Boeing 727 added to Sandia’s Airworthiness Center

ROLLIN’ ON A JET PLANE — the main fuselage of a Boeing 727 makes its way via Interstate 40 to Albuquerque, en route from Kingman, Ariz., to its new home at Sandia’s Airworthiness Assurance Center facility at the western end of the Albuquerque International Sunport. The aircraft will be used in the center’s studies on aircraft safety. For more photos and a related story, see page 7. (Photo by Randy Montoya)

Electronic Watercooler provides forum for Div. 10000 employees
Communication tool celebrates third anniversary

By Michael Padilla

I’ve got a complaint!
When those four words were uttered by a Sandian to Frank Figueroa, VP of Business Management and CFO, it got his attention.
Frank listened, and the two dealt with the issue. Even though it created some anxiety and took a lot of time, the process, and result, were much better than if that person had just kicked it around with his coworkers, let it fester, and given up any hope of a fair and equitable resolution.
This scenario was Frank’s topic of discussion in the February 2003 issue of the Watercooler, Division 10000’s electronic interactive communication tool.
In the article, Frank encourages Division employees to bring forward issues, to complain about things that do not seem right, to identify issues that may be damaging to the Labs and its people, and to bring forward items that are inconsistent with Sandia’s values.
Frank stresses that the Watercooler’s guest writer position is there exactly for that purpose.
“The purpose of the Watercooler is not to be a help-line or a fix-it line, but rather a place to communicate.”

“The purpose of the Watercooler is not to be a help-line or a fix-it line, but rather a place to communicate.”

Labs helping to track potential raw materials for ‘dirty bombs’

Sandia works with DOE on first steps in control of rad sources

By Will Keener

• A 2.7 millicurie yttrium-90 sealed source is left in a New York taxi cab; it is later recovered.
• Radioactive cesium chloride removed from a sealed source finds its way into the hands of children in Brazil. At least four deaths and the destruction of part of a town result.
• Eight state-owned computers with details on all of the New Mexico companies that use radioactive materials are stolen.
These news items, taken from a collection by Joe Schelling, of Sandia’s Program Development and Environmental Decisions Dept. 6874, suggest the problem. The consistent loss, theft, or misplacement of radioactive sources, worldwide in scope, has long been an issue.
In the post-9/11 world, it has grown from issue to threat. One of a number of horrible, yet credible terrorist threats identified in the months following the World Trade Center attack is the (Continued on page 4)

Collaborative effort “may change the way chemistry is done”

Labs authors, inventors share more than $600,000 in royalty awards

Sandians on active military service stand on front lines in war on terror

“Your thoughts, please” online forum addresses Labs culture
* * *

What’s what

If you were in the celebratory queues streaming for the gates just before the actual holiday shutdown, you may have missed the Sandia Daily News announcement that “Texas A&M was awarding its Geosciences and Earth Resources Medal of Distinguished Achievements to Stockpile Resource Center 2900 Director Les Shephard. Les earned his master’s and doctorate in oceanography at A&M and currently chairs the university’s Oceanography Development Council.”

Let’s see now — oceanography degrees from the middle of Texas then a job in New Mexico. Maybe somebody should’ve given Les a map and a compass.

If you’ve been reading this column for a few years, you may have decided that as a group, we and journalists in general — lead the world in percentage of curmudgeons, cynics, and just plain sarcastic smart alecks. Bully for you.

One of our little tribe who has been cultivating his own standing within this subspecies recently exercised all of those attributes on the issue of an internal web homepage teaser for the “2nd Annual Ethics Film Festival,” dashing off the following:

‘As I was sitting through the third flick in the triple feature at the ethics film festival, I was thinking to myself — ’Self, you should have injected caffeine directly into a vein.’”

I’ve been ethically trained, so I won’t say who said that. If I did, he’d probably hit me with a chicken-fried steak the next time we went out for lunch.

A few days ago, columnist Paul Greenberg addressed “Texican” and noted that “y’all is becoming more widely used than just in Texas and the South, and may be on the way to becoming an accepted vernacular pronoun. A couple of observations in this space about its use certainly tickled some fancy and prompted a few responses.”

Among the latest is the following from former Sandian Margaret Tessler: “I was born in Texas and lived there for about 25 years. I never knew anyone to use ‘y’all’ in the singular; it was only used in the plural. . . . You might mention that the plural of ‘your’ is ‘y’all’s’ — as in: ‘Hey, Sandians, we hope y’all’s Christmas is merry!’”

Roger Woodrum (2333) wrote: “Without trying to make (a couple of earlier contributors) seem like misplaced northerners, I must correct them on their Southern grammar. ‘Bein’ from South Carolina (the true South) I know for a fact that ‘y’all’ is both singular and plural. ‘All y’all’ is used to gain additional attention by singling out each individual ‘y’all’ in a crowd of two or more at the same time. ‘You all’ is purely a northern term and could cause you trouble if used in certain areas.”

Tracy Dunham (6870) cited no less an authority than North Carolina contributors) seem like misplaced northerners, I must correct them on their Southern grammar. ‘Bein’ from South Carolina (the true South) I know for a fact that ‘y’all’ is both singular and plural. ‘All y’all’ is used to gain additional attention by singling out each individual ‘y’all’ in a crowd of two or more at the same time. ‘You all’ is purely a northern term and could cause you trouble if used in certain areas.”

An added attraction at both sessions this year will be a status report by MESA Program Office employee questions after their presentations. The Feb. 4 Albuquerque session will be video-linked live to Sandia’s Carlsbad, N.M.; Washington, D.C.; and Nevada offices. Employees there will receive specific information pertinent to the event.

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

The Livermore session will be 2-3 p.m., Monday, Feb. 2, in the 904 Auditorium. The Albuquerque session is 9-10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, in the Schiff Auditorium. Seating is on a first-come basis.

Sandia is a multiprogram laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, and a prime contractor to the US Department of Energy. Sandia National Laboratories is a multiprogram laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation and a prime contractor to the US Department of Energy.
Collaboratory for Multi-scale Chemical Science introduces new data-sharing Web portal

Online data-sharing capabilities may change the way chemical science is done

By Mike Janes

Sandia and an interdisciplinary team of scientists representing seven other institutions are developing a new online data-sharing Web portal that may eventually change the way chemical science is done.

According to senior scientist Larry Rhyn (8350), director of the project, the Collaboratory for Multi-scale Chemical Science (CMCS) is designed to break down existing barriers to rapid sharing of validated chemical science information and to open new paradigms for collaborative science. Showcased in the fall at the SC2003 conference in Phoenix, CMCS presentations showed how the emerging technology will make the work of chemical scientists more efficient and effective.

The genesis of the CMCS project in July 2001 was a call by DOE’s Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) program to develop more collaborative, team-based approaches to science. “Collaboratories,” as defined by SciDAC, link geographically dispersed researchers, data, and tools via high-performance networks to enable remote access to facilities, access to large datasets, shared environments, and ease of collaboration.

The CMCS data-sharing portal is a set of collaborative tools and a flexible user interface built on a variety of standards and open-source information technologies that can easily be enhanced or customized through the inclusion of new “portlets.” The portal enables scientists to rapidly form collaborative teams around complex problems, share and evaluate data regardless of format, discover and use data across physical scales, track the “pedigree” of data and annotate entries, share analysis tools, and make their results available to the broader scientific and industrial community.

The ultimate objective is to convert today’s data and metadata (information about data that facilitates its use by others) into tomorrow’s scientific knowledge environments using state-of-the-art information technologies. Interdisciplinary teams of scientists that span the sub-disciplines of combustion science are already working to take advantage of the CMCS data portal and are providing feedback to guide more advanced development. Motivated by a “systems-science approach” to knowledge creation, these teams are integrating information across physical scales of combustion science that range from the electronic structures of atoms and molecules to direct simulations of turbulent combustion phenomena that occur in engines or industrial processes.

Teams include chemical science programs led by the national labs, as well as other collaborations such as the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry Task Force, which focuses on providing IUPAC-recommended thermodynamic properties for selected free radical and other critical intermediate molecules. Another, PrIMe (Process Informatics Model), is focused on validated chemical kinetic models. A multi-university consortium led by the University of Michigan is also working with CMCS to solve the challenge of Homogenous Charge Compression Ignition (HCCI) Engines.

The CMCS project’s collaborative team includes researchers from Sandia, Pacific Northwest, Argonne, Lawrence Livermore, and Los Alamos national laboratories, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of California Berkeley.

Feedback

Q: Back in February 1999 there was a Feedback question submitted about the practice of how vacation balances are reported. The answer to that question said that the Benefits/Payroll team was going to seek opinions from Sandians on the practice. My question is what has become of that effort? No changes to the vacation usage the same way. At least give us the option of picking a date for reporting all balances.

A: The current “Leave Balance Information” page was designed with considerable customer input. We realize that many employees would prefer a “real-time” vacation balance display; however, because of Payroll’s bi-weekly processing cycle, that is not possible.

Posting vacation one month in arrears allows those employees who are at or near the 240-hour vacation maximum to better manage their vacation balances so that they can avoid getting into a situation of “losing” their vacation accrual. We are currently looking into changing the format used on the pay statements for reporting vacation balances to provide further clarification.

— Larry Clevenger (3300)

Q: Why has Eckerd made its online member services virtually unusable during normal business hours? Eckerd changed its Web site to require that after you register and sign in with a user ID and password, you must provide a prescription number in order to access your claims history and family EOB. That makes the site unusable during normal business hours, since most of us do not carry our prescription numbers around with us — that would be at home. Why, after you have signed in with a password, do you need another number to access your account information, especially one that means nothing to the employee or member? Based on past experiences, I have found that the best time to contact Eckerd is to get a question answered or solve any problem is during normal business hours, not in the evenings. Yet with their new online member services Web page RX number requirement they have made access during business hours unusable. I have asked Eckerd, but the answer did not address my question — it explained how to log on (not my question), instead of the problem of not being able to obtain any claim or EOB information without a prescription number.

A: In 2003, some privacy regulations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) went into effect. In response to some of these legal requirements, Eckerd has implemented the need to enter a prescription number when accessing your claim information, EOB information and prescription refill on the Web as a measure to ensure the privacy of the data being accessed. I apologize for the inconvenience this is causing you. Unfortunately the new privacy regulations have caused additional steps to be taken by everyone who either holds or accesses Private Health Information.

— Larry Clevenger (3300)
Dirty bomb

(Continued from page 1)

radioactive dispersal device (RDD), or so-called “dirty bomb.” Such a bomb detonates conventional explosives to scatter radioactive material across a target area. Dirty bombs, experts acknowledge, are likely to cause as much or more damage from fear and reaction to fear as from the dangers of the explosives or the radioactive materials themselves.

Two million US sealed sources

“After 9/11, people in government started asking ‘where is this stuff in the country?’ and nobody had a good answer,” says Joe. “We definitely started paying attention to missing radioactive sources because of the RDD potential,” says Lori Dotson (also 6874). There are more than two million government and commercial sealed radioactive sources in the US. Lori is managing a project to better track all DOE sealed radioactive sources and to provide decision makers with some estimation of the potential threat they may pose. “We’ve moved far beyond the public health threat posed by these devices,” she says.

Following reports from an International Conference on Security of Radioactive Sources in May 2003 and from the DOE/NRC Interagency Working Group on Radiological Dispersal Devices in May 2003, the Secretary of Energy chartered DOE’s Office of Plutonium, Uranium, and Special Materials Inventory (SO 62) to create a database for tracking, assessment of terrorist threats in a given set of circumstances. Of Sandia’s 1,000 sealed sources, only 345 data product specifications, depending on the size and efficiency of the RDD and are based on one of many risk assessment modeling tools. (Image source: www.fas.org)

What if . . .?

This map illustrates the problem with uncontrolled radioactive sources and the potential impact from their use in a radioactive dispersal device, or “dirty bomb.” The three rings imposed over the map of Washington, D.C., show potential contamination plume areas that would vary depending on the size and efficiency of the RDD and are based on one of many risk assessment modeling tools. (Image source: www.fas.org)

Making RSRT better: Some next steps

At his computer, Joe Schelling (6874) demonstrates potential expanded applications for the Radiological Source Registry and Tracking (RSRT) System by linking the data to a geographic information system. He begins by showing DOE sites on a map of the US. Next he clicks on the Argonne National Laboratory site, near Chicago, to show more detailed information on sealed source inventories at that site. “You can drill down through the data to get detailed information on a specific source in a specific building,” he says.

In addition, the system could link to manufacturers’ data product specifications, and other information that could be valuable to first responders on the scene of an incident. “Emergency responders want to know where the sources are, but they also need to know how to use the data in a given event,” says Joe, “How big? What kind of radioactive materials are used?”

To make the system more valuable to high-level planners, the Sandia team is looking at off-the-shelf and Sandia-developed risk tools that would allow online assessment of terrorist threats in a given set of circumstances.

Of Sandia’s 1,000 sealed sources, only 345 meet the threshold level to be tracked in RSRT. These “accountable” sealed sources will also demonstrate a prototype application for a bar-coding system that would directly update the RSRT database, says Lori Dotson. “You could update the inventory directly by scanning source barcodes. We plan to use it first for in-house inventories, but it could be broadened to the entire complex.”

The team has come a long way since Lori’s original LDRD-funded study on the feasibility of Sandia support for RDD related programs. The database is now becoming a functional system that may well prove its value in the national interest.
Sandia Labs inventors and authors earn nearly $660,000 in annual royalty awards for FY03

Two hundred sixty-one Sandia inventors and authors earned almost $660,000 in royalty award distributions during FY03, ending Sept. 30. The award average was $795, and the highest award was $84,124.

In addition, more than $2.1 million in royalty revenue was awarded to Sandia line organizations. The royalty revenue was generated from 159 commercial- and fee-bearing licenses.

Sandia’s Royalty Sharing Program provides inventors, authors, contributors, and technical organizations throughout the Labs the opportunity to receive royalties from technology licensing. Sandia has distributed nearly $3.2 million in royalty awards to qualifying employees since the program’s inception in 1992.

A highlight of the year

Sandia’s Corporate Business Development and Partnerships Center recently hosted an annual ceremony to honor inventors and authors who received royalty awards in FY03.

“A highlight of my year as well as that of the Corporate Business Development and Partnerships Center is hosting our annual Royalty Awards banquet,” said David Goldheim (1300). "Few events could be more energizing than recognizing Sandia’s technical accomplishments by honoring the dedication and creativity of the authors and inventors who form the foundation of our intellectual property management and licensing program. And, if that isn’t sufficient gratification, it is also rewarding to realize that many products incorporating our inventions directly benefit our DOE and NNSA sponsors as well as protect our military forces. I realize that there are brilliant folks who have contributed to this."

Technologies receiving royalty awards were wide-ranging. They included intelligent software programs that provide reasoning capabilities, a software tool to aid in the incorporation of complex gas phase chemical reaction mechanisms into numerical simulations, a laboratory chemical detection technique for identifying traces of gunpowder residue left whenever someone fires a gun, development of a valve for fluid control, a passive injection control for microluidic systems, polymer formulations for gettering hydrogen, and a method to eliminate gas blocking in electrophoretic pumping systems.

Software, VCSELS, and more

Technologies associated with the top five Royalty Sharing Program awards for FY03, based on dollar amounts (in alphabetical order) are: electrokinetic pumping technologies, electromagnetic modeling software, Jess software, quartz crystal microbalance, and vertical cavity surface emitting laser (VCSEL) technologies.

Sandia established the Royalty Sharing Program to encourage staff and management to identify, protect, and deploy the Labs’ intellectual property assets. Intellectual property includes patents, copyrighted software, and trademarks. Royalty income is generated through commercial licenses negotiated by Sandia’s Intellectual Property Management Team.

Of the licensing revenue, 20 percent is distributed to inventors and authors of the licensed intellectual property; 10 percent goes to employees who qualify for awards as classified inventors or significant contributors, and to employees identified as inventors on patent filing applications; 65 percent is distributed to technical organizations within Sandia for discretionary research and development and technology maturation; and 5 percent is used for intellectual property management.

— Chris Miller

Gary says.

He recalls that one of the Watercooler articles had a running discussion about anonymity in corporate communications. He says what was interesting was that most of the replies to that article were signed. But in some months, about 80 percent of the replies to an article were anonymous.

A look at the numbers

There are more than 700 hits a month and an average of 15 posted responses per month. Some of the more response-provoking topics in the past issues of the Watercooler include: January 2001: Two New Strategies by Johnson re: governance; March 2001: Inspiring a Shared Vision by Leadership Academy re: integration; Employer of Choice? Jojola/Putelli; Forum: Understanding the Enemy; Understanding Ourselves (post 9/11); 2002, Ready Set Go! by Frank.

Check out the Watercooler at http://cfo.sandia.gov/watercooler/watercooler.htm or by going to the 10000Web site then clicking on the watercooler image under Frank’s picture.
Sandians go above and beyond the call of duty

By Iris Aboytes

Here are just a few examples of Sandians and family members engaged in active military service around the world. — Editor

“Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” These words were recited by President John F. Kennedy in his inaugural speech in 1961. Since September 11 many Sandians have done just that in one way or another.

Master Sgt. Robert Pierce (Z346) has served in the Middle East on two separate occasions within the last 18 months. He is a member of the New Mexico Air National Guard, Civil Engineering Squadron, Power Production Shop. Two people from his squadron were deployed to set up and maintain a large bare base (a temporary base set up from scratch). Usually his squadron is the first to land and the last to leave. “My specific job as Power Production Superintendent was to set up and operate the main power plant providing electricity so everyone else could perform their jobs — getting the planes in the air,” says Robert. He supervised 26 personnel. They maintained ancillary generators providing electricity to remote areas on base.

“ Their job included installing and maintaining a Mobile Aircraft Arresting Barrier, an emergency braking system for jet aircraft that have lost their hydraulic system power — their ability to stop,” says Robert. “This is similar to the cable on an aircraft carrier.”

One of Robert’s greatest concerns during his tours of duty was communicating with his family. It took a month after he left to talk with them, “I was also concerned about my job at Sandia and how other Sandians were working extra duty so that I could be away,” says Robert. “The Power Production motto is ‘without electricity we would just be camping’ — that might not be such a bad idea.”

“I am proud to serve,” he adds.

“While we can all be very proud of Sandians who serve their country as reservists as well as work in the Laboratories, we should be especially grateful to them when they serve in active duty status in harm’s way.” — Sandia President C. Paul Robinson

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A way for peacekeepers to strengthen ties with the Bosnian military units. “I had to battle six generals to make this happen,” says Mike. “In the end, everyone gave approval.”

“The parachutists are what I called ambassadors of peace,” says Mike. He received many commendations during his year-long stay and leaves again this month for another tour of duty.

“While we can all be very proud of Sandians who serve their country as reservists as well as work in the Laboratories, we should be especially grateful to them when they serve in active duty status — in harm’s way,” says Sandia President C. Paul Robinson. “The pressure’s on the individuals and the sacrifices made by both them and their families are huge. In this era where our principal enemies are terrorists, the phrase has never seemed more appropriate than now that those folks truly are protecting us.”

— Master Sgt. Robert Pierce says, “The Power Production motto is ‘without electricity we would just be camping’ — that might not be such a bad idea.”

Maj. Mike Tachias and fellow soldiers head out on a mission carrying AT4s, the Army’s primary light anti-tank weapon.

Maj. Mike Tachias and fellow soldiers head out on a mission carrying AT4s, the Army’s primary light anti-tank weapon.
With TV choppers overhead, news cameras rolling, and travelers gawking on Dec. 16, a 727 airliner rolled down Nine-Mile Hill along I-40 into Albuquerque, en route from Kingman, Ariz., to Sandia’s Airworthiness Assurance Center (AANC).

The retired Boeing 727, with its wings and tail removed, arrived strapped to a modified flatbed trailer. The fuselage was then lifted off the truck by crane and placed on steel stands outside the AANC hangar west of the Albuquerque Sunport.

Sandia purchased the 727 as a test specimen for the AANC, managed and staffed by Sandia for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The AANC’s primary role is to develop improved inspection and maintenance techniques that ensure the continued safety of aging commercial airliners.

The 727 joins several other retired aircraft at the AANC, including a 747, a 737, a DC-9, and several smaller planes and helicopters.

With nearly 70,000 hours of accumulated flight time the 727, operated by Delta Airlines since 1978, is near the end of its design life, says Dick Perry, Manager of Airworthiness Assurance Dept. 6252. It will be used to develop non-destructive inspection (NDI) techniques to find small cracks in the lap splice area of the fuselage, he says.

While such cracks do not individually present a flight safety hazard, accumulations of them have led to catastrophes, such as the 1988 Aloha Airlines 737 accident.

NDI techniques increasingly are being used by the airline industry to verify the safety of aging commercial airliners and correct potential safety problems earlier.

Because much of the 727’s wiring is still intact, the aircraft also will be used to develop inspection systems that evaluate the safety of aircraft wiring systems. Faults in the wiring system inside a fuel tank are suspected to have been a cause of the 1996 crash of TWA Flight 800.

The 727 was purchased by Sandia from Kingman Airline Services in July for $15,000. It cost another $15,000 to transport the aircraft, says Dick.

The wingless fuselage had to be turned on its side during transport to fit under the overpasses encountered during the trip, he says.
The last few weeks I have had appointments. I have one question to ask and one suggestion.

Douglas Dederman, from PMTS, Lethality & Threat Dept. 15417, to Manager, Warhead Sys-
tems & Penetrator Technol-
yogy Dept. 15417.

Douglas joined Sandia in January 1984, work-
ing initially as a shock and vibration engi-
neer. He first worked at the 18-inch Actuator and Radiator Shock Facilities and then the Area 3 Vibration Facilities.

In April 1987, Douglas joined Sandia’s Large Rock Launch Vehicle (LRLV) project, supporting the Strategic Targets Sys-
tems Program for more than 10 years and four successful launches from Sandia’s Kausi Test Facili-
ty (KTF). His responsibilities included flight certi-
fication and field processing of Polaris A3 boosters and associated Thrust Vector Control components along with managing an Aging & Surveillance program for life extension of the assets.

Douglas then became the lead project engineer, supporting the Strategic Targets Sys-
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fication and field processing of Polaris A3 boosters and associated Thrust Vector Control components along with managing an Aging & Surveillance program for life extension of the assets.

and debris, raising the potential for slips, trips and falls. Crossing Eubank is another high-risk activity for use of the sidewalks at Eubank and Gibson. The Traffic Committee’s recommendation is to use a vehicle to travel to and from Research Park. If you travel frequently you may want to consider an environmentally friendly way such as a Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (GEM) or a bicycle. The Air Force cur-
rently has plans to develop a bicycle path in this vicinity.

A: Why do we have benefits open enrollment only via telephone? All of the information ends up in databases here at Sandia and with the coverage providers anyway, so why aren’t we capable of changing our enrollments online?

A: We are considering the feasibility and cost-benefit of a Web-based open enrollment option. However, many of our employees do not have Web access and many of our retirees, who also participate in Sandia’s parking program, do not have access to Sandia’s internal Web. There-
fore, we will need to continue with a phone sys-
tem to serve their needs. To date we have not had the time to develop both a phone system and a Web-based system.

A: Question: Who sets the $4,000 limit on the HC/RSA?

A: If it is the IRS, Congress, or any other gov-
ernment agency, then I suppose that there is nothing that can be done. But if Sandia has any influence on the dollar limit I submit that it is unfair to large families to be limited to the same amount that a single employee is limited to. I have a family of five, and I pay $3,000 out of my own pocket to help them with their deductible and co-insurance payments. I am sorry to be digressing, but it seems that Sandia is more concerned with the IRS Code than it is with the employees.

A: Question: Is there any way of regulating those parked in government-only parking spaces?

A: The vast majority of those parked in government-only spaces are Sandians who are wrongly parked in patient parking. A: Thank you for your inquiry on an issue with which we continue to wrestle. There are several options to address the problem of providing parking for special needs, such as car pool cards and handicap rear-view-mirror cards. For patient parking for special needs, such as car pool cards and handicap rear-view-mirror cards. For patient parking for special needs, such as car pool cards and handicap rear-view-mirror cards.

Q: If you need to walk to a meeting in the area around Research Park or the International Programs Building, what is the best route to take without getting killed?

A: Get out through the contractor gate early in the morning with no problems but Pro Force would not let me back in that way at noon and I was then forced to cross Eubank to enter through the regular vehicle gate.

I have to say that the frustration of trying to
do the right thing and have a series of obsta-
cles placed in the way. Certainly, we are encour-
aged to try to walk and consider alternative methods of travel to reduce parking congestion and vehicle pollution; however, in this case the Traffic Safety Committee could not identify a safe path for pedestrian traffic to the Research Park complex. The Eubank Contractor Gate is a limited-use, special-access gate and restricted to contractor and delivery vehicles only. Due to the large number of pedestrians and vehicles, use restrictions on this gate is unavailable and too dangerous as a pedestrian path to the International Programs Building or other Research Park sites. The new Eubank gates now have provisions for a pedes-
trian gate on the north side and the City’s pro-
ject to widen Eubank will have a pedestrian path on the west side of Eubank when the project is completed. But, once inside the gate, the main roads “G” Avenue and 20th Street have no side-
walks and the terrain is uneven, and full of rocks

Feedback

Q: The last few weeks I have had appointments at Medical. Because I work in Area 3, I do not have the option of walking so far. I have yet to be able to park in a patient parking space because all of the spaces are full. When I go inside, there are relatively few people in the clinic. I wonder how many of the Medical patient spaces are taken by people who choose not to use the patient parking. Sometimes, regular vehicles parked in government spaces, I suspect all the patient spaces taken aren’t by patients. Is there any way of regulating those people who are wrongly parked in patient parking?

A: Thank you for your inquiry on an issue with which we continue to wrestle. There are several options to address the problem of providing parking for special needs, such as car pool cards and handicap rear-view-mirror cards. For patient parking for special needs, such as car pool cards and handicap rear-view-mirror cards. For patient parking for special needs, such as car pool cards and handicap rear-view-mirror cards.

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The Sandia Culture — Sandians have some thoughts

In responding to the recent “Your Thoughts, Please” column that urged comments about the ups and downs, pros and cons of “The Sandia Culture” one person wrote into this web-based employee comment page that the Labs’ appreciates diversity certainly exists, particularly when it comes to expressing views about Sandia’s diversity because another person who responded to this question doubts that Sandia appreciates diversity.

Another argues that Sandia doesn’t have just one culture, but many, and then goes on to describe and title those cultures much like computer software programs – TSC [The Sandia Culture] v. 1.2, which was released in the early 1990s. And that version, the writer suggests, has some subroutines stockpiling diversity, 1.2.2 basic R&D, 1.2.5 California. And another Sandian described a David Letterman-like “Top 10” list, which includes characteristics such as Dreaded Decision Delay, Analysis Paralysis and Reaction Ready, which form the culture.

Some additional Sandia employee thoughts about the culture of the place they spend most of their days.

***

“Of the best aspects of Sandia Culture is the general willingness to do ad hoc mentoring.”

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“One of the worst aspects of Sandia Culture is Not-Invented-Here syndrome.”

***

“The Sandia culture affords me the opportunity to be seen as intelligent; everyday society frequently makes fun of smart people and I sometimes have to hold back to spare people’s feelings.”

“The most impressive aspect of our culture… is the hard-driving inquisitive, and analytic nature of Sandia people.”

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“We too often seem to others as cold and aloof, and some Sandia people seem too driven to have any fun at all.”

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“Sandia maintains a good old boy and good old girl culture.”

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“One of the most positive aspects of Sandia’s culture is the level of quality at which we operate. However, this leads to a certain amount of snobbery…”

Feedback

What are options when no handicapped parking spaces can be found?

Q: I am a person with handicapped parking privileges who was unable to park in a handicapped parking spot because all were filled. This usually only happens during inclement weather, which is beside the point, however, typically there are enough spaces during the day for me to park my car. My experience is that Medical has always been responsive to add more spaces if a handicapped person complains about lack of handicapped parking. The issue I have is that during these times when there are no spaces to park, what are our options? I was frustrated enough a couple of times to park in a medical parking spot and both times received a ticket (that was with my handicapped placard fully visible). That gets me very upset because it is very difficult for me to even walk short distances and almost impossible for long distances without benches for resting along the way. Parking in the Medical spot was my only option except to turn around and go back home. But I have a job to do and wanted to get to my office. My question is why do medical parking spots have assigned spaces? If a person is truly incapacitated and had to drive to another area they wouldn’t have a parking spot in the other area. And why can’t the medical spots that are rarely completely full be used as a handicapped spots when there is no other alternative? I’m sorry about the long issue/complaint but it is hard enough to HAVE to use handicapped privileges without having to feel like a criminal for wanting to come to work and have to explain to my manager why I received the ticket.

A: First, I would like to apologize for the times when you did not find an available Handicapped parking spot. Handicapped parking is a priority and Sandia will provide sufficient spaces to meet your needs. Handicapped parking spaces are restricted to vehicles displaying a state-issued Handicap placard or license plate and they are open to any vehicle with these designations. If you observe a non-placarded vehicle in a Handicapped slot, please notify the Security Desk Lieutenant at 844-3155 and they will have the vehicle removed and the offender ticketed. As a convenience Sandia provides Medical parking spaces for individuals who need short-term accommodations. As you have discovered there are significant differences between Handicapped parking and Medical parking. In general, Handicapped spaces are physically larger, have greater separation, have access paths and are located near curb cuts and ramps to allow for wheelchair access. Medical parking spaces are part of open and general parking and do not meet the criteria for being a Handicapped parking space. Medical parking spaces are numbered and are generally returned to open parking when an individual need is satisfied. In an Integrated Enabling Services (IES) approach Medical, Facilities, Safety, and Security work together to provide Handicapped and Medical parking spaces in the most accommodating area for individuals; in addition we provide Handicapped parking spaces in open parking lots and other high use areas. Once a need has been identified, we work with the individual to see they have a space that meets their needs. Please contact your Building Manager (http://fac-prod.sandia.gov/bldgmgr/ listbldg.idc/) and he or she will work with you to see that adequate Handicapped parking is available.

— Ed Williams (10864)

Now ‘Your Thoughts, Please’ asks about worker productivity

“Any company worth its salt and dedicated to continuous improvement strives for increased productivity. How might you or the people around you increase productivity?”

That’s the question Sandians now have a chance to write about via the web-based employee comment and opinion program, “Your Thoughts, Please.” Find it at the internal web’s News Center (http://www-irn.sandia.gov/newscenter/news-frames.html) and click on the appropriate link located near the top left of page. And follow the simple directions. Responses should be submitted by Jan. 23, 2004.

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“The least impressive aspect of the Sandia culture is the tendency to treat every project as if it contained an endless sea of money.”

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“…all people and well leaders alive today possessed the same caring, compassion, and concern for fellow man that Sandians do, there would be no need for the work we do here at the Labs.”

Target missile lifts off from Sandia's Kauai Test Facility

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH — A US missile defense target rocket, an M-56A missile, lifts off from Sandia’s Kauai Test Facility Dec. 11. The US Navy successfully intercepted the missile three minutes later using a radar-assisted SM-3 interceptor launched from a Navy cruiser 250 kilometers offshore. The successful test was part of the US Missile Defense Agency’s (MDA) Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense FM-6 mission. Sandia personnel at KTF provide launch support for various MDA programs.

(Photo by Diana Helgesen)
Sandian Denise Maestas receives Peggy Award as Albuquerque’s outstanding single parent

Best part of award? ‘My children’s names were on the plaque,’ says Denise

Sandian Denise Maestas (10852) received the Peggy Award as outstanding single parent to 22-month-old twins, Michael and Anthony. The award was presented by Mayor Martin Chavez and Evonne Joiner. The Peggy Award was established by Evonne Joiner, Joiner Construction, to honor her mother, Peggy, who worked two or more jobs but still found time to let her three children know they were her top priority. “Who I am today is because of what kind of parent my mother was,” she says.

Denise was nominated for the award by Mary Kay Austin, Manager of Business Division Office Dept. 14003. “As with most new parents, the first year was particularly difficult due to a variety of illnesses and infections, little sleep, and the constant demands of caring for a newborn,” says Mary Kay. “In Denise’s case this was doubled and she was on her own. Through all of this, Denise has managed to keep her focus on providing her boys with a loving, happy, and supportive family environment.”

As the twins grow, she remains actively engaged with the boys’ activities, daycare, and church. Her twins have their own personalities, and Denise is committed to celebrating their differences, and makes sure she spends individual time with each one.

“The combination of her positive, customer-focused attitude, the breadth of her work experience, and her education credentials make her an asset to any organization,” says Mary Kay. “Since I have known her, I have seen that she is not only an outstanding employee but an outstanding single mother as well.”

“I am very impressed with Denise and how she has worked so hard in her career and still made time for her twin boys,” says Evonne Joiner. “She, like my mother, did not become part of the system.”

More than 2,000 copies have been mailed externally to customers and other individuals and groups interested in Sandia’s work. Single copies have been sent to all Sandia managers and above, and multiple copies have been provided to Sandia’s recruiting offices and other selected departments for use throughout 2004.

Employees and departments wanting copies of the new annual report can call the Media Relations and Communications Department at 844-4902. It can also be downloaded from www.sandia.gov/news-center/publications/annual-report/index.html.

Sandia Annual Report available upon request; online, too

Sandia’s new 2003-2004 annual report is now available through Public Relations and Communications Center 12600. Completed last month, the new report uses as its theme Sandia’s core vision: “Helping Our Nation Secure a Peaceful and Free World Through Technology.”

The 82-page color publication emphasizes the many ways that Sandia contributes to national security. Information is organized by the Labs’ technical strategic management units (SMUs), including the new Homeland Security SMU, and a final section features Sandia’s community involvement programs at both major sites.

The publication features the Labs’ recent technical accomplishments and capabilities that should be of particular interest to Sandia customers and employees, says Editor Larry Perrine. It does not include administrative accomplishments that are covered in the Lab News’ annual Labs Accomplishments issue published each February.

Special appointment update

The Dec. 12, 2003 issue of the Lab News featured photos of the Lab’s most recent special appointment recipients. The photo of Linda Jaramillo-Alfaro (left) was inadvertently omitted. Linda is a Distinguished Administrative Staff Associate in Dept. 3521.

Also, four individuals in Div. 4000 who were listed incorrectly as receiving appointments to the Labs’ distinguished level: The four, John Fulton, Timothy Malone, J.D. Patrick, and James Walker, were promoted to the SMUs level. The Lab News regrets the error and any awkwardness that may have resulted.