

News from the Savannah River Site

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION • AIKEN • SC 29808

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NNSA Honors SRS Employees for Excellence

AIKEN, S.C. (Oct. 29, 2015) The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has honored six teams of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) employees for their outstanding contributions to the nation's defense, with special kudos for one team's "exceptional" achievement.

NNSA Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Brigadier General S.L. Davis presented the employees with Defense Programs (DP) Awards of Excellence, which is given for "significant contributions the Stockpile Stewardship Program." The award recognized their roles in initiatives that increased efficiency, reduced potential for error, developed new approaches for future work, and enabled safe operations following an unprecedented weather event. Gen. Davis also announced that one of the six teams is among a small number of honorees that he personally selected from all DP Award winners nationwide for special recognition.

Gen. Davis praised all of the award-winning teams for their accomplishments on behalf of the nation's security, saying, "The extra effort put in by these people is really remarkable."

The Savannah River Site, operated by SRNS, is a key player in NNSA's Defense Programs, the office that ensures the U.S. nuclear arsenal meets the country's national security requirements and continues to serve its essential deterrence role. The DP Awards of Excellence program was established in 1982 to recognize individuals and teams from across NNSA's Nuclear Security Enterprise for significant achievements in quality, productivity, cost savings, safety or creativity of work performed in support of the Stockpile Stewardship Program.

The R&D Assembly Load and Test Team received special recognition for exceptional achievement for a project supporting NNSA's B61-12 Life Extension Program (LEP). LEPs are



Don Zecha (center), representative of the Savannah River Site R&D Assembly Load and Test Team, accepts the Defense Programs Award of Excellence from NNSA-Savannah River Field Office Manager Doug Dearolph (left) and NNSA Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Brigadier General S.L. Davis. The DP Awards of Excellence program was established in 1982 to recognize individuals and teams from across NNSA's Nuclear Security Enterprise for significant achievements in quality, productivity, cost savings, safety or creativity of work performed in support of the Stockpile Stewardship Program.

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NNSA initiatives to refurbish nuclear weapons to ensure continuation of the nation's nuclear deterrent without producing new weapons or conducting underground nuclear tests.

The team was tasked with loading and function-testing a new assembly for the Los Alamos National Laboratory, completing the tests and the resulting report two years ahead of the original schedule and providing information that was used to validate understanding of the assembly's operation. In completing the task, the team developed a new planning approach for future research and development tasks that will enhance quality while reducing response time and cost.

The other five teams that earned awards were:

Pinch Weld Evaluation Team test-welded and evaluated pinch weld samples to identify and qualify pinch weld parameters that would produce excellent results, regardless of what tubing was used. This prevented the loss of millions of dollars of prefabricated reservoirs that had been placed on hold at the Kansas City National Security Campus.

Net Fill Weight Relocation Team modified and relocated the process for validating the amount of gas loaded into reservoirs, increasing efficiency while reducing potential for error.

Special Container Loading Team designed and implemented an approach for safely loading and processing an aged reservoir, providing a proven capability that can be expanded on for similar reservoirs, to provide valuable information about the effect of long-term tritium exposure on materials.

Polar Vortex Response Plan Team led the development, implementation, and execution of an unprecedented Response Plan when extremely cold temperatures associated with the 2014 "polar vortex" caused the site powerhouse boilers to fail. This plan enabled tritium operations to continue safely in the absence of the usual fire suppression methods.

Tritium Program Enterprise Group was a team made up of representatives from various NNSA sites and NNSA Headquarters, including four members from SRS. They were brought together to take a systems look at the enterprise that supports delivering gas transfer systems to the military, including work on a gas transfer system and tritium production strategy document.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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