

Between The Lines

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DOE's A76 STUDY

Dennis O'Brien, Director, Competitive Sourcing/A-76 Office for DOE, briefed AL employees and answered questions August 7th and 8th on the Department's competitive sourcing initiative a.k.a. the A76 Study.

The Initiative "is not outsourcing – not contracting out," O'Brien said. "It is a study. Cost savings is why it is around and why we have it." Audited savings on Department of Defense A76 studies show the process saves 30-40+% O'Brien said.

O'Brien said, "It is also a competition for our jobs with contractors, it is a cost shoot-out -- the taxpayers win."



The DOE Competitive Sourcing Initiative will study the following functional areas: technology, human resources, financial services, personnel security investigations (on hold until after the NNSA Reorganization), graphics, logistics, and civil rights reviews. These functional areas include 128 positions at AL that includes site offices.

The Competitive Sourcing initiative is a priority within the Department as well as one of the Administration's five Management Agenda



items.

Six Study Teams have been organized which advise the Executive Steering Group.

The study, presently in the preplanning stage and which will cut across the whole Department, will look at 15% of 6480 positions within DOE by 2003. It will cost about \$4.5 million.

Employees may view O'Brien's presentation slides on the AL Intranet under the Corporate Info, Orgs, and Councils link. You will find additional information about the A76 process at: www.ma.mbe.doe.gov/a-76.



U.S. Senator Pat Roberts tours Kansas City Plant



Roberts (center) receives a plant overview from Kansas City Site Manager Beth Sellers (standing)

Senator Pat Roberts learned about Kansas City Plant technologies and nonproliferation partnerships fostered with Kansas small businesses during his August 13th visit.

Roberts got a first-hand look at the Plant's reservoir production for limited life components and the work it does for the Office of Transportation Safeguards providing secure transport for components throughout the nuclear weapons complex.

"...The first obligation of the federal government is to provide national security and that's the important role that you

play," Roberts said during a presentation to associates.

Roberts is a member of the Armed Services Committee and has been named Chairman of the new subcommittee — Emerging Threats and Capabilities. He also helps to oversee continuing studies of intelligence activities and programs as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee. ♦

Pantex Reaches Pit Repackaging Milestone



Pantex repackaged its 5,000th plutonium pit into a Sealed Insert Container in July -- a significant milestone.

"We are proud that we have achieved this milestone," said BWXT Pantex President and General

Manager Dennis Ruddy. "Safety and quality improvements like this are an important part of our work at Pantex."

Plutonium pits are nuclear components removed from weapons and stored at the plant. Each pit is secured in

an airtight sealed vessel, more suitable for safe, long-term storage, which is then placed in a steel storage container. The sealed insert system has substantially reduced costs, with greater safety than was available with other containers.

"The Sealed Insert Repackaging Team has done outstanding work in improving productivity while simultaneously focusing on the reduction of radiation exposure to workers," said Dan Glenn, Office of Amarillo Site Operations Director.

BWXT Pantex has repackaged over 200 pits per month since February 2001 and reduced personnel radiation exposure by 40 percent during that time.

More than 120 people have contributed to the program's overall success since repackaging began.

The Sealed Insert Repackaging Team received the Albuquerque Operations Office Manager's Performance Excellence Award earlier this year presented by the National Nuclear Security Administration. ♦

Environmentally Friendly Fuels



On August 27th, Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico (SNL/NM) officially ushered in its E-85 and Bio-diesel station at a

mid-morning ribbon-cutting ceremony.

E-85 fuel is a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline; bio-diesel is a product made of vegetable oils, fats, or greases in combination with 80 percent diesel.

SNL/NM has already made compressed natural gas available to its vehicle fleet.

Peg Baca, manager of fleet services at AL, believes that the use of these fuels will enable federal agencies in Albuquerque meet their petroleum reduction goals. "E-85 reduces all regulated emissions when used in flex-fueled vehicles," Baca said. "Bio-diesel can be used in

unmodified diesel engines."

"SNL/NM has for the last two years won the Green Zia award and we are hoping that our involvement in programs like this will enable us to continue this tradition," said Ed Williams, Manager of SNL/NM's Fleet Services Division. ♦

electronic Learning Management System (eLMS)



Kansas City Plant associates have a new online learning system that dramatically improves the approach to workforce training called electronic Learning and Management System, or eLMS.

"eLMS -- will enable associates to get the just-in-time training they need," said Lynn Allen, manager of Workforce Learning and Development. "It will support self-development and be a true one-stop shop for learning."

Associates take control of their development with simple online enrollment and tracking features. eLMS accommodates different learning styles with multimedia modules that foster self-paced learning. Cost

savings will be realized through a reduction in work hours lost to off-site training.

Through eLMS associates select learning materials off the shelf that meets their level of knowledge, teaches them what they need to know to perform more effectively, and empowers them to track their progress. The system also provides student assistance minimizing course interruption.

eLMS replaces the Kansas

City Plant's Quality Training System (QTS) that was installed in 1998.

"We want to take the significant knowledge and progress gained from QTS and make it grow with improved user interfaces and tracking," said J.D. Sherry, information technology contractor. "The Kansas City Plant is one of the first in our community to establish a true e-learning system for this many employees." ♦

JTX Golden Peak – OTS Puts the Metal to the Test



Since its establishment in 1975, the Office of Transportation Safeguard (OTS) has accumulated over 100 million miles of over-the-road experience with no accidents causing a fatality or release of radioactive material. This is due largely to the OTS philosophy that safety and security are of equal and paramount importance in the accomplishment of NNSA's transportation

safeguards mission. In order to maintain such a stellar record, OTS has an "extensive" and "intensive" training program designed to continually enhance the safety and security capabilities of its program.



Joint Training Exercise (JTX) Golden Peak, conducted at Ft. Carson, Colorado, was another opportunity to put Team OTS to the test under extreme conditions and VIP scrutiny.



OTS Special Agents and Exercise Controllers work through scenario play

These guys look forward to the challenge and always come away with a win – lessons learned to apply to making OTS even better. ♦



Local responders with the Wellington Fire Dept. arrive on scene during JTX training



VIP guests from Ft. Carson, the States of CO and WY, and DOE Headquarters watch a mock terrorists attack on a OTS convoy



Above, state police assist OTS Special Agents against terrorists

RAPTER 2002 – Let the Play Begin!



DOE RAPTER Training Director Jim Straka guides exercise play from the control center

The Radiological Assistance Program Team Emergency Response a.k.a. RAPTER is the training arm of the Department of Energy's Radiological Assistance Program (RAP). One of the Department's emergency response assets, RAP may be deployed in assessing an emergency situation

involving the release of radioactive materials.

RAP provides 24/7 response capability and will assist any federal agency, private business or individual. The Department has eight regional RAP offices that coordinate team activities.

All RAP personnel are required to be certified through training. RAP team members must attend the RAPTER training program once every three years in order to stay certified as a team member. The annual training is now held in Albuquerque at the Energy Training Complex.

This year's course includes a response to a mock scenario in coordination



FBI Agents (left) discuss communication capabilities (below) with the New Mexico CST



with FBI representatives and the Civilian Support Teams (CST) from across the country. The CST is the States' program used to respond to incidents involving chemical, biological or radiological materials and weapons of mass destruction. The training puts players into a response situation to test their capabilities in dealing with the emergency and with the demands of the press and public for information. ♦

Controller Dick Boyer stands by as A Sandia National Lab RAP Team surveys for radioactivity





AL Manager John Arthur (left) and David Beck, NNSA Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application and Stockpile Op congratulate Luis Paz (center)

Technical Magazine and the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC) have recognized Luis Paz, Deputy Director for the Office of Weapon Programs Management, for Outstanding Contributions to

Science and Engineering. Luis was a Nominee for the HENAAC 2002 Award. His dedication over the years to ensuring a safe and reliable stockpile has earned him the recognition as an outstanding professional contributing to our nation's defense posture. ♦



AL's Dennis Umshler won a silver medal in the discus, 50-54 age group, at the National Masters Track & Field Championships at the University of Maine in Orono, Maine. He threw a personal record 166' 11" under hot, windless, and buggy conditions. Dennis, a former 11 time National and one-time World Masters Champion in the discus, started training again after a six year layoff. He turned 50 this year and older discus throwers use the lighter



1.5 KG implement as opposed to the open/collegiate weight implement of 2 KG. He hopes to train hard the coming season and if his throwing improves he wants to compete in the World Masters Track and Field Championships in July 2003. Dennis is a Classification Analyst in the Special Security and Classification Division at AL. LANL Engineering, Sciences & Applications Facility Manager Bob Grace, coaches Umshler. ♦

West Mesa Cluster Joins the Math Science and Technology Partnership



Math, Science and Technology Partnership Steering Committee members experience the newly installed science/technology laboratory at Inez Elementary School one of the Sandia High School Cluster schools

The Albuquerque Math, Science and Technology Partnership welcomes the addition of the West Mesa Cluster, Albuquerque's largest cluster with eleven schools serving over 10,000 students.

The Partnership, beginning its second year, has a mission to improve student achievement in math, science and technology enhancing the region's supply of high-tech

workforce skills. The Partnership grant initiative is a cooperative effort of the Albuquerque Operations Office, Albuquerque business community and Albuquerque Public Schools. The Partnership approved a 5-year, \$3.6 million plan.

The Sandia High School Cluster received the initial Partnership grant and served as a pilot/model for the program.

The Partnership plans to work with West Mesa in applying best practices, planning processes, and implementation of recommendations that can achieve successes in math, science and technology education.

For additional information visit the Sandia Cluster websites at www.aps.edu/aps/mstweb or contact Christina Houston at 505-845-5483. ♦



Hannah Bang examines a model rocket prior to launch. Bang took part in Bradbury Science Museum's Summer Adventures in Science program. Students built their own Estes-type rockets with the help of rockets experts then launched their creations. The program is designed to demonstrate that learning science can be fun.

Future scientists launch their rockets

Tom Beach of the Zia Spacemodelers model rocket club, center, was the launch director for the student-made model rockets launch. The "exhaust" from the model rockets is visible as the rockets lift off. Inset, one of the model rockets soars through the air. Nearly 30 future rocket scientists took part in the launch.



Interns Learn on the Job

The Office of Kansas City Site Operations (OKCSO), serious about its mission of continuous improvement for the nuclear weapons complex, is proud of its three engineering interns involved in the Technical Leadership Development Program (TLDP). The intensive training program allows interns to work in various aspects of the Nuclear Weapons Complex.

"In order to ensure stockpile stewardship of our weapons, we must be actively involved with our employees ensuring they are accurately trained," said Beth Sellers, Director of the OKCSO.

Interns Nathan Gorn, Dominic Vigil, and Jessy Innocent, are working with the Office of Project and Program Management, Quality Assurance, Safety and Security, as well as other sites.



Nathan Gorn



Jessy Innocent



Dominic Vigil

Innocent is currently working at DOE headquarters with the project management team. "This particular assignment exposes me to the depth Headquarters expects the field offices to work on projects before they are submitted for approval," she said.

A rotational assignment at the Office of Kirtland Site Operations (OKSO) gave her heightened awareness of nuclear facility management. Innocent worked closely on the manufacturing process for the MC3600A. She became the first recipient of the MC3600A Certificate of

Appreciation. Innocent has also worked with the OKCSO Office of Quality Assurance.

Nathan Gorn gained knowledge of standard procedures for product acceptance and surveys through TLDP.

"The TLDP intern program helped me achieve my personal goal of becoming a productive member of the NNSA," Gorn said. "I am looking forward to a long career with the agency because of the well-rounded introduction to all aspects of nuclear weapons stewardship I have received."

Gorn worked closely with the integrated project team at the Office of Los Alamos Site Operations and has also gained experience in the role the national laboratories and M&O contractors play in nuclear nonproliferation.

Dominic Vigil worked a three-month detail in the Office of Customer and Technology Services this summer at the Albuquerque Operations Office. Vigil also spent four months at OKSO working with Sandia National Laboratories' Technical Area V Nuclear Facilities.

These rotational assignments focused on construction project management, ES&H implementation, operational DOE orders and regulatory standards. Vigil said he gained valuable experience in nuclear and authorization basis during these assignments. ♦

West Texas A&M Engineering Program



West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas will develop an undergraduate engineering program assisted by members of a newly formed engineering advisory board that includes two top Pantex Plant managers.

Dan Glenn, Office of Amarillo Site Operations Director, and Dennis Ruddy, BWXT Pantex President and General

Manager, along with more than 20 community leaders will serve on the board. Many board members represent area organizations that employ engineers or have an interest in engineering in the Panhandle.

University officials and board members announced their plans to develop the engineering program at a June press conference. West Texas A&M has been granted authority by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a comprehensive plan for an undergraduate

degree in mechanical engineering.

"In order to fulfill our mission, it is crucial to have well qualified engineers," Glenn said. "By developing an engineering program at West Texas A&M, we will be able tailor the program to our needs as employers."

Dennis Ruddy said it is important to recruit and retain engineers at Pantex. "Bringing people into the Panhandle is an issue when you're looking for engineering graduates," he said. "Growing them at

home is one of the best things that we can do."

The board will make recommendations for the development of effective programs in engineering and provide strategic planning for implementing programs in engineering and provide strategic planning for implementing and evaluating the university's engineering program.

West Texas A&M officials hope to begin offering the degree in the fall semester of 2003. ♦



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See us at

<http://www.doeal.gov/opa/BTL.htm>

Milestones Years of Service August 2002

Albuquerque Operations Office:

*Calvin W. Irvin-OTS (10),
Mary, C. Puckett-OTSP
(10), Joel Rodriguez-OTS
(10), Aramintia R. Semper-
WPD (10), Steve
Thompson-LPD (10), Vickie
A. Cole-Orr-OCTS (20),
Janet D. Anaya-OCTS (25),
Darwin D. Cross-OCTS
(25), Diana Sinclair Eddy-
OCP (25), Harold F. Klaus
Jr.-CBFO (25), Frank
Sprague-OWS (25), James
F. Nicholas-BRMD (30),
George N. Pappas-SPD
(35), Albert U. Sanchez-
OCTS (35), Ronald F.
Short-OMOC (40)*

Office of Kirtland Site Operations:

Jo Lynelle Lofits (25)

Special Emphasis Program

The Sixteenth Annual Special Emphasis Program Managers Joint Luncheon will be held at the Coronado Club on Wednesday, September 4th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theme of this year's program is "Finding the Champion in All of Us." The keynote Speaker for this year's luncheon is Bonnie Jo Hunt, a Hunkpapa Sioux and Founder of Artists of Indian America, as well as an operatic concert singer.

An awards presentation will take place at the



luncheon. The objective of the awards is to emphasize the policy of providing equal opportunity and diversity for all persons in federal government; give proper honor and recognition to those who excel in providing equal opportunity and diversity to others, either in or outside the federal service; and to provide

impetus to the equal opportunity and diversity program by publicizing the superior accomplishments of the award recipients and the impact and positive effect these accomplishments have had on others seeking equal opportunity.

All employees are welcome to attend the luncheon program to help congratulate those recognized for their accomplishments in furthering equal opportunity and diversity throughout the AL workplace. ♦

Sandia Weapon Intern Program

SNL will begin its Weapon Intern Program class in October. It has been restructured as a one-year full-time program.

The first nine months of the program will be spent on courses, site visits, and research projects, and the last three months will be spent on a rotational assignment. Technical courses, individual research, seminars, site visits, and on-the-job training through a rotational assignment have been interwoven into the

program. Teaming skills are required to work in the nuclear weapons program and will be sharpened through class exercises and social activities.

To help guide the interns, three types of mentors are available and an orientation seminar will be conducted in November for the mentors and interns to define the roles and responsibilities

The goal of the Weapon Intern Program is to accelerate the development of engineers and scientists

in their understanding of the enduring stockpile and the science-based stockpile stewardship tools, processes, and techniques to keep the stockpile safe, secure, and reliable in the absence of underground nuclear testing.

Application packets are due by September 9th.

For additional information contact Linda Clawson at 505-845-4964 or email her at lclawson@doeal.gov. ♦

AL People...

A Big NNSA Albuquerque WELCOME TO!

GABRIEL PACHECO who will be working in the Albuquerque Financial Services Center.

BRENDA GONZALES who will be working in the Technology Development Division.

CHRISTINA CHAVEZ, who will be working at the Office of Kirtland Site Operations.

Congratulations on your new assignments to: ☺

Albuquerque Operations Ofc.

Debbie Zamora - Ofc. of Public Affairs & Community Outreach
Connie Papponi - Financial Services Center
James Breed - Assoc. Dir. for Production & Project Mgt.
David Donahue - Assoc. Dir. for Quality Assurance
Pamela Valdez - Assoc. Dir. for Business Operations/Security
Jack Nunes - Transportation Safeguards Division
Diane Menapace - Assoc. Dir. for Business Operations/Security
Kent Davis - Assoc. Dir. for Production & Project Mgt.
Roger Moore - Assoc. Dir. for Oversight & Assessments
Kenneth Meyers - Assoc. Dir. for Oversight & Assessment