

Nuclear Weapons Surveillance Program is vital 'foundation for managing the aging stockpile'

Eighty Sandians are on the front line for finding potential problems with ever-aging nuclear weapons

By Chris Burroughs

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of Lab News articles covering Sandia's Nuclear Weapons Surveillance Program.

In testimony before the US Senate Committee on Armed Services Strategic Subcommittee last year, Sandia President Paul Robinson said the nuclear weapons surveillance program is the "foundation for managing the aging stockpile."

Those words clearly show the high level of responsibility carried by the 80 people in Sandia's surveillance-related departments 2950, 2951, 2952, 2953, 2954, and 2955. They test and evaluate the safety and reliability of the nuclear stockpile and are the front line for finding potential problems and making recommendations for repairs and upgrades.

Weapons surveillance began in the US in the mid-1960s when weapons testing was done through underground explosions of nuclear devices. Such testing continued until the early 1990s.

"Since the cessation of 'live' nuclear weapons testing, our non-nuclear testing is one of the few ways we have to determine if the weapons will work when they are supposed to and not work when they are not supposed to," says Bill Norris, Level II Manager of Surveillance Group 2950. "We are vital to stockpile stewardship."

Weapons testing

Weapons in the stockpile range from anywhere between 15 to 40 years old, and the likelihood grows every year that parts might start to fail as the systems age. The faulty parts must be found and replaced or repaired.

Of course, says Bill, it is impossible to test all weapons in the stockpile, so the testing is done at random. Every year 11 weapons are randomly pulled for testing from each of the nine enduring stockpile systems in the country: B61-3/4/10, B61-7/11, W62, W76, W78, W80-0/1, B83, W87, and W88 — making for about 100 weapons tested annually.

Bill says that this level of random testing will uncover most defects that might exist in weapons in the stockpile.

"If there is a defect in 10 percent of the weapons, there is a 90 percent probability that a



TEST BED — Oscar Hernandez, left, Manager of Test Equipment Design Dept 2955, and Biu So review weapon component data from a test bed. Oscar's department is responsible for designing and building "testers" that will be used at Sandia's Weapons Evaluation Test Laboratory (WETL) at the Pantex Plant near Amarillo.

(Photo by Randy Montoya)

weapon with that defect will be in the sample every two years," he says.

Eight of the 11 weapons systems are typically sent to Sandia's Weapons Evaluation Test (Continued on page 4)

State of the Labs presentations for employees set for Feb. 17 and 19

Sandians are invited to hear President Paul Robinson and Executive VP Joan Woodard give their annual State of the Labs presentation next month.

The California session will be 2-3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17, in the 904 Auditorium. The Albuquerque session is 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, in the Schiff Auditorium.

Paul and Joan will update employees on some exciting technologies Sandia is developing, recent major achievements, special projects for the US military, future directions for the Labs, hiring and budget plans, and community involvement efforts. They will also answer employee questions after their presentations. The sessions are scheduled for one hour.

Because Sandia is a major contributor to homeland security and is well positioned to do more as the Department of Homeland Security begins operations in March, a special presentation about this has been added to this year's sessions. T. J. Allard, who manages Sandia's homeland security liaison office, will talk about how Sandia has organized efforts Labs-wide to pursue new opportunities. He will speak at both the Livermore and Albuquerque sessions.

An added attraction at the Albuquerque session will be a short presentation by Ireena Erteza (5912) on cutting edge work Sandia is doing in synthetic aperture radar.

The State of the Labs presentation will also be given to Albuquerque-area community leaders the evening of Feb. 20. — Larry Perrine

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NNSA restructuring creates Sandia Site Office at Labs, supporting Service Center

Sandians who deal directly with the National Nuclear Security Administration field entities in Albuquerque have some new structures and names to know.

NNSA, the semi-autonomous agency that carries out the national security responsibilities of DOE, moved officially to a new organizational structure Dec. 17. NNSA Acting Administrator Linton Brooks announced the details.

The most dramatic change is to the NNSA field organization. Previously, the site offices that oversee NNSA's contractor operations reported to headquarters through three operations offices, in Albuquerque; Oakland, Calif.; and Las Vegas, Nev. Beginning Dec. 17, all site offices report directly to the NNSA administrator through the principal deputy.

The Sandia Site Office is the new name of the NNSA entity (formerly called the Kirtland Area Office) for overseeing Sandia. It is located at Sandia (headquartered in Bldg. 802 but with some people also located in other Sandia buildings and areas). It is one of eight site offices that will report directly to NNSA. The others are at Livermore, Los Alamos, Nevada, Kansas City, Pantex, Savannah River, and Y-12. The Sandia Site Office has oversight responsibility for all of Sandia, including

Sandia/California.

The site offices are responsible for all oversight and contract administration for site activities including the coordination of contractor oversight, the safe and secure operation of facilities under the purview of NNSA, the support of NNSA programs to ensure their success, and the long-term viability of the site to support NNSA programs and projects.

Brooks said each site office manager will serve as the formal contracting officer for their facility and will establish their own internal organization tailored to their own considerations; "there will be no 'standard' site office internal structure prescribed by headquarters."

(Continued on page 5)

Flying SnifferSTAR may aid civilians and US military

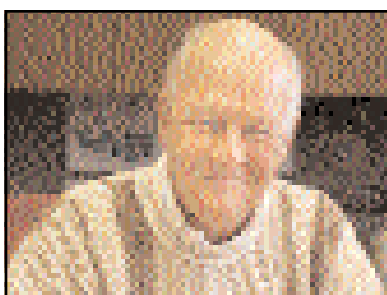
By Neal Singer

A half-ounce 'sniffer' intended to ride on small aerial drones to detect possible gas attacks on cities and military bases has been created by researchers at Sandia in partnership with Lockheed Martin Corporation.

The patented device, which detects nerve gases and blister agents, operates on only half a watt of electrical power, says Doug Adkins (1764), who created the device with George Dulleck (1738) and Greg Frye-Mason (former Sandian).

While other gas monitors exist, "this is

(Continued on page 5)



3 Telemetry systems for flight test units become distributed sensor systems

4 Bill Norris has special appreciation for nuclear safety from career on subs

What's what

You don't have to be a poet or lexicographer or etymologist to appreciate the value of words. I'm none of those and I truly appreciate words — in any language, but mostly in English, because that's my language. Mark Twain had it exactly right when he wrote: "The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug."

I was thinking about that recently as I endured the maddening frustration of voicemail instructions while trying to make an appointment with a doctor. "Please wait," droned The Voice, "for the next customer service representative."

Wait a minute! "Customer?" I thought I was a "patient" when I was dealing with a receptionist in my doctor's office. But no, to the acolytes of linguistic sterility, I'm a customer suffering through a disembodied electronic representation of my healthcare provider's helperson at the medical center.

Been to the "money store" lately? Oh, you thought that was a bank? Or maybe your kid told you about the new books at his school "resource center" or "learning center?" (That's the library.)

Hearing the death rattle from the old clunker and thinking about a nearly new set of wheels? Well, just head down to the car store and one of the marketing representatives will be happy to show you through the previously owned inventory, and if you have a question about its functionality, one of the maintenance technicians in the diagnostic center will be happy to check it out for you.

Maybe in the digitized ecclesiastical universality of the World Wide Web we're all looking for the anonymity of samespeak; maybe it offers a little cover. But the beauty of language is its richness and precision. The androgynous Pat from the Saturday Night Live cast of a few years ago was a hoot, but — actor or actress? We didn't really want to know because not knowing "which" was the point. But if we *had* wanted to know, one or the other of those words would have told us.

Oh, well, I just hope these linguistic arbiters don't start calling the lab a technology development center, or a company, or a corporation, or a business. We're a *lab* (using the "we" collectively), and that makes us unique in the wider world, and isn't "unique" what diversity's all about?

* * *

Ever wonder just who beyond the lab campuses reads the *Lab News*? Well, Donna Bethell does. She's a physicist-lawyer-business executive and a member of the Sandia Corporation Board of Directors, and she weighed in recently on the matter of whether to capitalize the name of our planet.

"I enjoyed your item (What's what, December 13) about capitalizing Earth," she wrote. "You are so right. You asked about names for our sun and satellite. They are Sol and Luna, their Latin names." (Still remembers the physics training.)

But she hedged just a bit, writing that she'll "wait for a real astronomer to set me straight!" (That's the lawyer part!)

— Howard Kercheval (844-7842, MS 0165, hckerch@sandia.gov)

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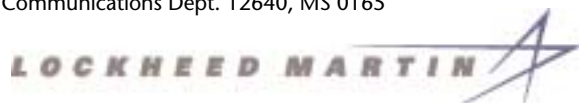
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Program seeks employees, retirees who suspect radiation exposure

Officials of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program will be available at a day-long session Jan. 30 to assist current and retired Sandia and DOE employees who have been exposed to radiation or toxic substances while working at a DOE weapons facility. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 412 Union Hall, 510 San Pedro Dr. S.E. To make an appointment or for information call 1-866-272-3622.

Reader Service information

The *Sandia Lab News* is distributed in-house to all Sandia employees and on-site contractors and mailed to all Sandia retirees. It is also mailed to individuals in industry, government, academia, non-profit organizations, media, and private life who request it.

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Have a story to tell about Sandia? Well, here's your chance

'Your Thoughts, Please' provides avenue for storytelling

By Rod Geer

One of the more popular topics of business and communications how-to-do-it-better books emerging from major publishers these days is the value of poignant, invigorating storytelling — and often the first-person variety. One of the newer ones is *Triumph Of Narrative: Storytelling in the Age Of Mass Culture*. Another is simply *StorySells*.

There are even websites touting the virtues of old fashioned storytelling. Check out "Storytelling, The Passport to the 21st Century," at <http://www.creatingthe21stcentury.org/Intro6-benefits-story.html>.

In a way, these books and websites have followed best sellers that are storytelling at its best. There was commentator Andy Rooney's *My War* about his covering WWII as a reporter. There was *All Over but the Shouting* by *The New York Times* Pulitzer Prize winner Rick Bragg about his upbringing in dirt-poor sections of the Deep South.

In fact, over the years there's been some pretty fair storytelling at Sandia. For an example search out someone who still has a copy of "Recollections for Tomorrow," a booklet sent to all employees on the occasion of the Labs' 40th Anniversary in November of 1989. It was filled with first-person vignettes by Sandians talking proud about the Labs, its birth, and how it grew into a multifaceted world leader.

Now the web-based employee comment program "Your Thoughts, Please" is offering a new opportunity for Sandians to take a crack at storytelling. (Reach the "Your Thoughts, Please" page through The Newscenter found at <http://www-irn.sandia.gov/newscenter/news-frames.html>.)

Some recent best-selling, compelling, and poignant books — Tom Brokaw's The Greatest Generation is an example — follow a simple formula of reporting stories told to the author about occurrences during past wars, during follow-ups to the 9/11 attacks, and the like. Sandians have many inspiring stories. Over the years they've been printed in the Lab News and other official publications. There have been retellings about how Sandia/California was founded, how Sandia gained its credibility as a world leader in design and manufacture of radiation-hardened microelectronics and supercomputing, how Sandians contributed in extremely short turnaround times to prosecuting the Gulf War in the early '90s, how Sandians have been credited for solving crimes or for making some space missions possible, and how Sandians have given hours of personal time toward contributing to their communities and to those less fortunate than they. What stories do you have that exemplify Sandia or Sandians delivering exceptional service or demonstrating action of "extreme importance and urgency," as President Truman wrote to describe his vision of Sandia in a May 13, 1949, letter? Stories about others you admire are fine, as are personal vignettes about your own Labs career highlights.

Recent Patents

Kenneth Peterson (14171) and Robert Watson (11500): Bi-level Multilayered Microelectronic Device Package with an Integral Window.

Tina Nenoff (6233), Steven Thoma (14172), Carol Ashley (1846), and Scott Reed (14192): Composite Zeolite Membranes.

David Melgaard, Gregory Shelmidine (both 1835), and Brian Damkroger (8210): Control of Electrode Depth in Electroslag Remelting.

Jesse Roberts (6822) and Richard Jepsen (9134): Adjustable Shear Stress Erosion and Transport Flume.

Telemetry systems for flight test units become distributed in stockpile life extension project

By Nancy Garcia

The newest design that lead telemetry designer Rex Eastin (8232) is working on serves a dual purpose.

The instrumentation to monitor the W76-1 warhead in flight will not only be used as a joint test assembly in the stockpile life extension program, it will also provide information to weapons systems engineers for weapons development purposes.

The design is notable, he says, because it is one of the first to move toward a new concept of distributed sensor systems rather than placing all the telemetry instrumentation in a single package. The new approach obtains more information while consuming less space, which is at a premium.

Customers — both DOE and military — would like more high-fidelity information from the flight test units. In addition, the two physics laboratories, Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore, drive requirements for increased fidelity of their nuclear explosive systems, making less volume available for test instrumentation within the flight test units.

For instance, electronic circuits to monitor performance of the arming, fuzing, and firing (AF&F) system are being embedded within the system itself. Dept. 2331 is responsible for designing the instrumentation assembly that will provide the AF&F diagnostic information to the telemetry for retransmission. Using one interface for digital information instead of the previous approach of individual channels and circuits has helped shrink the data acquisition components.

Less than two square inches

The new W76-1 JTA1 will also include a distributed telemetry module. This module allows the gathering of accelerometer data using a digital interface. The module contains the signal-conditioning circuitry, analog-to-digital conversion, control logic, digital interface, and power-conditioning circuits. All of the electronics cover less than two square inches of board space.

The overall volume of the new telemetry assembly takes up less than two-thirds the volume of the most current telemetry package in the W76 Type 2F. In two instances, three printed wiring boards have been shrunk to just one; that occurred with both the terminal data analyzer and the integrated telemetry processor. The processor is not only smaller, it will record more than double the previous number of channels (250 instead of about 100).

The changes are spurred in part because of the natural progression of technology, Rex says. That is also a factor that drives the stockpile life extension program. Replacing aging components with better technology enhances weapon surety and in some cases is required because manufacturers have quit making parts that were formerly used.

The ground station communication recording system will move to a digital interface because



COMPACT — Rex Eastin examines the substantially reduced telemetry subassembly of the W76-1 joint test assembly, JTA1. It is less than two-thirds the size of its predecessor. (Photo by Bud Pelletier)

analog recording heads are no longer being made. The recording tapes will also be more compact to store, an added advantage.

Compactness is attractive since the push to obtain more data from fewer flights constrains available space. In the W76-1, for instance, the initial requirement for a reduction in volume was to free some space that will be taken up by an inertial measurement unit (first, one built by Sandia, and later one designed by Honeywell for the Navy).

Passing major in-house tests

The laboratory test unit in December passed major in-house testing of circuits and environmental conditions, such as vibration and heating/cooling. Still to come is assembly of a complete telemetry unit in the reentry body for ground test qualification this year. The ground test qualification unit will be subjected to a mechanical and shock environment that will simulate a complete flight from launch to reentry. After the mechanical environment testing is completed, the AF&F will be armed and fire detonators. Along with the warhead functions that will be monitored, the detonator fire-down test will subject the terminal data analyzer to electrical noise and explosive shock environments that it must operate through.

Sandia California News

The first development flight, FCET-32, of the new AF&F and telemetry will occur in late 2004. There will be two more additional development flights, FCET-34 and FCET-36, before production begins in 2007. Design work on the telemetry began in 2002. The design team consists of Rex; Brett Chavez (8233), development tester design and terminal data analyzer software; Pete Royval (8233), lead mechanical engineer; Matt Johnson (8235), terminal data analyzer design and telemetry system software, and Michael Newman (2132), W76-1 JTA1 lead system engineer.

Retiree deaths

Betty L. Mowery (age 77)	Sept. 17
Orville F. Padilla (82).....	Sept. 21
Ralph W. Whitson (88).....	Sept. 22
Clarence H. Meyer (93).....	Sept. 23
Willie C. Montano (89).....	Sept. 24
Herbert J. Bowen (87).....	Sept. 26
James R. Rego (65).....	Sept. 26
John M. Wahlenmaier (92).....	Sept. 27
Connie L. Soto (69).....	Sept. 28
Carl J. Klecotka (85).....	Sept. 30
Sidney J. Thomas, Jr. (76).....	Oct. 1
Kermit F. Lindell (87).....	Oct. 2
Charles B. Taft (87).....	Oct. 6
William B. Minser (85).....	Oct. 7
James Doerner (74).....	Oct. 15
Eva J. Kerns (71).....	Oct. 15
Ernest J. Tavasci (83).....	Oct. 16
Manuel R. Chavez (87).....	Oct. 16
David J. Timmer (77).....	Oct. 16
John V. Otts (69).....	Oct. 17
Lloyd C. Sandgren (78).....	Oct. 19
James S. Clabaugh (62).....	Oct. 23
Ralph E. Fisher (85).....	Oct. 23
Anne E. French (86).....	Oct. 27
Donald E. Fitchhorn (79).....	Oct. 28
Emma D. Hollingsworth (80).....	Oct. 28

Employee deaths

David Chin, of Engineering Design Services Dept. 8224, died Jan. 5.

He was 47 years old.

David was a technologist and had been at Sandia since 1975.

He is survived by his wife Karen Chin, daughter Arianna Chin, and son Aaron Lee-Chin.



DAVID CHIN

Vern Barr, team leader of Electronic Prototype Lab Dept. 8225-1, died after a heart attack Jan 13.

He was 65 years old.

Vern was in general technical management and had been at Sandia since 1967.

He is survived by his wife Bonnie.



VERN BARR

Career as commanding officer of nuclear subs gives Bill Norris special appreciation for weapons safety

By Chris Burroughs

Bill Norris, Level II Manager of Surveillance Group 2950, has a special appreciation for keeping the nation's nuclear weapons safe and secure. He spent a good portion of his life living in close proximity to them on nuclear submarines as a commanding officer in the US Navy.

Between 1972 and 1989 he served on five submarines, first as a lieutenant junior grade division officer, then as weapons officer, engineering officer, executive officer, and finally commanding officer. The longest period he spent submerged was 89 days in 1983 when he was captain of the USS *Memphis*.

"You grow a great appreciation for nuclear when your vessel is powered by it and you are surrounded by nuclear weapons," Bill says. "Safety becomes the most important thing you can think of."

He was a member of the "silent service" of the Cold War — so named because the nuclear submarines quietly scoured the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, gathering intelligence but never wanting to let their presence be known. That meant no contact with anyone unless it involved a threat to the US. A transmission could result in the submarine's position being compromised.



THE LONGEST PERIOD Bill Norris spent submerged was 89 days in 1983 when he was captain of the USS *Memphis*. He's one of the officers seen in this photo.



BETWEEN 1972 AND 1989 Bill Norris served on five submarines, first as a lieutenant junior grade division officer, then as weapons officer, engineering officer, executive officer, and finally commanding officer.

(Photo by Randy Montoya)

Bill, a native of the 11,000-resident Iowa town of Oskaloosa, obtained his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from the US Naval Academy and his MS in nuclear engineering from the University of Illinois. After a year of naval nuclear power training, he was assigned to his first submarine, the USS *Francis Scott Key*. It was 420 feet long, 32 feet in diameter, weighed 8,000 tons, and carried 144 men. In two years on the ship, he did four 60-day patrols.

That's four 60-day stints underwater with no contact with family. How did he endure those patrols and the others that followed?

"Your life goes into a fixed routine and you don't think about it too much," Bill says. "You go on a six-hour watch, you work six hours, and you sleep six hours. You miss them, but you concentrate on what you feel is a very important national mission."

Bill became commanding officer of his first submarine, the *Memphis*, in 1983. It was under that command that the submarine was submerged for a record 89 days, the longest mission of that type.

"When we came back to port we had two days of meat left," Bill says.

One of his proudest moments was when he and his crew were awarded an "above-average" grade for the post-overhaul exam of *Memphis*, something not achieved in the previous three years. The overhaul was the first of the 688 class completed on time and under budget. While the submarine was being overhauled — meaning that everything was removed and the submarine was modernized — the reactor was monitored by the crew the entire time.

After 1987 he went back on land, taking on increasingly more responsible positions with the Navy. He was assistant director of Submarine Officer Assignment based in Washington; commander of Squadron 3 in San Diego, where he had responsibility for nine nuclear submarines; and director of the Nuclear and Counter Proliferation Plans and Policies for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington.

In 1994, when he knew he was ending his Navy career, he met several Sandians who were giving demonstrations around the nuclear weapons complex. He liked what he saw and asked if Sandia hired "old people."

Bill joined Sandia in 1995.

"I worked with the best in the Navy," he says. "Now I am working with the best in the country at Sandia."

Surveillance

(Continued from page 1)

Laboratory (WETL) at the Pantex Plant near Amarillo where they receive more than 400 tests. This includes 80 principal tests where the weapons are first examined as a whole, followed by 320 supplemental tests where both other fuzing options are tested and some independent components are examined. Some of these tests are conducted at the coldest and hottest temperatures for which the system is designed to verify proper operation in those conditions.

Engineers in Albuquerque write procedures for Pantex and WETL technicians about how to dismantle the weapons, what measurements to take, and what observations to make. The technicians are also instructed in what to do with each part. In some cases, they totally destroy parts such as batteries and explosive components to see how they would have really operated.

WETL replacement

In addition, at least three weapons from each weapons system, roughly 40 a year, are flight-tested with the military. The weapons — minus their nuclear payloads — are deployed as bombs to be released from aircraft or in warheads loaded on cruise or ballistic missile systems. Because the missile systems are destroyed on landing, Sandia engineers have little or no actual parts to study to see what, if anything went wrong. At this point, a team does a "forensic investigation," using whatever evidence they have gained from telemetry or visual test observations. (See "Telemetry systems for flight test units become distributed" on page 3.)

The 40-year-old WETL facility where weapons

are tested now houses about \$90 million in equipment and is the only US facility that conducts systems-level, non-nuclear tests on atomic weapons and parts. It was constructed when some of the early weapons were first built, and the building has become inadequate. Thanks to congressional project approval three years ago and follow-on appropriations, that is about to be altered. By late 2004 the 18 Sandians at the Pantex site will be working in a new \$22 million state-of-the-art facility that will replace the old building. The construction contract should be awarded in early February and the groundbreaking ceremony will occur shortly thereafter.

Gone too will be the old test equipment that was built when the weapons were constructed, replaced by \$24 million in new "testers" being designed and built by engineers in Test Equipment Design Dept. 2955 in Albuquerque. This work should be complete by 2009.

Anomalies

If tests on a weapon system show an anomaly — a possible problem with a part that could jeopardize the system operation — with a Sandia-designed part, a Sandia system evaluation engineer (SEE) is notified. It is the SEE's job to determine if the anomaly could affect the surety (safe use) or reliability of the weapon. If the SEE makes that determination, he/she opens a "significant finding investigation (SFI)." As chair of the investigation the SEE brings in technical people who understand the weapon to figure out the source of the failure.

The responsibility of the investigation team is to determine the cause and impact of the defect and to make recommendations for corrective actions. This information is eventually turned over to the design groups in Centers 2100

or 8200, which make the decision on whether repairs are needed and how to go about making those repairs.

Bill notes that making those repairs is becoming more and more difficult as the systems age. "Spare parts" for the older systems dating back to the 1960s simply don't exist. Some old radars, for example, still use vacuum tubes. Replacement parts are less of a problem for the circa 1980 weapons because many extra parts were built and stored.

Better databases

One of the other problems surveillance teams run into is poor documentation of some of the older weapons systems.

"In the old days you could generally turn to the actual engineer who designed the part or someone with personal knowledge about the weapon design," Bill says. "Many of these people kept the designs and their basis in personal notebooks. And as long as the engineer was around, you could talk to him and look at the original notebook. Now many of the designers of the early weapons are retired and the team has to go back to scratch and recreate."

He adds that many designs and test information have been stored in boxes in the Manzano Mountains for many years.

One whole surveillance department, Dept. 2954, is devoted to building up a database of testing results of the weapons. Department members are digitizing the old information and developing ways to retrieve data — even down to a single component.

"All these advancements are moving the surveillance program toward a predictive capability that will allow us to replace components in our aging stockpile before they affect reliability," Bill says.

SnifferSTAR

(Continued from page 1)

small, lightweight, low power, and offers rapid analysis," says Doug. "Rapid analysis is currently not possible with any other package near this size."

Called SnifferSTAR, the invention consists of a series of tiny sensors on a platform about the size of a pat of butter, atop a microprocessor board smaller than a credit card. The forward motion of the vehicle forces air through the device.

Material in the sampled air is absorbed and concentrated. It is then thermally released (desorbed) to pass over thin stripes of coating materials, to which it temporarily sticks.

The coating stripes are located on a quartz surface that vibrates at pre-set frequencies when minute amounts of electricity pass through it. The mass of incoming stuck particles changes the frequencies of the vibrations of each stripe.

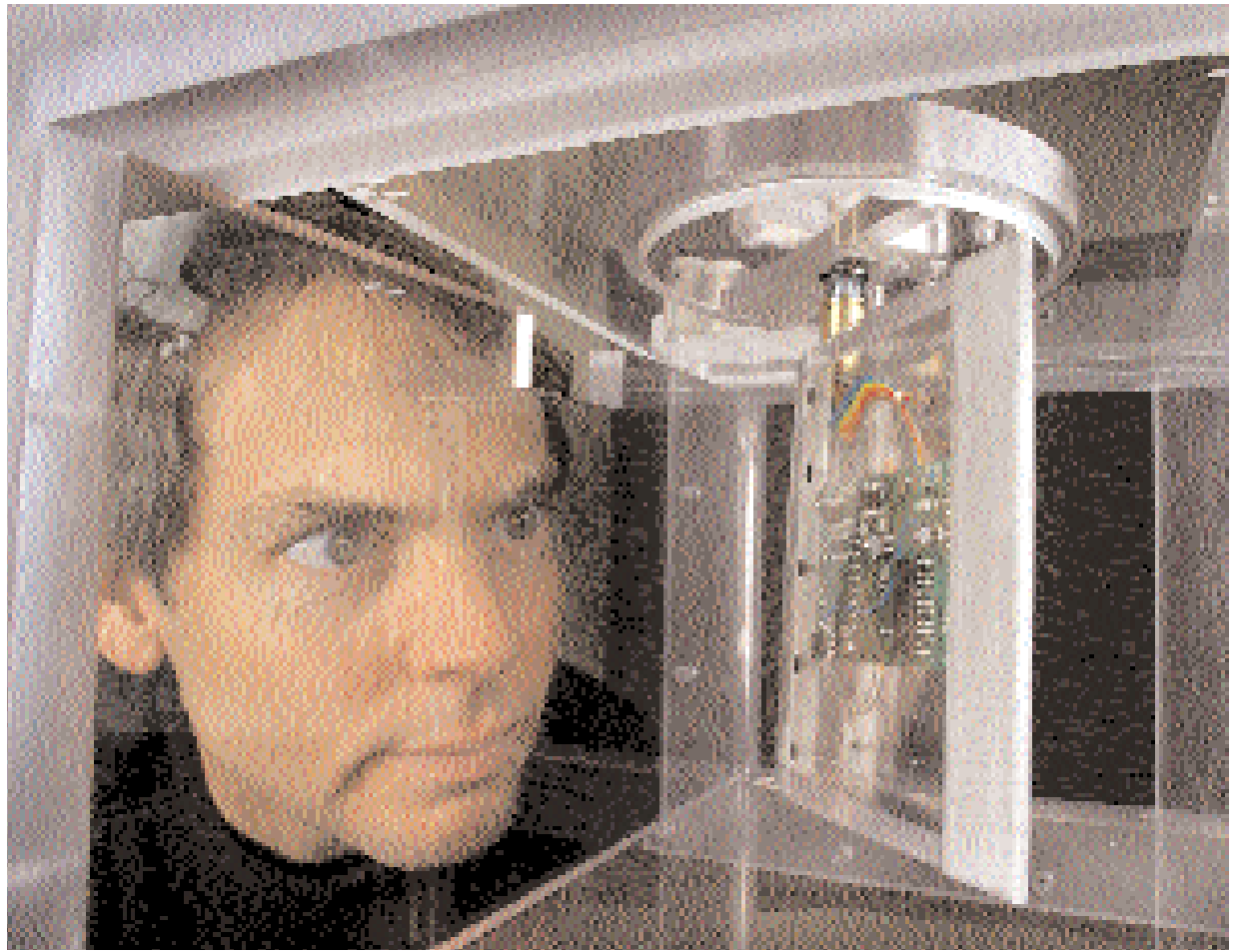
Few false positives

The altered frequency data is passed to a processing unit on the SnifferStar module. The data is then relayed to a processor on the drone or radio-linked to a main data processor on the ground. The information is automatically compared against a library of the patterns created by a range of gases.

"We have very few false positives," says Doug. "The device ignores most common interferents."

The sampling process is repeated every 20 seconds, with 15 seconds intake and five seconds for analysis. The inrush of air then clears the device sensors for the next reading.

Immediate analysis is critical in warning an endangered population of an attack or in surveying sites after alleged incidents.



SPEAK TO ME — Doug Adkins observes the wind tunnel performance of components of SnifferSTAR, a device intended to fly on drones and immediately detect airborne blister agents and nerve gases.

(Photo by Randy Montoya)

Discussions are underway with a US company that produces drone aircraft to include the device among sensors designed to detect biological and radiological threats.

The device also has possibilities for use in or near the ventilation systems of buildings, or, with addition of a small pump, on posts surrounding military bases.

Restructuring

(Continued from page 1)

Karen Boardman is the manager of the Sandia Site Office. She has been with DOE 19 years, most recently as deputy manager for programs and technical support at the former Albuquerque Operations Office (DOE/AL). Patty Wagner is her deputy. She most recently has been deputy manager for business and administration at the former DOE/AL.

The Sandia Site Office has several assistant managers responsible for key site office activities

including Oversight & Assessment, Facilities & Project Management, Security, Business & Contract Management, Production and Quality Assurance, and Nuclear Facilities.

The operations office system will be eliminated. This means the Albuquerque Operations Office no longer exists



KAREN BOARDMAN



PATTY WAGNER

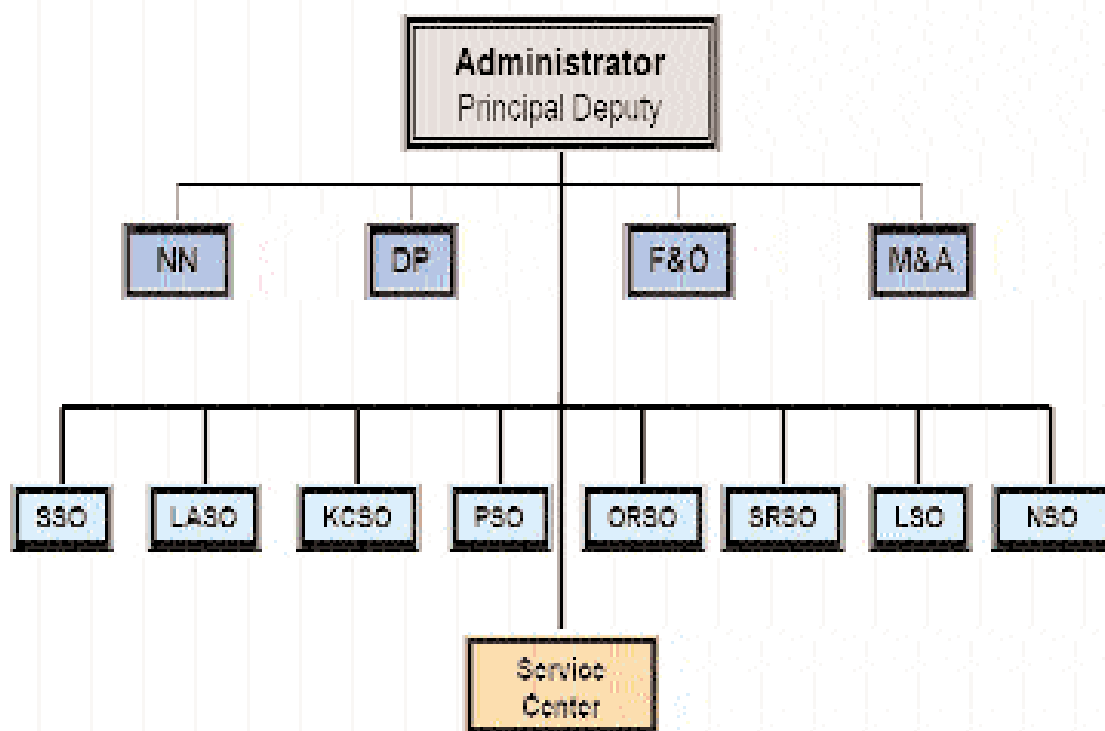
by that name. It is replaced by an entity known as the NNSA Service Center, located in Albuquerque. The NNSA Service Center will provide support to all eight site offices, and Headquarters program offices, in such areas as procurement, human resources, and other business and technical support services, using the expertise and (in most cases) personnel of the former operations offices.

There will be some consolidation of personnel. That consolidation will be completed by the end of FY '04, after which the Oakland office will close and the Nevada office will be reduced in size and concentrate on management of the Nevada Test Site.

James Hirahara will head the NNSA Service Center, with the title Director. Ken Powers will serve as Principal Deputy. The Service Center will have four major components: Technical Services, Federal Services, Business Services, and Field Financial Management. Physical consolidation of the Service Center in Albuquerque is expected to be completed by Sept. 30, 2004.

"The decision to establish the NNSA Service Center in a single location [Albuquerque], to close the Oakland office, and to convert the Nevada office into a significantly smaller Site Office was intended to ensure NNSA achieves the necessary efficiencies and to preclude the need for another consolidation in the future," said Brooks in his message.

Overall, he said, NNSA has worked hard over the past year to make sure the reorganization is done right. One goal, he said, is "ensuring that the NNSA of the future will have a world-class business environment that eliminates duplication and micromanagement and provides more effective federal oversight." — Ken Frazier



THE NEW NNSA STRUCTURE — The Sandia Site Office (SSO) is one of eight NNSA site offices reporting directly to Washington. The others are at Los Alamos, Kansas City, Pantex, Oak Ridge (Y-12), Savannah River, Livermore, and Nevada. Operations Offices will be replaced by a single Service Center, in Albuquerque.

Nominations sought for 10th annual Employee Recognition awards

“Here’s your chance,” says Executive VP Joan Woodard of the Employee Recognition awards (ERA) program, “to call special attention to Sandians who have gone the extra mile and whose work or contributions you believe have been exceptional. Last year, we had record participation with coworkers nominating 699 individuals and teams for their exceptional contributions.” She wants to do it again. “To me, just being considered for this award is a great honor. I encourage you to take this opportunity to acknowledge a deserving individual or team.”

Deadline is Jan. 31

Nominations may be submitted through the web through Jan. 31. The ERA program commends superior results in four general categories. One is for teams. Three categories are for individuals — technical excellence, exceptional service, and leadership. If you would like to acknowledge an individual for exceptional people skills, the Leadership Category is where you can do this.

It’s easy to nominate

To nominate a person or team is an easy click away. Nomination forms with detailed instructions are available from the Web at Sandia’s internal Web Homepage or at <http://www-irn.sandia.gov/era/03era.htm>. If you are unable to personally submit your nomination electronically, contact your Division ERA Coordinator who can direct you to someone who can help you. (See “2003 ERA Division coordinators,” above right.)

The primary requirement of the nomination process is to describe the nominee’s accomplishments in 250 words or less. You may add an optional one-page supplement for supporting evidence. Individual nominees must be current, regular, Sandia employees on roll since before December 2001. Team members may include non-regular employees and contractors.

Anyone may nominate individuals or

2003 ERA Division coordinators

Organization	Coordinator	Phone
1 & 2 1000	Linda Hillis Deborah L. Chance Cynthia Anderson	844-1282 844-2111 844-8380
3000	Larry Bisco	815-8011
7000	Debra L. Brown Taylor Jacelyn Alvey	844-4118 815-1479
5000 6000	Aida Garcia Richard L. Anderson	784-5748 844-5473
7000 8000	Julie Walker Bennie Green	843-8387 294-3163
9000	Linda Hays Eva Wilcox	815-7812 844-8380
10000 11000 12000	Debra Clark Shirley H. Lepp Teddie Johnson	844-9044 815-8110 844-1570
14000 15000	Jeanne Bologny Marianne Kocier	844-3088 844-7842
16000	Christi Johnson	844-8683

teams. A separate nomination form must be submitted for each individual and team nomination.

The review process and final selections take place in each division. Divisions are allocated slots for awardees based on their division on-roll population as of December 2002. A combined total of 122 individuals and teams will receive corporate Employee Recognition Awards.

All nominees are recognized at division celebration events. Last year 2,891 individuals participated in division ERA recognition events. ERA individual winners and designated representatives from winning teams will be recog-

nized at the Corporate Employee Recognition Night, Saturday, June 28.

NOVA awards, too

From Sandia’s 2003 ERA winners, Paul Robinson and Joan Woodard will select the two nominees who will represent Sandia in the Lockheed Martin NOVA awards program. This prestigious annual awards program honors 50 individuals and teams across the Lockheed Martin Corporation who have made outstanding contributions to Lockheed Martin Mission Success. NOVA awardees will attend a Lockheed Martin Corporate celebration in Washington, D.C.

FY02 fourth quarter report of Sandia’s financial health

Here is the FY02 fourth quarter report of Sandia’s financial health. Frank Figueroa, VP 10000 & CFO, and his folks in the Controller’s Organization 10500 developed these charts to show Sandia’s financial trend data. The charts are derived from the latest revenue, cost, and affordable FTE projections generated by the SBUs/SMU for Mission Council (July for the FY02 projections and October for the FY03 and out-year projections).

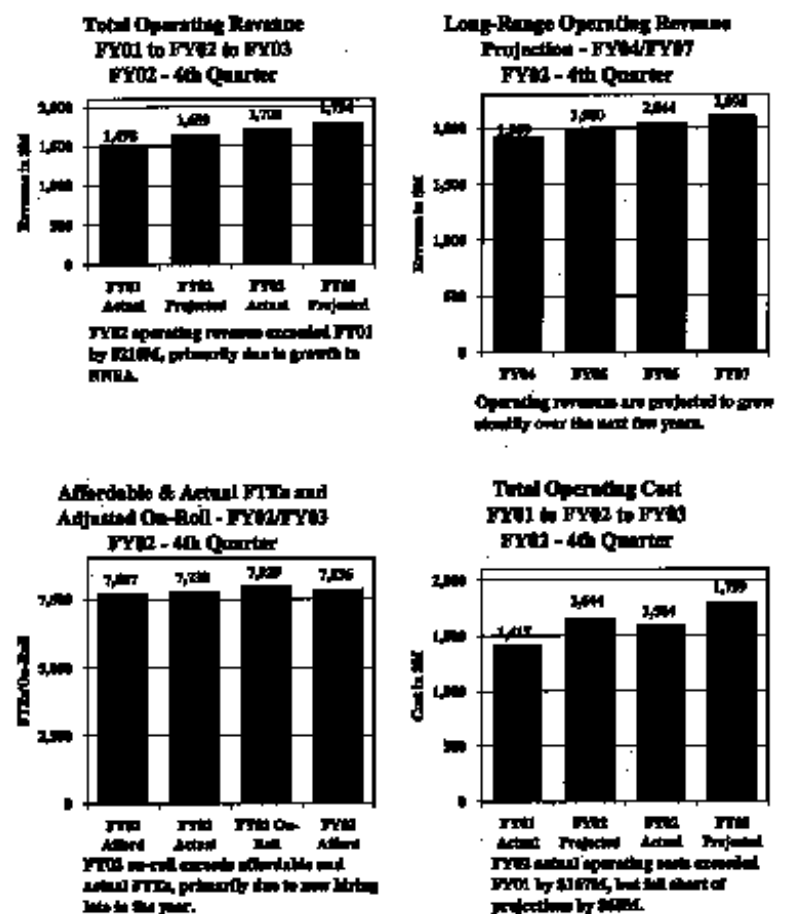
The first chart compares Sandia’s total operating revenue for FY01 (actual), FY02 (projected & actual), and FY03 (projected). Our FY02 actual revenue of \$1,708M exceeded the previous year’s actual revenue by \$210M, exceeded the last FY02 projection by \$69M, and is projected to increase by \$86M to \$1,794M in FY03. This increase is primarily due to growth in the Nuclear Weapons SBU and in response to the war on terrorism.

The second chart compares Sandia’s long-range operating revenue projections from FY04 to FY07. Our revenues are projected to increase to \$2,095M in FY07, primarily due to growth in the Nuclear Weapons SBU and in response to the war on terrorism.

The third chart compares Sandia’s FY02 affordable FTEs, actual FTEs, and adjusted on-roll count along with FY03 affordable FTEs. Our end-of-year on-roll count of 7,929 exceeded affordable and actual FTEs, primarily due to new hiring in the last half of the year, and, accounting for anticipated retirements, leaves us well-positioned to reach our FY03 affordable level of 7,836 FTEs.

The fourth chart compares our total operating cost for FY01 (actual), FY02 (projected & actual), and FY03 (projected). Our FY02 cost of \$1,584M exceeded FY01 by \$167M, but fell short of projections by \$60M, primarily due to new hiring occurring late in the year and concerns over the impact of continuing resolutions on our FY03 funding. We are projected to increase our total operating cost by \$215M to \$1,799M in FY03, primarily due to growth in the Nuclear Weapons SBU and in response to the war on terrorism.

These charts are updated and published each quarter. They are intended to keep you informed of the Labs’ financial health.



SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES

New sensors provide remarkable powers

Three microsensors, which have the ability to collect, concentrate, and analyze a gaseous chemical sample weighing less than a single bacterium, fit inside a pea pod.

Sandia is a world leader in developing sensors that see, hear, and feel events and substances thousands of times more sensitive than humans can. Today, Sandia sensors:

- Monitor the health of weapons
- Protect facilities
- Monitor nonproliferation treaties
- Detect radiological, chemical, biological, and explosive agents.

These sensors—using everything from gravity to sound to advanced physics effects—are becoming part of our everyday life, from communications to medical care.

Sandia's hydrogen sensor can detect leaks in rocket engines and refineries as well as monitor expensive equipment for corrosion. The technology is a 1993 R&D 100 winner.

Sixth in a series of 10 posters on "Stockpile Stewardship: Strength Through Science" prepared by Public Relations & Communications Center 12600 (design by Mike Vittitow; photo by Randy Montoya) in cooperation with the Nuclear Weapons Strategic Business Unit. All 10 posters are on display in the Bldg. 800 corridor.
NOTE: This poster was prepared prior to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the US. Subsequently, Sandia sensor technology has found growing application in counterterrorism and homeland security.