratory
WSI	Wackenhut Services Inc.

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