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 The logo for 'SITE LINES' features the word in a large, blue, stylized font with a white outline. The letters are set against a background of a desert landscape with mountains and a clear blue sky.

July/August 2010 - Issue 144

A publication for all members of the NNSA/NSO family



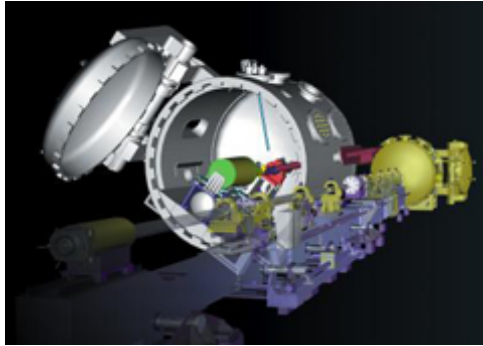
[RNCTEC One Year Later: Mission Growth and Expansion](#)

It was one year ago that the National Nuclear Security Administration/ Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) completed the start-up of the Radiological/Nuclear Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Complex (RNCTEC) at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) with the goal of keeping our country's borders secure. In just 12 months, the facility infrastructure has grown and is poised for further expansion.

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RNCTEC One Year Later: Mission Growth and Expansion

It was one year ago that the National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) completed the start-up of the Radiological/Nuclear Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Complex (RNCTEC) at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) with the goal of keeping our country's borders secure. In just 12 months, the facility infrastructure has grown and is poised for further expansion.

Proposed and designed after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, RNCTEC was created to provide crucial detector and sensor testing and evaluation needed to help prevent radiological or nuclear materials from entering the United States. Located about 18 miles north of Mercury, Nevada on the NTS, RNCTEC is a multi-use complex. It is financed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), designed for conducting active and passive testing of radiological detection instruments and systems.

"The mission of the NTS is to provide world-class facilities, a remote and secure location, and the expertise to meet the national security needs of America," said Adam DaeGorn, Nevada Site Office program manager. "We started a year ago with a facility that showed the potential to support the NTS mission and have outfitted the facility to a level that has impressed representatives who have visited from other countries."

In the past year, RNCTEC has expanded from two buildings to a complex that includes the Core Team trailer, radioactive source container, and multiple storage containers that support testing. To date, testing has been conducted in portals, vehicle-borne instruments, as well as hand-held systems. In the near future, various types of active interrogation systems will be installed, significantly increasing the size of the complex. There is a possibility one of these systems may be installed off the RNCTEC site, expanding testing capabilities as the staff controls operations beyond the physical borders of the complex.

Also in its first full year of operations, the facility hosted one very large DNDO test and improved and enhanced its capabilities based on that experience. Now the RNCTEC Core Team is preparing for two more tests. As further tests are successfully executed with current customers, potential new customers are learning of the facility's capabilities. As the customer base expands, the facility will expand to meet those needs.



A truck passes through the choke point where detection equipment is tested.



RNCTEC, hosting its first test campaign, Eland, in July-August 2009. The completed TSB is behind the cars on the left, with the portals on the right and the

The RNCTEC currently has three separate buildings; the Test Support Building (TSB) where Command, Control, and Safety is managed for the entire complex; and the Active Interrogation Building (AIB) designed to conduct active testing of cargo. Additionally, the double-wide trailer at the complex entrance houses the Core Team, that is responsible for maintaining the facility in a test-ready condition and providing test support as required.

AIB in the back. The RNCTEC is the first major construction project on the NTS in 20 years.

Additionally, there are two areas that can support a multitude of testing requirements. The first is the Paved Test Area, which has five islands. These five islands can support anything from small hand-held instrument testing to large-scale data collection trailers. The second area is the Vehicle Choke Point, which is a narrow set of three lanes that allow vehicles to drive through just as they would at a border crossing or Port of Entry. On either side of each lane are islands for the radiation detection portals that can detect radiation associated with the truck or its cargo. Portals will be added in the near future.

“The plan is to continue to expand RNCTEC, based on our customers’ needs,” says Charles Lohrstorfer, Test and Evaluation Division manager. “We are committed to providing service and expertise to accommodate as many customers as possible, and that means change and constant improvement.”

One example of this includes RNCTEC’s use of a wireless data collection system during testing. The massive amounts of data generated by test instruments during the first test facilitated the need for a more robust yet flexible wireless system. Researching this issue, Computer System Specialists created an improved process that now consists of three separate wireless systems that work together or apart with the potential to grow based on testing requirements.

Data is collected by the wireless system and transmitted to the Data Collection System. This is a server-based system that collects all of the data transmitted from the instruments, as well as the inputs from the test team, and makes this data available to testing personnel across a network.

With the large outdoor venue at RNCTEC, weather also is part of every test and experiment. Everything from cold and hot temperatures and precipitation, to wind and lightning can affect how tests are managed. Two issues became apparent during the first test: the wind and vehicle noise often drown out the radios of testing personnel, and the large screen monitor dedicated to monitoring the weather impacted the test manager’s ability to visually monitor the test.

To overcome the wind and vehicle noise, a Public Address system was installed that allows the test managers the capability to make announcements throughout the complex, or to selected areas within the complex at a volume that is easily heard no matter how strong the wind is blowing or how many vehicles are running. The issue of monitoring the weather and providing test managers a visual status of testing was resolved by adding a dedicated computer and large screen monitor in the Control Room. The test managers now can see the weather conditions all the time and have the ability to notify impacted test personnel about prevailing conditions.

“RNCTEC was like any major new project in that we tried to anticipate what would be required during all test conditions by all organizations. But until we field-tested many of our capabilities during the early test campaigns, it was impossible to anticipate every need. So the real-time improvements are important to us and our customer base,” Lohrstorfer said.

The next campaign scheduled for RNCTEC is to test hand-held radiation detection instruments, which in this instance necessitates a linear motion system. To meet this requirement, RNCTEC Field Test Coordinator Mark Fiscus researched, tested, and purchased the first linear motion system to be used at RNCTEC. This system is approximately 60 feet long, motor and belt driven, and can move up to 4,000 pounds along the 60-foot track effortlessly. This type of testing often requires tens, if not hundreds, of runs back and forth along the track. The cart associated with the track can carry a small radioactive source or very heavy shielding around the source. The key to this type of testing is to have the very last run along the track be exactly the same as the first run, providing the test scientists with consistently accurate data required to fairly and objectively evaluate the instruments. This linear motion system is portable and with the purchase of additional track and belts, can meet any testing needs from a few feet to as much as 100 feet in length.

“Future growth also includes the installation of three more trailers that will function as office space for customers, as customer numbers and staffing expand, plus electronic

equipment storage,” says Don Ricketts, Operations and Facility manager. “A fourth trailer is also being planned to function as a second data collection center. This will allow two unrelated tests to be conducted simultaneously at RNCTEC.”

RNCTEC has come a long way from a drawing on a piece of paper to the dynamic testing complex it is today. The future holds the promise of growth and all the challenges that come with it. “Under the guidance of the project manager and the can-do attitude of the Core Team, RNCTEC will more than step up to meet, and exceed, each and every one of these challenges,” said Bob Summers, director, Homeland Security and Defense Applications.

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Pahrump Students Experience the Nevada Test Site—Past and Present

Sixth graders in Pahrump, Nev. recently got a lesson on the Nevada Test Site (NTS) and what made this part of the Nevada desert known throughout the world.

In May, the public involvement team from the U. S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) visited Rosemary Clarke Middle School to offer students a glimpse of the site's colorful history as well as talk about present-day efforts to restore the environment.

Students listened intently as they learned about the tense nuclear arms race that played out after World War II, and how hundreds of nuclear tests were performed on the NTS until a testing ban came into effect in 1992. The public involvement team also explained current projects that are addressing the environmental impacts of all these years of testing.

"These kids need to hear about a history that is so close to them," said sixth grade teacher Carol Hunn. The southern boundary of the NTS lies just 40 miles away from Pahrump. According to Hunn, understanding activities at the Site can provide a bridge for these students, many of whom have relatives and friends who work at the test site.

Students were treated to a presentation with historic film clips before rotating through a series of displays. As in years past, the biggest crowd pleaser proved to be the interactive Operation Clean Desert display, wherein Dr. Proton and Adam the Atom teach students about the effects of radiation on soil and water at the NTS. These characters also star in the computer game the sixth graders were given to take home. "The students asked a lot of good questions," said NSO environmental scientist, Tiffany Lantow, who staffed the interactive display. "They were particularly interested in the effects of radiation on humans and the environment."

While students were curious about past activities at the NTS, discussion also steered toward the future of the site—a future that includes continued cleanup, nonproliferation testing and training, conventional weapons testing, waste disposal, monitoring, and alternative energy projects.

Kids were eager to talk about their own futures as well. Many plan to attend college after high school and pursue professional careers in subjects ranging from medicine, physics, mechanical engineering, and computer programming. "It really opened many of their eyes as to possibilities that exist for them and why their grades and assignments are important," added Hunn.



Students meet Dr. Proton and Adam the Atom at the Operation Clean Desert display.



Students complete the Operation Clean Desert booklet.

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Remote Sensing Laboratory Again Wins Prestigious Federal Aviation Award

The Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) Aviation Program of the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) has for the second consecutive year been presented with one of nation's most prestigious awards for excellence and innovation in aviation management and administration, operations, maintenance, training and safety.

The Headquarters Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Aviation Management announced that the NNSA/NSO, and its contract partner National Security Technologies (LLC), has won the 2009 U.S. Department of Energy Jeff Snow Aviation Program Memorial Award. This marks the fourth time in six years this team has been recognized as the most outstanding DOE aviation program. The NSO Aviation Program provides aerial support to the NNSA Office of Emergency Response to protect U.S. citizens from nuclear/radiological attacks or accidents 24 hours per day, seven days per week from Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, Nev. and Andrews AFB, Suitland, Md.

"Our RSL aviation folks help ensure our nation is secure from radiological and nuclear threats," said Bob Summers, director of NSTec's Homeland Security and Defense Applications. "We're fortunate that they are the best at this and the best aviation folks in their category. They represent RSL and NSTec superbly."

The Department of Energy Aviation Program is the management function for all fleet aircraft and contracted aviation services for the Department. The program and its management personnel operate world-wide. The purpose of the Aviation Safety Awards Program is to promote the DOE aviation safety program by appropriate recognition of exceptional safety actions by individuals and groups.

The Aviation Safety Awards Program applies to all DOE employees, including those of the NNSA, and selected contractor personnel directly involved in aviation operations support to DOE. The RSL Aviation team was recognized as the most outstanding aviation operation within the Department of Energy for 2009.

The DOE awards have poured in for RSL over the past decade, with the honors representing some of the highest that can be bestowed on a program by the DOE Office of Aviation Management. The DOE Jeff Snow Memorial Award is named for the Wackenhut Services Inc.-Savannah River Site Aviation Manager who died in 2000. RSL also has twice won the General Services Administration Federal Aviation Award for Small Programs.



An RSL helicopter flies near Las Vegas.

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JASPER Broadening Role Through Nuclear Facility Upgrade

With the Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER) facility at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) upgraded to a Hazard Category 3 nuclear facility, the JASPER team's goal to establish and operate a fully compliant nuclear site while maintaining the operational goal of performing timely experiments is nearing realization.

In 2007, JASPER was re-categorized as a Hazard Category 3 nuclear facility. Changing the JASPER facility categorization to Hazard Category 3 invoked the requirements of Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 830, "Nuclear Safety Management," Subpart B, "Safety Basis Requirements." The new Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) and Technical Safety Requirements (TSRs) for JASPER, which form the safety basis required by 10 CFR 830 subpart B, were approved in January 2009. Since that time, the JASPER Team has worked to implement the Configuration Management and Quality Assurance requirements to rebaseline the facility and its supporting documentation as required for an HC-3 Nuclear Facility.

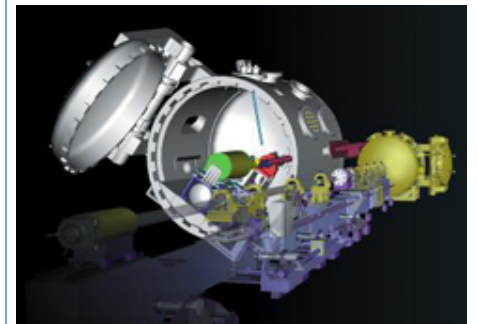
"We have an excellent proactive team at JASPER who not only knows their facility, but pays attention to the larger picture," said Charlotte Carter, the Nevada Site Office JASPER project manager. "I expect that they will complete the modifications and return to operations in short order so that we can continue to contribute to the mission of the Stockpile Stewardship Program."

JASPER is a nearly 100-foot, two-stage gas gun, located within Area 27 at the NTS. JASPER experiments complement the subcritical nuclear materials experiments that have been conducted underground at NTS since 1997. Those subcritical experiments use high explosives to blow apart tiny amounts of plutonium but stop short of nuclear chain reactions. JASPER utilizes a fast moving projectile instead of the high explosives. These complex hydrodynamic experiments provide vital information on the behavior and performance of aging nuclear materials.

JASPER's role in the Stockpile Stewardship Program is to measure the fundamental properties of plutonium. Data from the experiments cannot be produced by other Stockpile Stewardship experiments and are used



Area 27's new hawks watch over a new day for JASPER.



The JASPER (Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research) facility at the National Nuclear Security Administration's Nevada Test Site is home to the two-stage gas gun, a 30-meter-long, two-stage device to strengthen scientists' ability to ensure that the nation's nuclear stockpile is safe and reliable.

to determine material equations of state, which express the relationship between pressure, density, and temperature. The equation of state is essential for generating reliable computational models of plutonium's behavior under weapons-related conditions. Knowledge of these properties is required to assess, without nuclear testing, the performance, safety, and reliability of nuclear weapons. Jim Holt, NSTec's DE&SS director, said JASPER data are first priority for Dr. Chris Deeney, NNSA Program Manager for Science Campaigns. Deeney's Predictive Capability Framework concept to advance stockpile weapons' certification capabilities is dependent on high-quality plutonium equation of state data.

As part of the ongoing upgrade, the JASPER team is currently in the midst of implementing the suite of requirements applicable to a nuclear facility. This includes strengthening the implementing JASPER required Safety Management Programs, establishing configuration management for the approved Structures, Systems, and Components (SSCs), proper implementation and flow down of safety basis controls, and preparation for declaring the readiness to proceed and execution of the Operational Readiness Review (ORR).

In addition, the JASPER team is responding to corrective actions necessitated as a result of contamination being found in the Secondary Confinement Chamber (SCC) after Shot 86, conducted last year. Shot 86 did not result in any personnel safety issues since all the plutonium was contained in the SCC, but the forensics report identified several areas that contributed to the contamination incident. Some of these areas required modifications to systems and equipment used by JASPER to collect data. Other areas required changes to process and procedures used during manufacture of JASPER equipment, and changes to the DSA/TSR. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) is hard at work redesigning the JASPER targets and methods of shipment and storage.

JASPER was initially constructed to support the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory shock physics program. Resumption of operations as a nuclear facility will allow LLNL to continue its plutonium research program. In June of 2004, LLNL predicted, "If we build it (JASPER), they will come." "JASPER's transition to a Hazard Category 3 Nuclear Facility provides for a wider range in target size," Holt said. "This will lead to an increase in the data that JASPER will provide to the Stockpile Stewardship Program, and keep JASPER available and viable for future experiments."

JASPER has potential to become a National User Facility.



Representatives from NNSA/HQ toured JASPER in June.

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RSL Assists with Nuclear Security Summit

Teams from the Remote Sensing Laboratory at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas recently were called on to use their expertise to support a major international summit.

The United States recently played host to 44 international heads of state and four leaders of international organizations in a historic Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C. This two-day event was designated a National Special Security Event (NSSE).

To address the Preventative Radiological/Nuclear Detection (PRND) operations for this event, the FBI-Washington Field Office (WMD Section) requested support from the Department of Energy's Radiological Assistance Program (RAP). RSL-Andrew's RAP Region 0 took responsibility to create the mission plan, coordinate logistics, develop operational plans and execute this mission.

Three major missions, with additional support to the Multi-Agency Command Center (MACC), the DOE NA-42 Nuclear Incident Team (NIT), the Mobile Deployable Detection Unit (MDDU), the Aerial Measurements System (AMS) team and an "On-Call" team, were developed and executed simultaneously. Resources for these missions came from the DOE's First Responder Program, which provided nearly 70 personnel and assets from eight RAP regions and two specialized teams from RSL-Nellis; the Search Response Team (SRT) and the Search Management Center (SMC).

Mission success was directly attributable to the hard work, diligence, and attention to detail of all the emergency responders that came together to assist with this important effort.



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NTS Gets First Place Finish in 2010 Las Vegas Corporate Challenge

A team of employees from the Nevada Test Site (NTS) has won first place for the first time in more than ten years, besting dozens of other businesses from around Las Vegas in the 25th anniversary Corporate Challenge.

Sponsored by the City of Las Vegas, Corporate Challenge has been a healthy way for local companies and their employees to stay active in the community while promoting, enabling and supporting teamwork, company pride and corporate wellness.

Corporate Challenge brings the spirit of the Olympics to a local and more intimate playing field, offering 34 different events throughout the Las Vegas valley during a 12-week span of time. Events began the end of March and finished the second week of June 2010. They included everything from basketball, bocce, golf, and poker to tennis, swimming and volleyball. Companies are divided into one of four categories, depending on the number of employees.

This year's NTS-based "Rad" Team consisted of more than 175 players from the National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO), National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec), Navarro-Intera, WSI Nevada Team and other NTS subcontractors.

"I was really excited that all the different organizations had the opportunity to form a single team," said Nevada Site Office's Tiffany Lantow. "I had a great time playing this year!"

The Rad Team finished in first place for the A-Division with 231 points, more than 50 points ahead of second place. The team started the first week of competition in first place and never relinquished the lead. Last year's team finished third behind Nellis Air Force Base and the City of Las Vegas.

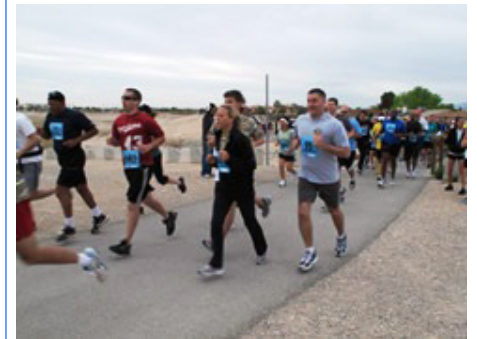
This marked the first time NSTec was involved in a winning effort. A previous contractor did win first place in the B-Division in 1996.

Some of today's most successful companies understand the real business benefits of being involved in corporate activities from an organizational perspective. Well-structured events are an excellent way to encourage initiative, reward the commitment of key staff, improve morale, inspire cooperation and team spirit, and supercharge future performance.

All totaled, the Rad Team received first place plaques for 9 events out of 33 – among them: Range Shoot, Racquetball, 3D Dodgeball, Flag Football, Walk Race, Canoe Race, Horseshoes, Kart Racing, and Table Shuffleboard. NTS participants walked away with 105 gold medals, 108 silver medals, and 40 bronze medals; and others placed fourth, fifth, or sixth to earn the team points toward the overall wins.



The Rad Team returns service during an outdoor volleyball match.



Corporate Challenge participants run the 5K event in Las Vegas.

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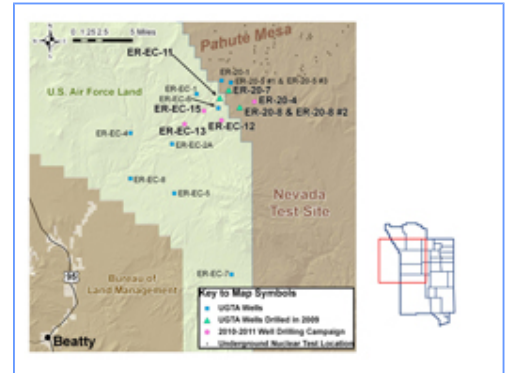
Groundwater Project at NTS Gears Up for Summer

Workers at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) may soon hear the hum of drill rigs as a campaign gets underway this summer to place four wells on and around Pahute Mesa. The wells will contribute to an existing sampling network that includes well clusters on Pahute Mesa, Frenchman Flat, Yucca Flat and other areas on and near the NTS.

The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office (NNSA/NSO) is conducting drilling activities as part of its Underground Test Area (UGTA) Sub-Project, which has set out to study the complex geology and subsurface water systems of the Site. UGTA specialists want to better understand the movement of contamination relating to historic underground nuclear tests to ensure the safety of workers, the public, and the environment. These newest wells on Pahute Mesa are part of a larger drilling effort that will add a total of nine additional wells to the region by 2012.

UGTA's summer schedule is rigorous. In addition to adding new wells, activities include developing and testing wells, ER-EC-11 and ER-20-7, which were drilled last summer. At this time, experts will evaluate how readily water flows through the aquifer(s) as well as collect and test groundwater samples.

Pahute Mesa drilling activities began in June at well site ER-EC-12 and will continue without interruption at wells ER-20-4, ER-EC-13 and ER-EC-15. Work on ER-EC-15 is expected to start in October or November of 2010.



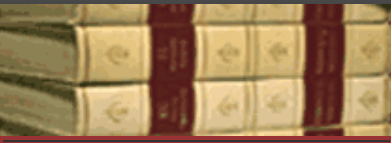
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NSTec Honored for Promoting Engineering

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers has awarded Nevada Test Site contractor National Security Technologies (NSTec) the Southern Nevada Engineering Award for 2010 for its efforts to promote mechanical engineering in the region.

The award, presented at a special dinner in July, is given out to a company, group or individual that has made significant contributions to mechanical engineering in Southern Nevada or has helped promote the profession of mechanical engineering.

Michelle Miller, program manager for NSTec’s Homeland Security and Defense Applications, nominated the company because of its far-reaching efforts to enhance engineering and grow the future work force.

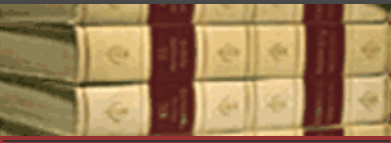
“NSTec has several people on the engineering advisory boards, hires many scientists and engineers for summer internships starting at over \$19 per hour, offers scientists and engineers scholarships, hires graduates, and has contributed over \$500,000 to the University of Nevada Las Vegas College of Engineering,” Miller said. In addition, NSTec sponsors the Las Vegas FIRST Robotics competition, provides speakers and masters of ceremony for awards ceremonies, supports senior design, and in other ways promotes the engineering discipline in the community.

NSTec President Steve Younger cited the award as an example of the commitment of the Nevada Test Site to encouraging today’s youth to pursue high-tech careers in the advancement of the important national security mission of the Site. “It is our hope that all these efforts encourage those with interests in science and engineering to become members of our professional team,” Younger said.

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Milestones

National Security Technologies

30 years

Paul Robinson, Randy Flurer, Sandra Maines.

25 years

Andrew Lysandrou, Gabriel Rudd.

20 years

Arlinda Gutierrez, Christopher Jones, Dewayne Jenkins, F Christophiades, Julie Nusbaum, Mary Campbell, Patricia May, Paul Flores, Robert Augdahl, Stephanie Prothro.

15 years

Victor Johnson.

10 years

Benjamin Davison, Gregg DeVault, Kevin Borders, Maria Salazar, Timothy Rourke.

5 years

Ann Linderman, Juanita Foreman, Kimberley Martin-Kalarchik, Kyle Smith, Melissa Robinson, Michelle Cole, Richard Cheval, Sean Leffler, William Lee.

WSI-Nevada Team

25 years

Walter Foster, Milton Morton.

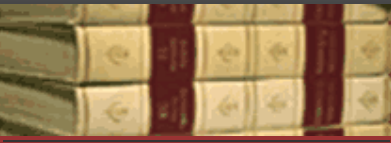
5 years

John Lombard, Dion Andrews, Isaac Chun, Harmon Crockett, Jeremiah Draper, Kristopher Gergen, William Gibbs, Christopher Gonzalez, Mitchell Green, Casey Grove, John Hall, Ryan Hawes, Joseph Heath, Nathan Hill, Glynn Jackson, Jeffrey James, Antron Johnson, Michael Krider, Emilio Loera, Miguel Lopez, Antonio Parker, Jeremy Revere, Oscar Rodriguez, Thomas Roller, Roberto Saballos.

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Masthead

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SiteLines Survey

SiteLines is a bi-monthly on-line publication for the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office. It is available to the public through the Nevada Site Office website. Stories reflect the overall mission, programs and personnel that carry out the goals of the Nevada Test Site. National Security Technologies (NSTec)'s Public Affairs and Community Relations Department (PA&CR) (which publishes SiteLines) wants to know what you think. This survey will help us discover if you feel you're receiving the right amount of information that you need or want to know about the NTS. We also want to know how we can improve the stories we share with you in SiteLines, because your input matters to us.

Please fill out this survey, take it to your workplace and send it to *SiteLines* editor at donaldjw@nv.doe.gov, or at mailstop **NSF119** by **Friday, August 27**. Your feedback will be documented in a future issue.

SiteLines Survey Form

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1. How well do you read *SiteLines*? (Answer a, b, or c only)

- a) Thoroughly
- b) Skim
- c) Not at all

If c) Not at all, why not? (Choose any)

- 1. No time
- 2. It's boring/doesn't interest me
- 3. Limited accessibility

2. Do you enjoy reading *SiteLines*?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Not applicable

3. Which of these do you like most/least about *SiteLines*? (Mark all that apply.)

	Most		Least
a)		Articles about work	
b)		Articles about people	
c)		Articles about safety and security	

d)		Articles about programs	
e)		The photos	
f)	Other		
g)		Nothing / N/A	

4. Do you believe that *SiteLines* is relevant and timely?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If No, why not?

5. Is the information in *SiteLines* relevant to your work?

- a) Yes
- b) No

If No, why not?

6. "News Flash" and "Fedcast/Concast" e-mail messages and NSTec's *The Front Page* are the most common means of communicating that the newest issue of *SiteLines* is available. How often do you received and/or pay attention to these messages?

- a) Never

- b) Sometimes
- c) All the time
- d) I don't receive "News Flash," "Fedcast/Concast" or *FrontPage* messages

7. What would you like to see in *SiteLines* that has not been featured?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

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