

● NOVEMBER 2022

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



SRNS Today

Reason to celebrate

Attendees gather at appreciation events for contract extension, SRPPF progress, United Way fundraising and more



SCAN ME
to connect with
our social media

This month

Plutonium downblend goal met early • Radiobioassay lab acclaim • Return of Site tours



Welcome

to the November 2022 edition of

SRNS Today

Stuart MacVean
SRNS President and CEO

This month was marked by celebrations – which is something to celebrate in and of itself! I am grateful that SRNS continues to perform and deliver at the highest levels and that our employees are the best.

On the cover

To celebrate the extension of the SRS managing and operating contract from the DOE, SRNS employees enjoy barbecue during a two-day event. Stuart MacVean also thanks employees.

At the beginning of the month, SRNS held a two-day barbecue lunch celebration to thank employees for their role in receiving the SRNS contract extension. This event brought together around 6,000 employees over a two-day period, with SRNS management on hand to help thank employees for their hard work.

SRNS also celebrated Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility progress; surpassing our fundraising goal for the United Way campaign; and honored our Veterans during a special program to thank them for their service to the nation yesterday and today.

Our Education Outreach Department held the popular Science and Technology Enrichment Program (STEP) Field Trip tour for local high school students for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. South Aiken High School students recently searched an SRS stream for aquatic invertebrates, bringing a hands-on look at environmental science.

If you have not taken the opportunity to tour SRS and see all of the work being accomplished, I encourage you to do so. Our 2023 public tours are now open for registration.

I hope you enjoy this month's edition of SRNS Today.



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site near Aiken, South Carolina. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 “Old Post Office” building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

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COMMON ACRONYMS

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS)
Department of Energy (DOE) • National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

Some of the photos in this issue were taken under previous COVID-19 guidelines, including guidelines with no mask requirements for vaccinated employees.



Solid Waste Management introduces remote tool



Alex Wilson, Ricardo Villalobos, Jonathan Alligood, and Calvin Sanders hook a low-level waste (LLW) box to the new remote release hook.

SRNS Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) employees recently implemented the use of a remote release rigging hook to place low-level waste (LLW) into a burial trench for the first time, saving time and reducing risks to workers.

“In the past, Rigging and Heavy Equipment operators had to climb on the flatbed trailer that carried the LLW to manually attach the hook to the rigging, and then fish the rigging off the hook once it's been lowered into the trench,” said SWMF Manager Verne Mooneyhan. “There is always the potential for contamination when working that closely with LLW, so we looked for a better way.”

The answer came in the form of magnetic hooks that could attach to the rigging of the LLW and remotely released by a crane operator once the LLW was in the trench. This prevents riggers from having to enter the trench to release the hook, saving time. The distance protects the riggers from potential contamination as well.

“SRNS continues to improve our procedures and processes to ensure we are using the safest and most effective methods to get the job done,” said Stuart MacVean. “Any time we can reduce the hazards to our workers is a good day for our company.”

LLW includes items that have become contaminated with radioactive material or have become radioactive through exposure to radiation. At SRS, LLW is buried in engineered trenches, called slit trenches, in the SWMF. The SWMF is responsible for the disposition of SRS's solid wastes, which include sanitary, construction and demolition, hazardous, low-level radioactive and transuranic wastes.



This remote raises and lowers the hook, allowing LLW to be placed in a trench and the hook to be removed without manual effort by operators.



The new remote release hook is in use in SWMF.



WATCH THE VIDEO:
Go to the SRS YouTube channel and search for “Site In 60: Remote Release Rigging Hook”





SRSFD personnel practice using the hydraulic spreader tool which is used to lift or spread apart wedged materials and crush metal to make it easier to cut.

Firefighters train with new vehicle extrication tools

The Savannah River Site Fire Department (SRSFD) recently traveled to Graves Auto Salvage in Aiken, South Carolina, to conduct training using their new hydraulic vehicle extrication tools, used to extract occupants trapped in vehicles following a collision. The new equipment, which replaces outdated tools, are specifically designed to push, pull and cut vehicles at accident scenes.

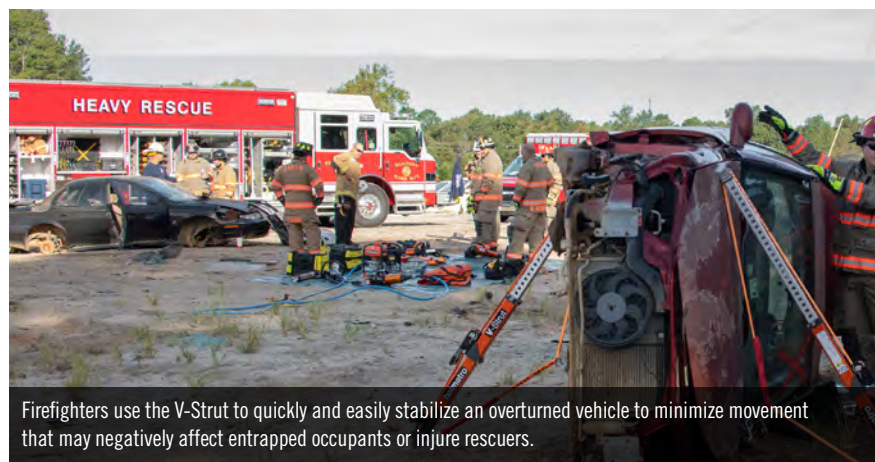
Vehicle extrication programs provide responders with the knowledge and skills needed to support the safe and effective rescue of drivers and passengers. Firefighters practiced several rescue scenarios, including the stabilization and door removal of upright and overturned vehicles.

“With the advancement of safety features in modern vehicles and the increased popularity of electric and hybrid vehicles, it is important that SRSFD stay up to date on extrication techniques,” said SRSFD Captain

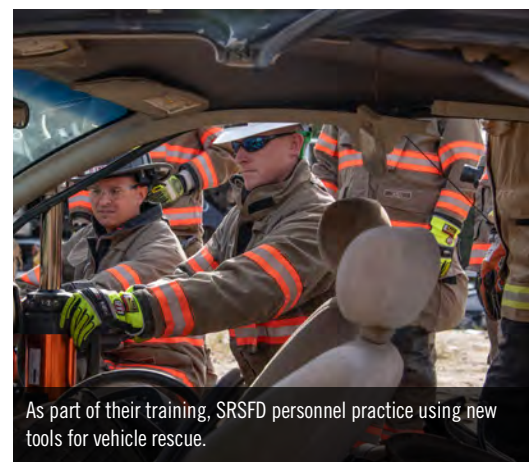
Joseph Dunkle. “The new extrication tools are built with high strength steel and boron automobile construction in mind and have the latest battery technology built in, allowing the tools to work in areas that were previously inaccessible.”

New equipment utilized in the exercise includes tools such as the spreader, cutter, v-strut, and hydraulic pump. These tools feature updated technology, with drastically improved strength and capability, while also being more ergonomically friendly for the operator. The extrication tools are stored on the SRSFD Heavy Rescue Vehicle, which responds to incidents that may require specialized tools and equipment not commonly needed for routine incidents.

The SRSFD is committed to preparing for any emergency through continuous training and use of necessary equipment so they can ensure the safety of SRS personnel and the community.



Firefighters use the V-Strut to quickly and easily stabilize an overturned vehicle to minimize movement that may negatively affect entrapped occupants or injure rescuers.



As part of their training, SRSFD personnel practice using new tools for vehicle rescue.

L Area celebrates past, looks forward to future in recent All-Hands meeting

Facility management in L Area recently held an All-Hands meeting to celebrate the successes of fiscal year (FY) 2022, and to discuss priorities and missions for FY 2023.

“We wanted to come together as a team and to thank our employees for their hard work and resilience over the past year,” said L Area Facility Manager Neil McIntosh. “Our employees are some of the hardest working anywhere, and we want to make sure they feel valued, because we couldn’t do it without them.”

Topics covered during the meeting included Conduct of Operations, FY23 focus areas, Continuous Improvement, and upcoming missions.

McIntosh also applauded L Area employees for the accomplishments in 2022. The facility exceeded their goals on High Flux Isotope Reactor core cleaning, fuel bundle inspections and spent nuclear fuel receipts. They were also recognized through two letters from the NNSA’s Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation for their contributions to nonproliferation.

“You’re the heart of uranium nonproliferation in the U.S.,” said Deputy Vice President of Environmental Management Operations Nick Miller. “You directly make the world safer. Today is the day we celebrate the bigger picture of why we exist and why we are so important to the complex.”

“Today is all about you,” said McIntosh. “You are the ones who make it happen. Your demonstration of pride in your work is inspiring.”

The meeting was followed by a celebratory barbecue lunch.



L Area Facility Manager Neil McIntosh thanks Operator Kevin Thomas during the L Area All-Hands Meeting.

“Our employees are some of the hardest working anywhere and we want to make sure they feel valued, because we couldn’t do it without them.”

Neil McIntosh,
L Area Facility Manager

Plutonium downblending goal met safely, ahead of schedule

SRNS employees recently exceeded their plutonium downblending goal for fiscal year (FY) 2022 ahead of schedule as part of the ongoing activities to remove plutonium from South Carolina.



K Area

“Exceeding our FY22 downblending goal ahead of schedule is a testament to our team’s commitment to safe, efficient and secure operations,” said K Area Facility Manager Lee Sims. “Much of our work in the past few years has been to introduce efficiencies and speed up our processing rates. This shows that our efforts are working.”

Plutonium materials shipped to KAC are sealed inside a robust configuration of storage and shipping containers. The material is stored in K Area until such time as they are ready to be downblended. Downblending involves mixing the plutonium materials with an adulterant, which produces a mixture that can eventually be safely disposed of at a geologic repository.

This year, K Area personnel processed items with a wide variation in content, many of which provided unique challenges. “K Area’s accomplishment is more impressive considering the nature of the packaging and risks associated with some of the materials we downblended this year,” Sims said. “Exceeding projected processing rates while handling a variety of materials for the first time builds a great foundation for the program moving forward.”

SRNS employees began downblending plutonium in K Area in 2016.



Seniors Drew Platts, Barnwell High School, and Arian Williams, Allendale High School, are first-time participants in the new youth apprenticeship program at SRNS.

High schoolers start new apprenticeship program

SRNS is breaking new ground with a program that provides area high school students the opportunity to be employed as apprentices at SRNS.

“We have a wide range of career opportunities requiring a technical school degree, and we need to fill and maintain that job pipeline,” said Dorian Newton, SRNS Program Manager, Apprenticeship and Pipeline Training (APT). “Agreements with nearby Aiken, Denmark, Orangeburg and Augusta technical schools have been very helpful towards filling this need through our extensive adult apprenticeship program at SRNS. That said, we realize the next step is to facilitate a way for local high school students to complete their high school curriculum, while gaining hands-on experience working side-by-side with our employees as youth apprentices.”

Two seniors, Arian Williams from Allendale High School, Allendale, South Carolina, and Drew Platts from Barnwell High School, Barnwell, South Carolina, agreed to be participants in the initial apprenticeship program.

“The Youth Apprenticeship Program at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions has been a wonderful experience. They are very understanding and work with you while you’re in school,” said Williams. “I met many people who have given me great advice and assured me that I could come to them about any safety issues or concerns. This program has been a blessing, and I hope that I continue my journey at SRNS.”

“Boo Boo” Roberts, SRNS Deputy Program Manager, APT, will coach Platts and Williams through this process.

“Though both students are in our newly created Site Training Youth Apprenticeship program, we want to expose them to various types of jobs available at SRNS. You never know what might spark a strong interest

in a career that had not been previously considered,” said Roberts.

As apprentices, Platts and Williams will primarily have administrative duties such as preparing and maintaining training records, setting up and breaking down classroom equipment and instructional aids.

“The ultimate goal, after the successful completion of this youth pilot program, will be to expand the program to include courses at local technical colleges, much like our adult apprenticeship program,” said Newton. “This will make for an optimum, well-rounded experience that will benefit these high school seniors and our company, as we receive highly qualified job candidates throughout the foreseeable future through this process.”

“My first few days on-site were fun and exciting, traveling around the Site and visiting facilities,” said Platts. “I am excited to work at SRNS and explore all that it has to offer.”

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“Though both students are in our newly created Site Training Youth Apprenticeship program, we want to expose them to various types of jobs available at SRNS. You never know what might spark a strong interest in a career that had not been previously considered.”

**“Boo Boo” Roberts,
SRNS Deputy Program Manager,
Apprenticeship Pipeline Training**

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Radiobioassay laboratory gains international acclaim

The SRNS Environmental Bioassay Laboratory’s (EBL) Radiobioassay Lab (RBL) was recently recognized by an internationally acclaimed radiotoxicology intercomparison program, PROCORAD, for outstanding performance in the actinides in excretion matrix. This intercomparison program includes participants from 72 laboratories representing 26 countries.

The EBL, located in 735-B, provides environmental, bioassay and industrial hygiene analytical services to a variety of customers across the Site to support current and future key SRNS missions. The laboratory specializes in high-volume sample loads (an average of 10,000 samples, 32 analytical methods, and 70,000 determinations per year) and rapid turnaround times for complex analytical methods and sample matrices.

The RBL’s far-reaching capabilities benefit site workers, protecting their health through measuring radionuclide activity in excretion samples submitted by radiological workers. The lab is capable of measuring low levels of alpha, beta, and gamma emitters; it also analyzes routine monitoring samples and “for cause” samples related to potential exposure. These sample results are a major component of the employee dose assessment process performed by the SRNS Health Physics Department. Having this capability at SRNS means that Site work will be prioritized, and it provides an avenue for rapid response when there is an employee exposure concern.

PROCORAD acknowledged the SRNS RBL’s results for most closely correlating with the known activity of alpha-emitting radioactive isotopes present in the sample, outperforming 31 other laboratory result submissions.

Enterprise Cyber Security Operations recognized as Cyber Champion Advocate

The SRNS Enterprise Cyber Security Operations has been named a 2022 Cyber Champion by the National Cyber Security Alliance and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Founded in 2004, Cyber Security Awareness Month, held each October, is the world’s foremost initiative aimed at promoting cybersecurity awareness and best practices. The Cyber Security Awareness Month Champions Program is a collaborative effort among businesses, government agencies, colleges and universities, associations, nonprofit organizations, and individuals committed to the Cybersecurity Awareness Month theme “It’s easy to stay safe online.”



Laboratory Analyst Vernell Samuels loads bioassay samples for alpha measurement.

“Receiving such recognition and accolades is a big accomplishment for our Radiobioassay Laboratory,” said Linda Youmans, Technical Director, Industrial Health and Radiobioassay Laboratories. “It is a positive reflection on our highly skilled team performing this work daily, and it demonstrates that the data used to assess employee health risk compares well with that of the international community.”

The DOE requires the lab to maintain extensive accreditation requirements that include participating in intercomparison or other blind sample programs throughout the year. As of September 2022, the RBL has participated in three different programs (five rounds consisting of 50 samples and 157 reported measurements in total).

“I’m extremely proud of the work that the EBL does and the high level of proficiency of our technical staff. Receiving this recognition is a huge testament to the amazing team that we have here and the outstanding leadership of the program,” said Natalia Johnson, Manager, EBL.

Alert today, alive tomorrow



SRNS sponsored “crash car” displays at the Aiken and New Ellenton barricades as part of a “Put the Brakes on Speeding” Campaign to bring awareness to the risks associated with speeding and other unsafe driving practices. The number of citations and warnings issued to SRNS employees and Site employees overall has doubled from 2021 to 2022.

Celebrations across the Site



Over the course of a two-day event, approximately 6,000 employees attended a celebration of the SRNS contract extension.



CONGRATULATIONS SRNS
Contract Extended
We will continue to make the world safer

SRNS held a two-day event on Monday, Nov. 7, and Tuesday, Nov. 8, to celebrate the extension of the SRS managing and operating contract from the DOE. This event brought together around 6,000 employees over a two-day period and allowed SRNS management to show appreciation for the hard work of the SRNS employees, which resulted in the contract extension.

In September, DOE extended the SRNS contract through Sept. 30, 2026, with one additional 12-month option period. The contract would have ended on Sept. 30, 2022, if an extension had not been granted.

Stuart MacVean said, “This great news validates the tremendous work we’ve accomplished, as well as DOE’s confidence in our ability to get the job done. It’s an exciting time to work at SRS and be a part of our important missions. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, commitment and for delivering results to our customers, our stakeholders, and the community. I’m very proud of the SRNS team, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to make the world safer. The nation is depending on us and without a doubt, we will deliver.”

SRNS will continue to support the important missions of SRS to produce and protect nuclear materials for the nation’s security, promote global nuclear deterrence, and protect the environment for future generations. DOE ensures America’s security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. SRNS has held the managing and operating contract at SRS since 2008.

SRNS contract extended



Stuart MacVean thanks employees.



The SRNS two-day contract extension celebration

THE SAVANNAH RIVER PLUTONIUM PROCESSING FACILITY (SRPPF)

is moving forward with the next step in preparing Building 226-F for its future national security mission. After months of planning and preparation, the project is proceeding with its first “hands on” work involving local trade unions to dismantle and remove (D&R) equipment such as HVAC ducts, piping, electrical conduits, pumps, tanks and gloveboxes throughout the F Area concrete structure.

Once built and operational testing is complete, the purpose of the SRPPF will be the manufacturing of plutonium pits for NNSA. A plutonium pit is a critical component of every nuclear weapon, but the United States’ current capability to produce plutonium pits is limited. NNSA, under Federal law and to meet national security requirements, must implement a strategy to provide the enduring capability and capacity to produce not less than 80 war reserve plutonium pits per year.

The original 500,000-square-foot facility was designed to dispose of surplus weapons-grade plutonium, converting weapons-grade plutonium into fuel assemblies for use in commercial nuclear power plants.

“Everything about this project is completely different,” said Project Manager Tom Hoppe. “Much of the equipment was prefabricated to work with the previous project and objective in mind. In addition, the electronics now in place, due to their age, have yet to be screened for proper levels of cyber security. It will be much faster and cost effective to simply remove the pre-existing equipment than to take the time to rework everything.”

An event was recently held to acknowledge and celebrate the extensive and successfully completed work leading to pre-construction activities, which will soon begin.

The construction process for 226-F is scheduled to be completed by

SRPPF progress



Team members were treated to lunch at the SRPPF celebration.



Dennis Carr, SRNS Executive Vice President, NNSA Missions

2030, with the first two years dedicated to the D&R process.

“This is a huge challenge and a major step forward for us,” said Dennis Carr, SRNS Executive Vice President, NNSA Missions, to those attending the celebration. “I liken it to a game of football. Get five yards, get back up, and do it again safely with precision and enthusiastic, relentless drive. This is, in essence, an important part of our gameplan and path forward.”

SRNS surpasses United Way goal

Through another successful United Way Campaign, SRNS employees gave back to the communities surrounding SRS, by raising \$831,607 and surpassing their \$800,000 goal. The SRNS campaign committee invited the participating United Way agencies to a special celebration recently held in Aiken, South Carolina.

During the event, SRNS Campaign Chair Candace Stevenson presented the donation checks to the United Way agency representatives. Among these representatives, was Sharon Rodgers, President, United Way of Aiken County. Stuart MacVean spoke at the event, praising SRNS employees for their dedication and generous donations to the campaign.

The SRNS United Way Campaign continues to be a major contributor to nearby United Way agencies. Along with eCard donations, silent auctions, lunches, bake sales and other events, SRNS donations contributed to a sitewide total of \$1,465,102.

"I am excited that we were able to surpass our goal once again this year," Stevenson said. "I just ask that you continue to support United Way because you never know if it's your neighbor or family member who may be in need."

Awards were given out at the celebration to recognize committee members for their dedication to the 2022 United Way Campaign.

This year's campaign benefits United Way of Aiken County; United Way of the CSRA; United Way of Edgefield County; United Way McDuffie County; United Way of the Midlands; United Way of Screven County; United Way of South Carolina, including Bamberg, Colleton, Hampton counties and United Way of the Lowcountry; United Way of Anderson County; and United Way of Barnwell County, including Allendale.

United Way Committee Awards

Manager of the Year

J.C. Epting
Senior Vice President, NNSA Operations and Programs

Outstanding Leads

Jennifer Miller, Mission Assurance
Rick Hartsell, Project Engineer
Morgan Welch, SRTE Maintenance Programs Package Closure

Volunteer of the Year

Eric Schiefer
Environmental Compliance
and Area Completion Projects Engineer

Chairwoman of the Year

Brittany Baer
Principal Financial Analyst

Bill Arra Award

Kristin Huber
Lead, Community Relations and Visitor Services



Education Outreach thanks volunteers

Volunteers for Education Outreach were recently thanked for their dedication and contributions during a special breakfast celebration at The Hub, a cafeteria in Building 766-H. Over the last two years, nearly 300 Site employees volunteered their time to assist with SRS Education Outreach Programs managed by SRNS personnel.

"Educators and administrators throughout the region often affirm the value of our programs," said Kim Mitchell, Lead, SRNS Education Outreach. "This level of recognition could never have been achieved without our volunteers, many of which have served for years and, in some instances, for decades."

Volunteers enjoyed their choice of breakfast foods at the celebration, compliments of SRNS Community Giving, which provides a portion of their fee earnings to support community initiatives such as STEM education outreach initiatives.

Mitchell, along with Taylor Rice, also with Education Outreach, hosted the event and moved from table to table expressing their appreciation.

Kristopher Burton and Tracey Humphrey, both with SRNS Safeguards and Security, are volunteers for CSRA College Night, an SRNS outreach program attended by thousands of students each year.

"Visiting colleges online through websites and social media is helpful, but actually working with the college representatives, obtaining answers to your questions and putting at ease potential concerns is invaluable," said Burton.

"College Night is so much fun. I really enjoy working with the kids," said Humphrey. "Now that everything is so virtual, it's important to have these face-to-face discussions about their college education and future careers. We really appreciate the special event held for us today."

During the 2021-2022 school year, SRNS provided education

outreach to more than 60,000 students and educators.

SRNS has been sharing its diverse science, technology, engineering and mathematics outreach program with local public and private schools since 2008, when it became the Site's management and operations contractor.

To date, SRNS has provided more than \$5 million for education outreach, supporting more than 300,000 students and teachers throughout seven counties near SRS.



Candace Stevenson, Chair, SRNS United Way Campaign; Ellen Luton, Director of Resource Development, United Way of Aiken County; Lindsay Daugherty, Vice Treasurer, SRNS United Way Campaign; Brittany Baer, Treasurer, SRNS United Way Campaign; Lewis Arthur, Vice Chair, SRNS United Way Campaign; Sharon Rodgers, President, United Way of Aiken County.



Candace Stevenson addresses the crowd.



Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach (second from left), and Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach (far right), greet and thank SRS outreach volunteers during a celebration at The Hub in 766-H.

Events recognize Site Veterans

SRNS veterans were honored Thursday, Nov. 10, with a special Veterans Day recognition ceremony and lunch. Well over 100 veterans attended, making it one of the largest turnouts for this annual event.

The ceremony consisted of a video with the names and photographs of many of the company's veterans who have served in the military. Stuart MacVean spoke at the event, expressing his gratitude and respect for all veterans throughout SRNS.

"As we celebrate Veterans Day this week, [we] honor those Americans who have served in our Armed Forces for their commitment and sacrifice," MacVean said. "We enjoy our freedom in this nation because of their patriotism and devotion to duty."

MacVean went on to say that veterans have always played a key



Stuart MacVean speaks to more than 100 veterans employed with the company. The turnout made this event one of the largest Veterans Day celebrations in Site history.

role at SRNS, with nearly 10% of the company's workforce being comprised of those who have served our nation.

Veterans were then invited to share their experiences from their time in the service and at SRNS and how they were interconnected.

One such veteran, Ebony Patterson-Harvey, currently serves as second lieutenant in the United States Air Force Reserve. When she joined, she

was 36 years old and employed with SRNS. Her manager at the time supported her decision and the opportunity to attend basic training.

Currently Patterson-Harvey works in the SRNS Continuous Improvement group and was welcomed in with the knowledge of her commitment to the Air Force, which included a deployment to Kuwait in 2021. She stressed how wonderful it was that a company can show that kind of support to both its veterans and active reservists.

Site Security Escort Program Project Manager Ed Saxon was among those who spoke at the ceremony. An Air Force Veteran of 25 years, Saxon has spent much of his time in Tritium related fields including time as a nuclear convoy commander, supervising security forces at nuclear storage areas, and involved in the Ground Launch Cruise Missile program at the Pentagon.

"I've participated in numerous military affiliated ceremonies," Saxon said. "This one, however, was different in a positive way. I was personally invited to participate in the program which I genuinely appreciated."

The ceremony closed out with the Star-Spangled Banner playing, after which the veterans were invited to a small reception with cookies and refreshments.

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) veterans participated in a ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 10. NNSA Operations and Programs Senior Vice President J.C. Epting, an Air Force Veteran himself, welcomed attendees while expressing gratitude to the veterans in SRTE.

"I wanted to give all of the veterans supporting the Tritium Mission a huge thank you," Epting said. "We thank you for your service to the greatest country in the world. It is truly an honor to have served, and continue to serve, with you."

The ceremony was set in front of a banner portraying the pictures, names, and branch of service of SRTE employees who have served in the armed forces. A speaker from each branch was introduced to the sound of their branch's anthem to discuss what their service meant to them, and what it means to continue to serve in SRTE's mission.



'Battling Burnout' discussed at LEAP event



Anitra McManus, SRNS Talent Management Specialist, advises LEAP members how to navigate their careers without sacrificing their health, relationships and happiness.

SRNS Leaders Emerging Among Professionals (LEAP) recently held their annual Professional Development Conference on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at Aiken Senior Life Services. This year's topic was on "Battling Burnout," and provided information on how to enhance employees' capacity and capability to effectively address the issue.

Speakers from SRNS Talent Management Services, the SRS Employee Assistance Program, and KATALIS: Beyond Leadership, a professional consulting and business coaching firm, were present.

Throughout the event, LEAP members were encouraged to participate in several interactive activities with the goal of learning more about their health, work-life balance, and helpful resources, while also networking with fellow young professionals.

"This is the first year since COVID that we've had an in-person

Professional Development Conference, and I'm so glad we were able to host one this year," said Arizona Garza, LEAP Vice President of Marketing. "Thank you to our speakers, Aiken Senior Life Services, and of course, our LEAPsters! This event was a huge success because of everyone's hard work and support. I hope everyone took away some good information to ensure we are safe, happy and healthy!"

LEAP is a peer-led organization whose members are full-time employees at SRNS, Savannah River Mission Completion or Battelle Savannah River Alliance, and have earned — at a minimum — an associate degree within the past seven years. LEAP focuses on professional development and business awareness specific to SRS. In addition, it provides employees with career development tools through monthly lunch and learns, networking opportunities, community outreach, increased visibility and overall engagement within the company.

LEAP's Annual Management Social returns from COVID-19 hiatus

At LEAP's 2022 Annual Management Social, members had the opportunity to network with some of the Site's Executive Management, including Stuart MacVean.

Since taking a pause due to COVID-19, managers and members were excited to see the event return due to its past successes in helping develop professional relationships between the two.

"It was nice getting back to the event itself," said LEAP Steering Committee member Ethan Guidry. "The event gives younger employees the opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas and observations with senior management while gaining valuable insight from them at the same time."

The event also featured hors d'oeuvres, door prizes and the chance for new members to learn more about LEAP and its upcoming outreach events.



During the 2022 Annual Management Social at Newberry Hall on Thursday, Oct. 27, members of LEAP such as Daryl Butler (right) speak with some of the Site's senior management, such as SRNS Senior Vice President of Environmental Management Operations Janice Lawson (left).

Technical college students visit during Nuclear Science Week

As part of Nuclear Science Week, area technical college students recently toured SRS to learn about its missions and the SRNS apprenticeship program.

Students from both Aiken Technical College (ATC) and Augusta Technical College (Augusta Tech) explored the wide variety of career opportunities. "Supporting Nuclear Science Week, through this event, brings a real-world experience and a clear path from the classroom to the workforce, all part of our wide variety of education outreach programs," said Kim Mitchell, Lead, SRNS Education Outreach.

Mitchell emphasized the win-win aspect of the program because both students and SRNS benefit. "For these students, success within their prospective careers at SRS fuels our success as a company," she added.

Aiken Tech student Jacob Fansler noted that the tour highlighted many advantages of working at SRS. "SRNS offers an apprenticeship program that positions us for a very promising career while making the world a safer and more secure place," he said.

Currently, there are 18 registered apprenticeship occupations available at SRNS, developed and administered in partnership with Apprenticeship Carolina, the Lower Savannah Council of Governments and South Carolina Technical College System.

Each skilled technician occupation features:

- A "scalable" wage component in which the apprentice receives incremental wage increases as he or she demonstrates the attainment of new competencies throughout the training program.
- On-the-job learning related to each apprenticeship position.
- Job-related education, consisting of classroom training at SRS and/or at the student's technical school. This program provides apprentices with occupational knowledge beyond what is taught on the job.

According to Dorian Newton, SRNS Program Manager, Apprenticeship and Pipeline Training, U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship awards each student a certificate upon completing of all required on-the-job training and job-related education.



South Aiken High School students Alexa Duran-Figueroa, Ashleigh Fair and Damaris Guillen, examine aquatic organisms captured in a nearby streambed.

STEP tours bring back teachers and students

In 2020, COVID-19 shut down one of the most popular education outreach initiatives at SRS – the Science and Technology Enrichment Program (STEP). But these tours are now back on schedule and gaining popularity.

Managed by SRNS, STEP is a cooperative effort between SRNS and the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center with special assistance from the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. Through this program, teachers and students can participate in on-site and virtual environmental science field trips.

The STEP classes at SRS are taught in a unique environment that was designated as the first National Environmental Research Park in 1972. The vast forests of SRS are home to rare endangered species including wood storks, bald eagles and red-cockaded woodpeckers. Wild turkeys, white-tailed deer and others also live there.

STEP lessons correlate to academic science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) standards for grades three through 12. Lessons use real-world investigations that focus on responsible environmental stewardship.

Topics include preserving the nesting habitat of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and identifying freshwater macroinvertebrates in ponds and streams.

"The STEP Field Trip Program provides opportunities for local educators to bring students to the Savannah River Site," said Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach. "These outdoor settings at SRS enhance STEM-based education by providing a practical application to enhance environmental science."

During a recent on-site STEP visit, South Aiken High School students searched a small stream for aquatic invertebrates, which are critical to a healthy forest's food chain. They temporarily caught and studied creatures such as the damselfly, water scorpion and leech.

"The value of this program is immeasurable," said Jamie Hatchett, South Aiken High School Science Teacher. "For our students to be able to come out here and get hands-on, real-world experience with what we're talking about in the classroom is an incredible resource."



John Arrowood, SRNS Site Training, explains how equipment is used within the Site's Training Center while simulating actual SRS working conditions.



Candace Stevenson

AT SRNS: Financial Planning and Analysis Manager of Savannah River Tritium Enterprise

IN THE COMMUNITY: 2022 SRNS United Way Campaign Chair

THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Candace Stevenson is a Financial Planning and Analysis Manager supporting the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE). She leads a talented team of Business Analysts who provide financial support to SRTE, and she is responsible for overseeing the development of financial planning, financial execution, and analysis. Stevenson also serves as a key point of contact between SRNS and NNSA for financial planning and reporting processes.

Stevenson currently serves as the 2022 SRNS Employee United Way Campaign Chair leading the committee and many dedicated employees to surpass the company's goal of \$800,000. "I was introduced to United Way in 2015, and through volunteering over the years, I have learned so much about the needs of the local communities surrounding SRS. Chairing the campaign has allowed me to educate others about the giving culture at SRS and the volunteer opportunities that are available in the community," said Stevenson. She hopes that this year's campaign has inspired others to continuously support United Way. In addition to supporting United Way, Stevenson is a member of SRNS organizations, such as the Aspiring Mid-Career Professionals (AMP) Steering Committee and one of the hosts of AMP's podcast (AMPcast).

Stevenson holds a Master of Business Administration from Liberty University. Ten years ago, she began her career at SRNS as a graduate intern in Accounting. An Augusta, Georgia native, she now lives in Grovetown, Georgia, where she enjoys spending time with her family and working with her sorority to support her community.



SRS Tour Program Coordinator Bob Bonnett stands by to take participants on a bus tour.

Ready for a ride?

After a hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, the SRS Public Tour program is now taking registrations. In 2023, SRNS will offer 26 driving tours, accommodating 900 participants. Guests will be given an overview presentation, safety briefing and driving tour of the Site.

There will be eight Historic Tours. In addition to four tours that will stop at the Dunbarton Town site, four tours will go to the Ellenton Town site. All historic tours also include a tour of the SRS Curation Facility and a driving tour of C Reactor.



SIGN UP FOR A TOUR:
[srs.gov](https://www.srs.gov) and click on the registration banner

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