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U.S. DOE/NNSA - Nevada Site Office



March/April 2010 - Issue 142

A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family

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### [Multi-Agency Exercise Prepares Responders for Homeland Security Event](#)

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*Published for all members of the NNSA/Nevada Site Office family  
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## Two NTS Projects Win Pollution Prevention Awards

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced that two FY09 projects at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) were recognized with National Pollution Prevention awards.

The Mercury Highway Repaving Project won an Environmental Stewardship Award in the category of Waste/Pollution Prevention. The second award was for the Pluto Disassembly Facility Closure Project, which won a Best-In-Class Award in the category of Recycling.

"It is through the innovation of our highly skilled people that we are able to be recognized," said Nevada Site Office Manager Steve Mellington. "Our people continually demonstrate a "can-do" attitude to the way they go about accomplishing the mission and associated activities at the site."

Repaving of some 31 miles of new asphalt on the roadway spanning from Mercury to Gate 700 was completed last year using a recycling technique that prevented the need for waste disposal.

The majority of the construction project relied on the use of road bed modification, where existing pavement was recycled. The process consisted of pulverizing and grinding with a specified amount of the roadway subbase. Then cement and water were added and compacted. A very stable, new roadbed was created for the new asphalt. Then three inches of new asphalt was applied on top of the modified



*Lead plugs used for shielding in instrument and power cable penetrations to hot cell - reuse as shielding blocks at another DOE site.*

roadbed. This resulted in more than 30 miles of smoother and safer roads.

“This paving method prevented almost 40,000 cubic yards of waste being generated that would have been sent to the U10c construction landfill,” said NSO Environmental Management Systems Coordinator Orin Haworth. “This also saved about 4,000 gallons of gas and wear on the trucks that would have been required to transport the waste.”

The closure of the Pluto Disassembly Facility in Area 26 at NTS, which was previously used to design nuclear reactors that could propel a missile at velocities up to three times the speed of sound, created similar attention. From May 2008 to February 2009, closure activities by Navarro Nevada Environmental Services (NNES) and NSTec generated more than 94,000 lbs of waste, including oil, mercury-containing items and universal waste (light bulbs, batteries), that were recycled at off-site facilities.

Team members for the two projects will receive award certificates and project team awards in the near future.

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## Rep. King Gets First-Hand Look at CTOS

Rep. Peter King (R-New York), a representative for New York's 3rd District and a ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, observed a Nevada Test Site-based Counter Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS) mobile training course recently held in New York, and said he came away impressed with the program.

CTOS trains first responders, both at NTS and in mobile training scenarios around the country, to take immediate and decisive action to prevent and mitigate terrorist use of radiological or nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

Rep. King represents Massapequa, Long Island, N.Y., where the Personal Radiation Detector Course was being held. It was the first in a series of classes scheduled in the "Securing the Cities" (STC) training campaign, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and the



*Rep. Peter King (R-NY) and CTOS Manager Mike Corr discuss the basic operations and capabilities of a Personal Radiation Detector (PRD) during a recent CTOS course in New York.*



*CTOS instructor Eddie Reyes (right) shows Rep. King a Radiological Isotope Identification Device (RIID-hidden from view) reacting to a radiological source held by Ben Kalinsky (left).*

New York Police Department's  
Counterterrorism Bureau.

After King observed some of the class, he addressed some brief remarks to the students and STC leadership about the importance of the radiation detection mission.

Mike Corr, the Eastern Region manager for CTOS, and Eddie Reyes, one of the course directors, presented King with a demonstration of the three main pieces of STC radiation detection gear. Corr also briefed King on the overall CTOS training mission that National Security Technologies (NSTec) conducts for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through an interagency agreement with the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO).

"This is a critically important national program, and we were pleased that Rep. King took the time to see the training firsthand and to talk to the instructors and the students," said Bob Summers, director of the Homeland Security and Defense Applications Division for NSTec. "The superb work of our instructors and teams with first responders across the nation is helping create a national integrated response posture at every level."

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## Multi-Agency Exercise Prepares Responders for Homeland Security Event

There are many potential disasters or emergencies that emergency responders can face, and today being prepared for a terrorist attack is one of the most important ones. But terrorist attacks can occur in diverse ways, including radiological dispersion devices, mass shootings, chemical releases, biological attacks and bombings. According to FBI Bomb Data Center, approximately 70 percent of all terrorist incidents involve the use of explosives.



*First responders tend to a "victim" during the Sidewinder-10 Full-Scale Exercise at the Nevada Test Site.*

To prepare first responders for the possibility of such an event, the Nevada Test Site (NTS) hosted a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise, Sidewinder-10, on January 27. Like the slithering, sideways-moving snake, "Sidewinder" represented the terrorist tactic used in the exercise.

The exercise scenario was initiated by a 911 actor calling to report a vehicle accident involving a tractor trailer with breached, or leaking, containers. Once the first responders identified a potential security threat that included an improvised explosive device and a potential terrorist plot, the FBI was notified and special response teams were deployed to the incident. The NTS Emergency Response Organization (ERO) and offsite agencies worked together to analyze evidence and implement plans to resolve the threats posed in the exercise scenario.

"The exercise planning and training opportunities before the exercise



were just as valuable as the actual exercise,” said David Stuhan, Emergency Service and Operations Support (ESOS) lead exercise planner.

Sidewinder-10 involved more than 250 employees of the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO), National Security Technologies (NSTec), WSI Nevada Team, and Navarro Nevada Environmental Services (NNES), to respond to a “what-if” terrorist related scenario. The NSO also partnered with numerous local, state and federal agencies that included Nye County Sheriff’s Office, the FBI, the City of Las Vegas Bomb Squad, the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management, Nye County Division of Emergency Management and Department of Energy (DOE) headquarters. Full-scale exercises are part of a comprehensive exercise program which is required by DOE Order, DOE O 151.1C.

Because of the complexity of the exercise and the number of participants, the control organization was a critical component in successfully conducting the exercise. “The exercise control staff did a commendable job at keeping the exercise on track, maintaining a safe environment and making sure there was adequate opportunity to demonstrate all of the exercise objectives within an eight-hour exercise window,” said ESOS Division Manager Davida “Davey” Matthews, who also participated in the exercise as a crisis manager. The exercise scenario included a simulated multi-vehicle accident involving radiological materials, an improvised explosive device and an active terrorist threat. “They threw everything at us to test our systems, procedures and performance,” Matthews said.

NTS employees volunteered to be role players and pretended to be the injured, while others role-played terrorists. Actors provided a realistic environment for emergency responders, as if the event was “real.” Sidewinder-10 was the first homeland security exercise of this magnitude conducted at the NTS.

“The framework and the ambient complications of this scenario were what made coordination an integral piece of the response. No one agency or department could be equipped to handle all the needed actions alone,” said Bill Knipper, ESOS exercise planner who served as the exercise’s chief controller.

Overall, the ERO demonstrated their capability to respond to and manage a homeland security event at the NTS and was able to effectively interface and integrate effectively with offsite responders.

The true value in conducting these types of exercises is identifying the lessons learned. The basis for the exercise program is to continuously improve the exercise by evaluating it and making corrective actions.

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## Palo Verde High School Wins Nevada Regional Science Bowl

The Palo Verde High School team of Las Vegas marched through a 32-team, double-elimination tournament to win the U.S. Department of Energy's Nevada Regional Science Bowl Tournament, held in January, and sponsored by the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) and National Security Technologies (NSTec).



*NSO Public Affairs Director Darwin Morgan (right) stands with the winning team from Palo Verde High School.*

The win, on the campus of the University of Nevada Las Vegas, earned Palo Verde a trip to Washington D.C. to represent the region in the national competition and a check for \$5,000 for their school.

Teams from Nevada, Arizona, California and Utah tested their math and science knowledge during the competition.

The teams were quizzed on all science disciplines, including astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth science, general science, mathematics and physics. Each team of students was tested in a fast-paced question-and-answer format resembling the TV game show Jeopardy.

Placing second and winning a prize of \$2,500 for the school was Douglas County High School of Minden, Nevada. Third place and a \$1,500 check went to the Green Valley High School "Green Team" of Las Vegas. The Clark High School "Blue Team" took fourth and won \$1,000 for their school.

The team from Palo Verde will travel to Washington D.C. for the U.S.

Department of Energy's National Science Bowl Competition, April 29 –  
May 4.

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## NSO Receives Conditional Approval for Permit

The State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) issued conditional approval recently for a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit which will allow for the construction and operation of a new mixed waste disposal cell at the Nevada Test Site. NDEP will issue full approval after the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) submits final design drawings and provides satisfactory clarification to NDEP's comments on the permit application.

The NSO plans to fulfill these conditions by June in anticipation of NDEP issuing the final permit in July 2010. Upon receipt of the final permit, the Nevada Site Office will oversee construction of the cell, which is scheduled for completion and receipt of waste in early 2011.

The new disposal unit will be constructed near the existing mixed low-level waste disposal cell at the Nevada Test Site's Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site. This unit has been operating under a RCRA Disposal Permit since December 2005. The terms of this permit allow the existing cell to remain open until the end of November 2010 or until it reaches its capacity of 20,000 cubic meters.

Last year, the Nevada Site Office accepted comments from the public regarding this application; including during a public meeting in Pahrump on Sept. 2. Additionally, NDEP solicited public comments from Oct. 28 – Dec.11.



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## DAF Operations Teams Improving Efficiency

A Concurrent Operations and Security Enhancement project to increase efficiencies at the Device Assembly Facility (DAF) at the Nevada Test Site has hit full stride and the benefits are being realized.

An exercise in the facility last Fall has served as a springboard for the creation of several Nevada Throughput Improvement Project (NTIP) teams to look at improving security, access, operations and safety at the DAF. "Our success this past Fall has given us the nexus to fine more efficiencies at DAF," said Steve Mellington, Nevada Site Office manager.

The NTIP process was enhanced through innovative administration of escort ratios and Material Access Area (MAA) boundary reductions to facilitate reduced security costs. Substantive work with the Vulnerability Analysis Group resulted in a modified solution to a known vulnerability, meeting security requirements, and generating a cost savings of \$1.82M according to Ray Phifer, NNSA's assistant manager for Safeguards and Security. "The assignment of a permanent DAF Security Representative has fostered a closer working relationship with program elements, resulting in expedited support for all mission projects," says Phifer.

The enhanced benefits also include improved access to the DAF buildings by project personnel, enhanced non-intrusive environment for project activities due to improved facility and security practices and procedures, and significant reduction to project delays by streamlining radiological controls.

The NTIP process has been active in Nevada for the last 18 months. The teams identify and investigate potential constraints to maximize operational flexibility, propose solutions, and oversee implementation of management-approved solutions.

Eventually, it is expected that the work done through the NTIP process will be merged into the overall Nevada Enterprise (NvE) Governance project.

The work of the NTIP teams covered a broad spectrum of issues at DAF, and through listening to the needs and concerns of program officials many of the recommendations were addressed dramatically increasing the effectiveness of the DAF working environment. For example, the need to implement concurrent operations supported site efforts to justify headquarters funding for the installation of an ARGUS system at DAF.

Funding has been received and this project is ongoing. The NTIP process has raised the status of DAF as the location of choice for future high hazard experiments.

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## Fire Hurts... and Nevada Test Site Contractors Help

For the second year in a row, Nevada Test Site contractors National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), WSI Nevada Team, and Navarro-Intera have partnered to provide much-needed financial assistance to the American Red Cross of Southern Nevada.

The third annual **Fire Hurts... Red Cross Helps** campaign aims to raise \$100,000 to benefit local victims of fire. NSTec, WSI Nevada Team and Navarro-Intera offered a combined donation of \$8,000 during the campaign kickoff event. All money raised will stay in the community and be used exclusively to provide direct, emergency assistance to individuals and families displaced by fire.

"A family in our community loses their home to fire every day," said Mike Butchko, NSTec chief operating officer. "The Red Cross is there to provide immediate help with shelter, food and clothing. NSTec is proud to partner with the WSI Nevada Team and Navarro-Intera to support this important program that helped 300 local families last year."

The month of December 2009 was particularly devastating for local families. In December alone, the Chapter assisted 51 families who lost their homes to fire, providing more than \$35,000 in assistance. And the peak season for residential fires is not over. Historically, more than 300



*(From left) Dave Taylor (Navarro-Intera), Mike Butchko (NSTec), and Dave Bradley (WSI-Nevada Team) present a check to Jeff Varnes (Red Cross of Southern Nevada) during the **Fire Hurts** campaign kickoff.*

Southern Nevada families lose their homes and possessions to fire each year. The Southern Nevada Chapter estimates that in 2010, these local families will require at least \$180,000 in Red Cross assistance to aid their recovery.

“This is the second year that NSTec and their associates have made a lead gift, and it does get the campaign off to great start,” said Jeff Varnes, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross of Southern Nevada. “This year has been especially trying for the Red Cross with so many fires. It’s heartening to know so many companies do care.”

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## NTS Fire and Rescue Renovate Vintage Engine

Fire engines are among the best traditions of the fire service, but federal government restrictions on the use of vehicles at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) has prompted firefighters to get creative.

NTS Fire and Rescue is getting a lot of help from the community and other NTS workers to renovate a 1950s-era fire truck that officials hope to use during parades, funerals and other special occasions.

The engine was built for the Pomona Fire Department in California and delivered in 1951. From there, its history is sketchy but at some point it ended up in service in Las Vegas. The vintage Seagrave, dated Dec. 23, 1950, was obtained from a vehicle collector in Henderson.

With funds raised through raffles, donations, and other endeavors, the department last year began refurbishing the old Seagrave Engine. Organizations on and off NTS have played a key role in restoring the engine to its original condition.

For example, a local heavy equipment tire service company donated their services and went to Henderson where the vehicle was located to replace the tires with used, but still serviceable tires donated by a tire



*The 1950s Seagrave Engine as acquired.*



*Painting a wheel cover on the Seagrave.*

dealer. A Fire and Rescue work party, led by Captain Joey Sandoval got the engine running. They were eventually able to move the Seagrave to Chief's Aide Bill Nixon's home in Las Vegas. There, fenders, bumpers, doors – anything and everything that needed a new paint job – were stripped from the frame.

Over the course of several months, not only did Fire and Rescue staff pitch in, but other site workers stepped up to lend their expertise, including Rick Tindall in Fleet Services and his son to help correct mechanical problems. Chief Chuck Fauerbach, Deputy Chief of Operations John Gamby, Nixon, and anyone else they could recruit to help, did the metal repairs, sand-blasting, and prep work needed for the final paint job.

The effort soon reached the point where the work, including rewiring of the entire vehicle, re-chroming, interior refurbishment including gauges, etc., was best performed by experts – experts whose fees exceeded the available funds. NTS Fire and Rescue received a real morale boost at Christmas when a check for \$5,000 appeared, courtesy of the National Security Technologies' NSTec Cares program.

“With this donation, we are able to contract for important renovation services and have hopes that the Seagrave will be returned to full glory in time for the dedication of our two new fire stations on the test site later this year,” said Chief Fauerbach.

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## Cleanup of Historic Nuclear Rocket Development Facility Blasting Off

BOOM!

That's the sound of stimulus funding at work on the Nevada Test Site (NTS) demolishing the Reactor Maintenance, Assembly, and Disassembly (R-MAD) building. Decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of R-MAD moved up in priority with the availability of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding and, in turn, this complex work generated more than 15 full-time positions.

R-MAD is one of several NTS facilities which supported the Nuclear Rocket Development Station program that ended in 1973. D&D of the 80 room, five-level facility is occurring in four phases. Upon completion of D&D, the resulting debris will be appropriately disposed, some of which will be permanently entombed in the facility basement areas. Kevin Cable, Industrial Sites Federal Sub-Project director, said: "We are following through with our commitment to the State in accordance with the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFACO). We want to complete demolition of R-MAD safely and efficiently with the prudent use of taxpayer dollars and approval from the state."



*Phase I traditional demolition of R-MAD using a hydraulic hammer to dismantle a section of the south block wall and roof. A processor is used to size-reduce the resulting debris.*



*Demolition progress at the R-MAD Facility, December 2009.*

Phase I of D&D, which began in November, included traditional demolition (without explosives) of some portions of the building including the small metal exhaust stack. In addition, the removal of asbestos contained in roofing materials and pipe elbow insulation was accomplished.

With asbestos removal complete, the focus shifts to Phase II activities including additional demolition to remove lead doors and plates and size-reducing, packaging, and shipping building debris for disposal at the appropriately regulated facility on the NTS.

Non-explosive demolition during Phase II is accomplished using a track hoe outfitted with a hydraulic hammer to tear down the R-MAD building into pieces. If these pieces are bigger than three feet, another track hoe outfitted with a processor will break the debris down into smaller pieces for waste packaging. It is important to note that dust suppression methods are used to ensure the safety of the workers, the public and the environment during the entire demolition of R-MAD.

Explosive demolition will occur during Phases III and IV in order to remove building elements still standing including the mezzanine, high bay, the main exhaust stack and the water tower. In preparation for explosive demolition, the concrete walls above the observation windows will be removed so that only columns remain. Holes will be drilled into these columns and explosives placed inside. These explosives are meant to drop the building as much as 40 feet. After building collapse, a hydraulic hammer will break away the remaining concrete and reduce it to the appropriate size for disposal.

It is estimated that approximately 10 percent of the R-MAD debris will be closed in place within the three different basement areas which will be capped with approximately one foot of concrete to permanently entomb the debris, making it inaccessible. This method of disposal is accomplished at a significant savings by avoiding specialized packaging and shipping costs. The remaining building debris will be packaged into lined dump trucks and shipped to the NTS Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Site for disposal.

R-MAD demolition is expected to be complete in March 2010, as the Nevada Site Office begins demolishing the Pluto Disassembly Facility. Pluto, another NTS facility that supported the development of nuclear reactors for flight, was home to the earthbound Tory II-A reactor and its flyable counterpart, the Tory II-C.

The R-MAD building was used from 1959 to 1970 for the assembly and disassembly of reactors under the Nuclear Rocket Development Station program Project Rover. R-MAD assembly high bays were used to load reactor rockets on rail cars for transfer to the test facilities. After the tests were completed, the reactor rockets were transferred back to the R-MAD disassembly high bay hot cell. The reactor rocket was removed from the rail car and large scale disassembly activities performed. The reactor sections of the rocket were transferred to the smaller postmortem hot cells for detailed inspection and dissection. The nuclear fuel associated with the reactor was removed and subsequently transferred to the Idaho National Laboratory in 1975 for reprocessing.

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### National Security Technologies

#### 45 years

Carlitos Flores

#### 40 years

William Payne

#### 30 years

Bobby Nichols, Elmer Glazener

#### 25 years

Yvonne Townsend, Christopher Moore, Dorothy Wagner, Larry Hunt, Roman Rajm, Ronald Spiers, Yuen-Han Lee

#### 20 years

Denise Alvarado, Deron Linkenheil, James Tinsley, Robert Hillier, Steven Zellers, Patricia Bowman

#### 10 years

Feltus Scott, Kim Young, Terry Richardson, Debra Hodas, Sharon Nanes, Stephen Wolf

#### 5 years

Douglas McBride, Jon Yonko, Matthew Randolph, Michele Von Herbulis,

Paul Cakanic, Peter Pagoria, Robert Harweger, Ronald Willman, Steven Johnson, Yoland Fuchs, Albert Garcia, Brandon Jautaikis, Candice Rodriguez, Dennis Nichols, Everett Poore, Gregory Miller, Janice Shemanski, Jessica Lemieux, Jody Taylor, Keith Frandsen, Mary Johnson, Michele Kelly, Paula Ellsworth, Robert Summers, Shawn Yount, Valerie Davies.

*WSI-Nevada*

**25 years**

Carl Nichter, Ronald Gaines.

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- [NTS Fire and Rescue Renovates Vintage Engine](#)
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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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NSTec Public Affairs and Community Relations

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Shelli Hadley, Team EES

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