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During a training session at HAMMER, a student checks a dosimeter, or gamma pencil. These "pencils" are checked before, during, and after every entry into a radiological area to make sure workers don't exceed limits specified in radiation work permits.

## It's a 'rad rad rad rad world' at HAMMER

January 2007 marked the start of the last component of a new radiological program at the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. The new program makes Hanford radiological training more versatile, responsive, and centrally located. It also allows HAMMER to apply the expertise of its highly skilled and experienced radiological instructors to non-Hanford training programs. Much of the new program's success can be attributed to the efforts of Fluor Hanford Director of Radiation Protection Greg Perkins, CH2M HILL Hanford Group Closure Radiological Control Director Ed Adams, CH2M HILL Hanford Group Training and Procedures Director Red McKennon, and their respective Radiological Control (Rad Con) organizations.

The Department of Energy (DOE) mandates radiological training for workers at DOE sites through Code of Federal Regulations 10 CFR 835. In the early 1990s, when five DOE sites were tasked with producing the DOE's Core Standardized Training Program, HAMMER/Hanford Training Radiological Program Manager Brian Killand chaired the committee that developed and maintained the training programs for radiological control technicians.

"Hanford was a primary contributor to the Core Standardized Training Program, along with Fernald, West Valley, Savannah River, and INEEL," said Killand. (INEEL is now the Idaho National Laboratory.) "The

*HAMMER ... Continued on page 3*

## Time change comes sooner, some fear glitches

The *Energy Policy Act* extends Daylight Saving Time (DST) for four more weeks this year, March 11-Nov. 4. Normally DST would be in effect April 1-Oct. 28. Speculations abound for both benefits and problems. At Hanford, systems are being readied to deliver uninterrupted service.

According to Fluor Hanford Chief Information Officer Dave Fraley, "Most of our clocks run off the servers, and we're addressing those clock issues." However, he urges owners of computer applications to check their systems and work with Information Services or directly with Lockheed Martin Information Technology to ensure no DST issues exist.

Fluor Hanford Closure Services & Infrastructure (CSI) Vice President Rich Slocum said, "We've taken steps to prevent potential disturbances in our systems for distributing electricity and water to the Site. We've double-checked timers and the functions for resetting them."

In talking about DST, Scott Baker, manager of Electrical Utilities shared, "Many electrical utilities involved with time-dependent interchanges will be impacted. Fortunately at Hanford, most of our time standard programs that depend on global-positioning systems are only used to record data, and won't impact the operation of the electrical transmission and distribution system. Some modifications will be made to our electronic monitoring/alarm systems and metering programs. Electronic protective relays, including ones that coordinate with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) relaying system, will need to be programmed accordingly. We will also make some software programming changes to validate the BPA electricity bill."

Jim Day said the Water Utilities systems don't have any time-based applications. He noted computers will update through the network so date stamps will be correct on graphs used by the organization.

Legislators backing extra DST say it will help conserve energy – equal to 100,000 barrels of oil a day – if Americans turn off their lights and televisions closer to sunset. One source says lights and appliances use 25 percent of the electricity in the U.S. Others say extra air conditioning will counterbalance the potential savings. Proponents also say the measure will bring better highway safety while opponents cite studies showing traffic fatalities increase when the time changes, especially at the beginning.

Some in the technology industry worry that software and devices will be out of sync due to built-in clocks that are difficult to reset. They are particularly fearful of "discombobulating" older computer systems, heating and cooling systems, access door controls, trading systems, electrical meters, and power-distribution systems. Others pooh-pooh these qualms and say the worst-case-scenario is that consumers will have to manually reset clocks on devices unimagined when Germany debuted DST in World War I.

After DST concludes in 2007, the Secretary of Energy is to submit a report to Congress that will be used in deciding whether or not to keep the longer period of DST in the future.

■ **Deb Dunn, Communications**

*It's coming...*

## Early investigations of Waste Tank successful

Fluor Hanford's Central Plateau Deactivation and Decommissioning (CP D&D) Project has taken its first important steps in characterizing a large tank outside of U Plant in the 200 West Area. The 241-U-361 tank, built during World War II in the ground south of the plant, is 20-foot wide, 19-foot high concrete cylinder that was used to settle process wastes from the U canyon before they were disposed to the soil. (Workers called Hanford's five radiochemical reprocessing buildings "canyons" because they are so large. The nickname has stayed with the facilities. All Hanford waste tanks are designated as 241 facilities.)

The tank contains just over 28,000 gallons of waste sludge contaminated with radioactivity and chemicals. It does not appear to be leaking. Tank U-361 must be sampled and emptied according to the Proposed Plan for the 200-UW-1 Operable Unit, although a Record of Decision (ROD) has not yet been issued. In 2005, a ROD was signed for the disposition of U Plant, the first Hanford canyon slated to be completely decommissioned and demolished in place.

Planning for the first sampling activities – collecting vapors and videotaping in the head space above liquid inside Tank U-361 – has been under way for months. Fluor Hanford Project Manager Debbie Johnson, along with CP D&D Field Supervisor Rich Stephenson, examined all the possible issues and developed meticulous work packages. "The tank has limited access points, and many unknowns," says Stephenson. "We also had to plan for winter weather hazards."

Although Tank U-361 holds liquid waste, it is not a high-level waste tank like those in Hanford's tank farms. High-level waste tanks are constructed differently, and have much higher levels of radioactivity. However, the CP D&D Project decided to subcontract a work crew from CH2M HILL Hanford Group to perform the physical tasks of accessing the tank, because these employees work with tanks on a daily basis.

### Results heartening

Johnson says that the vapor sampling and videotaping inside Tank U-361 went flawlessly on the night of Dec. 5. A De-

partment of Energy (DOE) Operations Assessment report stated that the work "went very well. Good radiological control work practices were noted throughout the conduct of the job... As a result, no radiological issues arose and the work was conducted safely in accordance with the work package... the 600 pound load limit over the top of the tank... was strictly enforced throughout the work evolution."

The dose readings collected showed that radiological dose rates were less than 150 millirad per hour (mrad/hr) near the liquid in the tank. A millirad is one-thousandth of a rad, a standard measure of absorbed radiation dose. Johnson says that the dose level in Tank U-361 is at a manageable

level for performing future work.

Videotaping inside the tank was performed with a camera lowered inside a four-inch diameter riser (port) and then tilted via a rope. The camera was lowered through a piece of polyvinyl chloride (PCV) pipe sleeved in plastic to control radiological contamination. The pipe attaches to the top of the riser and is known by workers as a "top hat."

The information gained was valuable, says Johnson. "We learned that Riser 4 gives us a clear path into the tank for future sampling. It has no obstructions or 'dog-leg' twists." The videotape also showed more liquid in the tank than previously estimated. Instead of three feet of void space above the liquid in the tank, workers found only about 18 inches. Tank walls appeared to be in reasonable condition with no noticeable spalling, and the riser was in fair condition with some rusting.

She emphasizes that the information gained about Tank U-361, especially the condition of its structure and equipment, can be beneficial to other site cleanup challenges. Hanford's other World War II canyons (T Plant and B Plant), as well as the Plutonium Finishing Plant, all have "361" tanks.

The vapor collection and videotaping work was completed more than three months ahead of a commitment by Fluor Hanford to the DOE. The next steps will be sampling the tank's liquid/sludge in spring, and then developing a remediation plan.

The U Plant operated from 1952-1958 to perform a special mission known as "metal recovery." Wastes from the oldest Hanford reprocessing facilities and tanks were pumped into U Plant, and uranium was removed as a liquid (uranyl nitrate hexahydrate). The uranium was then reacted and dried in the nearby Uranium Trioxide Plant, and shipped to government nuclear facilities in the eastern United States. U Plant's wastes during the metal recovery mission were copious and unusual. Therefore, Tank U-361's contents need careful study before cleanup planning can proceed.

■ Michele Gerber, Communications



Carefully using measures to control contamination, workers insert a camera through a riser (all photos) in Tank U-361.

**HAMMER...** (Continued from page 1)

training materials can still be found on the DOE website as 'Guides to Good Practices' and continue to be used in many radiological-training programs throughout the DOE complex today."

In recent years, a subcontractor conducted radiological training for Hanford workers at HAMMER. That changed this past October, when radiological training was brought "inside the HAMMER fence."

**Radiological training at HAMMER**

There are currently more than 4,000 radiological workers on the Hanford Site. Hanford workers can receive three types of radiological training at HAMMER – radiological control technician (RCT), radiological worker (Radworker), and miscellaneous radiological safety training, which includes Criticality Safety, As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) Technical Support, On-site Routine Radioactive Shipping, and Radiological Work Permit Preparation.

At Hanford, RCTs must re-qualify every two years by taking a minimum of 80 hours of Rad Con training – which translates into two or three days of training every six months. The training follows the fiscal year calendar, so re-qualifications must be completed by Sept. 30 every even-numbered year.

"The RCT Continuing Training Program has been at Hanford for the last 13 years," said Killand. "Most importantly, it provides timely updates and maintains qualifications of technicians."

Hanford Radworker Initial courses are designed for workers with no prior radiological work experience. The training is divided into two levels, Radworker I and Radworker II. Work assignments determine students' levels of training, based on the radiological areas they will be entering. Students receive training in nine modules: Fundamentals, Biological Effects, ALARA, Radiological Limits, Postings and Controls, Personnel Monitoring, Radiological Emergencies, Self-Survey, and Contamination Controls. In addition to classroom training, students practice donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) personal protective clothing, participate in pre-job briefings, and receive practical evaluations.

To maintain radiological worker qualifications, Hanford Rad-

worker I and II Retrain courses are required every two years. The courses include computer-based training, donning and doffing practice, pre-job briefings, and practical evaluations.

For employees with previous radiological-worker experience at Hanford or another DOE site, accelerated courses are available.

HAMMER primarily trains radiological workers from Fluor Hanford and CH2M HILL Hanford Group. HAMMER also provides Radworker training to Washington Closure Hanford, but not RCT training. The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory performs its own radiological safety training.

**"Rad Land" at HAMMER**

Rad Land brings together Radworker training already being conducted at HAMMER with RCT training previously at the Hanford Training Center near the Richland Airport. Bringing the resources together makes the training asset a more attractive growth area for HAMMER's on-site and off-site customers.

Rad Land consists of four full-time HAMMER/Hanford Training RCT instructors who also lead miscellaneous radiological safety courses. Radiological Worker Training has seven part-time evaluators, one full-time lead instructor, and one qualified RCT "on loan" from the field.

"Rad Land has a fairly large physical footprint at HAMMER," said HAMMER/Hanford Training Director Karen McGinnis. "We currently use much of the high bay in the Al Alm Building for practicing donning and doffing as well as training on how to conduct pre-job briefings. Al Alm Room 7 is our designated practical evaluation area, and the computer-based training room has 14 stations and is used daily by our students. Al Alm Annex Room 2 has been set aside for RCT continuing training classroom instruction. Offices and hands-on training props are temporarily housed at the National Utility Training and Education Center. And the whole 80-acre HAMMER campus is at their fingertips for specialized radiological mockups and simulations."

HAMMER has plans to enhance Rad Land's learning environment by co-locating radiological safety training in one building and adding more hands-on components.

*HAMMER ... Continued on page 4*



*HAMMER RCT instructors (clockwise from lower left) Mark Hulke, Ray Meyers, Bobby McDaniel, and John Fialkovich discuss implementing more hands-on components into future training programs.*



*Reviewing a new training manual in the HAMMER Radworker Practical Evaluation Area are (standing from left to right) HAMMER Manager Chris Wollam, Program Manager Thom Hogg, RCT Instructor Drue Beebe and Program Manager Brian Killand with Lead Instructor Jess Daniel (seated).*



*Students practice performing integrity checks on surgical gloves. Surgical gloves worn on the job must be free of leaks.*

HAMMER... (Continued from page 3)

**Beyond Hanford**

The number of military organizations receiving radiological training at HAMMER is growing. HAMMER is one of the few places in the United States where low-dose, short half-life "live sources" can be used in training scenarios.

"In the months ahead, National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams from California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois,

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming either have scheduled training or expressed an interest in training at HAMMER," said HAMMER Program Manager Det Wegener.

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory continues to receive accolades for the three highly successful, well-established domestic and international border security programs it conducts at the HAMMER fa-

cility, all with radiological training elements.

HAMMER envisions one day having a Disaster Site Worker training program to help with cleanup and recovery activities. Lessons learned from several events, including the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and responses to hurricanes Rita and Katrina showed that cleanup workers were not adequately prepared to deal with hazardous substances (including radiological contamination) at disaster sites.

■ **Karin Nickola, HAMMER**

**Special Edition:Functions**

**Business Services makes improvements, receives awards**

Awards and process improvements were the hallmarks of Fluor Hanford's Business Services organization in 2006. Norm Powell is at the helm of the organization that encompasses Contracts and Supply Chain, Information Services, Community Programs, Communications and Public Involvement, Finance, Legal Services, and Internal Audit.

"Look for ways to support the Department of Energy," Powell said. "Success doesn't just come to you. You've got to work for it." Powell is also the general manager for the Richland Office of the Fluor Government Group. He said he applies his personal philosophy of customer satisfaction to both areas of responsibility. "We want to ensure that we're satisfying our customers so that our clients want us on their team," he said.

**Contracts & Supply Chain**

Jim Jacobsen heads the Contracts & Supply Chain organization that garnered several awards in 2006.

The R. Gene Richter Awards for Leadership and Innovation in Supply Chain Management, an international award program, recognized Fluor Hanford for an innovative, cost-effective technology for managing supplies. According to Rich Meyer, Supply Chain director, the award presented in May recognized successful development of a web-based search application that gives end-users a simple, quick, efficient tool for obtaining supplies quickly. The Material Source Search Tool, or "wizard," has reduced duplicate orders by

allowing purchasers to determine if items they need are already available at Hanford before new orders are placed. "We are proud to be recognized for improving our

business processes by making more effective use of our resources," said Powell.

The Department of Energy (DOE) also recognized Fluor Hanford in 2006 with its Procurement and Management Executive Award for developing eBOM, an electronic bill-of-materials system. The web-based system has more than 500 users who can plan, order, and track the purchases and delivery of thousands of items needed for the work Fluor conducts for DOE at Hanford. Before a project gets underway, a bill of materials is generated – basically a list of things needed to complete the job. With the eBOM system, requests are entered once and then routed electronically for signature. Items are either found in inventory or are purchased, and may be tracked all the way to final issue to the end user, with real-time status available anywhere in the process. "Streamlining the supply-chain process helped us avoid delays caused by repetitive steps, and we also reduced the potential for processing errors," said Meyer. He said savings on internal processing costs for thousands of request per year add up to trimming annual costs by about \$200,000.

Once again, Fluor Hanford surpassed the goal of 30 percent set by DOE for contracting with small business, hitting 38 percent, which totaled \$74 million to small businesses. Not only did Fluor Hanford surpass the total small business goal, but each of the five individual goals for small disadvantaged, woman-owned, HubZone, veteran and disabled



The team that guided improvements to the Fluor Hanford-to-DOE Correspondence Workflow is congratulated by President and CEO Ron Gallagher (standing, far left) and Executive Vice President and COO George Jackson (far right). Team members are (standing between Gallagher and Jackson, from left to right) Harry Sterling, Nancy Kenny, Joe Corder, Linda Blumer, Michael Strickland, (and seated from left to right) Mara Jackson, Karen Joost, Benay Doolittle, and Sandy Graham.



Displaying the eBom award are Dana Worthington (left), Rich Meyer (middle), and Chris Hopkins (right).

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veteran businesses. And, while achieving these goals, Fluor Hanford also strengthened the local economy by contracting over \$158 million to local area businesses.

Business Services also took on the challenge of supporting disaster relief in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by sending two Procurement managers and four individual contributors to support the effort during the last year. These people were instrumental in providing government-compliant Procurement as part of the effort of approximately \$850 million. Duty stations included some of the most devastated areas in Louisiana, such as New Orleans, Slidell parish and Lake Charles parish, where there were no function utilities and other services were at war-zone levels. Procurement staff remaining at Hanford pitched in to ensure that services levels were maintained in their absences.

The Procurement organization completed its implementation of the contracted labor auto-pay system, CLTR (Contracted Labor Time Recording). This integrated system, allows contracted labor personnel to enter time into a system similar to TIS. Once approved by their Fluor Hanford manager, the system automatically pays the vendor, without any further human involvement. The system also provides real-time weekly cost and labor hour reporting as well as easy, user-friendly custom ad hoc reporting. Invoices are automatically sent to the vendor, buyer, buyer technical representative (BTR) and accounts payable for their records, and to IDMS for Fluor Hanford's records storage. CLTR also automatically reconciles the payment with the general ledger and PassPort. Full implementation of this system resulted in a cost savings for Accounts Payable, Procurement, BTRs and the vendors.

Another recent innovation is the Excess Property Bulletin Board (EPBB). EPBB is a new, user-friendly electronic bulletin board for posting excess property for other organizations to use before the items are sent to Asset Control for disposition. DOE requires Fluor Hanford to reuse excess property internally to the greatest extent possible before making it available to others through excessing. Visit the EPBB at <http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/procweb/epbulletinboard/viewCategory.cfm>.

In June, Fluor Hanford signed an agreement with FedEx Ground to lease a portion of the "shell building" Fluor constructed in Pasco five years ago. In September, the small-package ground delivery unit of FedEx Corp. began using about one-third of the 103,500-square-foot building to expand its operations with a workforce of approximately 35 people. The building occupies a 16-acre site and has been a prominent listing as available industrial space.

"The building has helped the local economy by attracting businesses to the Tri-Cities for a first look," said Powell. "They may not have settled in the shell building, but they came here to see it and found that they liked the Tri-Cities."

In addition, Fluor sponsored and attended the Mid-Columbia Small Business Awards Banquet. Awards were presented to small businesses from Benton and Franklin counties for providing exceptional customer service, outstanding commitment to employees, and superior community relations. Randolph Construction, Fluor's mentor protégé business, was presented the Silver Award for the second year running.

At the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Small Business Expo, a cadre of buyers from Fluor discussed opportunities at Hanford with vendors. Jacobsen, a speaker at the event's luncheon, said that Fluor Hanford places 100 percent of its contracts for construction work with small businesses, 100 percent of eCommerce contracts, and 89 percent of contracted labor positions.

In another outreach to small business, personnel from Contracts and Fluor Government Group took part in the seventh annual DOE Small Business Conference. The Conference attracted representatives from DOE offices across the country, 54 prime contractors, and 500 small businesses.

In another activity, Contracts administers the intern program that brought 51 college students into Fluor Hanford workplaces in 2006.

### Information Services

In November, Fluor Hanford was one of 10 winners of awards for "solution innovation and business benefit" from Open Text, Fluor Hanford's IDMS software vendor. Benay Doolittle accepted the award on behalf of Fluor.

By January, an electronic process for developing and transmitting correspondence was in place and operating. Approximately 500 correspondence packages had been processed through the new Fluor Hanford-to-DOE Correspondence Workflow by the beginning of the month. The new system is automated by using an Integrated Document Management System (IDMS) workflow. All steps are performed electronically, including reviewing, routing, resolving comments, electronic signature, quality assurance, delivery, and recordkeeping.

Automating the workflow process has several advantages: providing version control, an audit trail, automated routing with e-mail notification, check-in/check-out of the document, electronic signatures, enhanced ability to determine who has the document, and automated delivery into the certified electronic records area that eliminates hand delivering the documents to the Federal Building.

Implementing the new system was spearheaded by Information Services and carried out by a team representing Information Services, the President's Office, Requirements Management in Regulatory Compliance, Prime Contract and Compliance in Supply Chain, and Lockheed Martin Information Technology. All Fluor Hanford organizations participated in implementation, distinguishing the process as the first IDMS workflow with such across-the-board participation.

"We have taken records management to a whole new level," said President and CEO Ron Gallagher.

### Community Programs

John Umbarger, manager of Community Programs, was honored for his contributions to the community as the recipient of the Leadership Tri-Cities 2006 Sam Volpentest Award recognizing individuals with track records for making positive differences in their communities. While Umbarger's role with Fluor involves working with local businesses and organizations, the award ac-

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knowledges hundreds of hours Umbarger spends each year volunteering in various activities, including serving on boards of non-profit agencies, teaching water safety classes, and helping incarcerated youth prepare for general education degrees.

Community Programs coordinates Fluor Hanford's community outreach and volunteerism. Highlights from 2006 are covered in a story in the Jan. 2 edition of FYI, <http://www2.rl.gov/rapidweb/phmc/phmcweb/index.cfm?PageNum=64>

**Communications and Public Involvement**

Communications staff provided crucial logistics support for DOE's popular Hanford Site Public Tours. In 30 bus tours, approximately 1,000 visitors became acquainted with Hanford's history and current work. The tours for DOE's Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection are supported by Fluor Hanford, Lockheed Martin Information Technology, Bechtel National, Washington Closure Hanford, and the B Reactor Museum Association.

Communications and Public Involvement enhanced the awareness of links to the Fluor Corporation by featuring the Fluor Government Group's monthly newsletter for most of the year on the last Monday of each month. Now that readers have gained familiarity, the publication will continue to be featured on the Fluor Hanford Communications web site (<http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/phmcweb/index.cfm?PageNum=63>) in the "Hanford and Corporate Publications" section, while FYI resumes weekly publication.

Communications also manages the Value Creation mailbox at [FH\\_Value\\_Creation@rl.gov](mailto:FH_Value_Creation@rl.gov). The mailbox is designed to accept and track good ideas submitted by employees for improving efficiency and reducing costs.

**Finance**

Finance 101, a series of video presentations covering operations and rationale behind Fluor Hanford's financial processes was offered in the spring. "These videos are another example of the Finance team's

using technology to better serve our customers," said Peggy Davis, Controller.

The Finance organization comprises Disbursements Accounting, which processes employee and vendor payments;



John Umbarger (second from left) is congratulated for the 2006 Leadership Tri-Cities Award by (from left to right) Cheryl Smith, Calvin Dudney, Ron Gallagher, and Lynn Tegeler.

Benefits Accounting, which administers the shared pension plans and accounting services for the Hanford Site welfare plans; General Accounting, responsible for cost accounting and client billings; Project Finance, responsibility for coordinating indirect budget analysis and company-level overhead management; and Corporate Governance, which leads interfacing with teams conducting both internal and external financial audits for the company.

"Finance shares its values of safety, teamwork, respect, integrity, value, and



Participants in the Hanford Site public tours in 2006 were able to spend an hour in the historic B Reactor.

excellence in providing outstanding service to both customers within the company, outside vendors and to our DOE client," Davis said.

Finance has worked especially close with the DOE Financial Management Division

in the past year, resolving interfaces with the Department's new financial reporting system. "The teaming of both the client and Fluor Hanford Finance in working through the challenges has provided growth and increased expertise for all involved," Davis said. "The additional value of trust and shared successes provides a platform for future shared accomplishments for all members involved."

**Legal**

Jennifer Tolson Curtis heads Fluor Hanford's legal department and is also an assistant general counsel for the Fluor Corporation. The department handles Fluor Hanford's legal matters, including labor and employment, environmental and regulatory, contractual and procurement issues. Legal Services also reviews documents for public release, and implements the company's ethics program. All of the varied legal services are provided by four attorneys with education and experience amounting to nearly 100 years of legal practice, two paralegals and two administrative staff. While outside counsel is retained to conduct most litigation, the number and variety of internal issues at Hanford requires application of continuous updating, follow-up and creativity.

In an interview in the February 2006 edition of Fluor Government Group's newsletter, *The Link*, Curtis discussed her perspective about her role.

"Hanford is a highly complex, visible, and regulated project where many employees are witnessing the deconstruction of what was once a thriving, vibrant industrial complex," Curtis said. "Much of my current position concerns people and the lives of people as they are laid-off after having several generations of family and friends work at the site."

Curtis shared the methods she uses to confront the challenge of transition and change for herself and her staff. Read the entire article at <http://www2.rl.gov/rapidweb/phmc/phmcweb/index.cfm?PageNum=64>.

**Internal Audit**

Internal Audit is an independent, objective resource providing audit services

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and consulting activities designed to assist Fluor management by improving operational and business practices. The Project Hanford Management Contract (PHMC) team administers a myriad of activities, and has inherited and/or developed, internal control systems intended to capture current events of records, and provide sound management tools for future decisions. Internal Audit is chartered to ensure these internal control systems, both manual and electronic, function as management intended, and to and consistently provide accurate and timely information to the leadership team.

“The quality and effectiveness of our systems are critical for growth, profitability, and in reflecting a positive image with our clients,” said Dianne Jackson, senior director. “Internal Audit accomplishes its

objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes. We do quality work that facilitates positive change.”

Internal Audit works according to annual plans covering four major areas: operations, including projects and functions; information technology; special assignments; and assistance to the Fluor Corporation for commercial and government services. Audits are designed to assess the adequacy of the internal control environment, as well as identify and deter inappropriate activities.

“Ultimately, the goal of the department is to help management accomplish its objectives without costly or time-consuming surprises along the way,” said Jackson.

The staff of five is highly trained, possessing numerous certifications including Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Information Auditor, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Public Accountant, and Certified Information Systems Auditor. Staff members have a broad range of education, experience and training in pertinent fields – accounting, finance, contracts, project controls, project management, and operations.

“The multi-degreed, multi-certified professional auditors possess a deep knowledge of the PHMC, Fluor Hanford, the Hanford Site culture, key players, and competitive environment,” Jackson said.

To learn more about Internal Audit, visit its web page at <http://www2.fl.gov/rapidweb/phmc/Audit/index.cfm?PageNum=1>. ■

## Protection Connection

### Hanford Patrol hones driving skills with special car, course

Hanford Patrol is using a specialized device to train for driving in potentially dangerous conditions. The instructional device known as the SkidCar System™ is being used at the Hanford Patrol Training Academy Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC). (SkidCar and SkidCar System are trademarks of SkidCar System, Inc., a Nevada corporation.) The specialized SkidCar provides a safe, slow-driving environment that allows drivers to experience the sensations of driving in slippery conditions or in higher-speed slides.

The SkidCar System training program teaches drivers how to react properly and control the vehicle during a skid. Hanford Patrol Captain Rudy Almeida is the EVOC program manager who was instrumental in bringing the program to Hanford. “I was originally introduced to the SkidCar System during a driver’s training workshop in Vancouver, Wash.,” said Almeida. “I thought it would be a great tool for training our Hanford Patrol officers on how to safely respond to a variety of emergency driving situations.”

The SkidCar is a four wheel out-rigger device that fits under-

neath a vehicle. It features a 360-degree caster wheel at each corner of the vehicle. Each of the caster wheels is mounted on the end of an hydraulic ram that is controlled by a computerized system inside the car. An instructor rides in the passenger seat, and has the ability to raise or lower the front and/or rear of the vehicle using a handheld control device. Raising the vehicle reduces the amount of traction on the vehicle’s wheels. This condition enables trainees to experience the dynamics of a “skid” at a slow speed, and develop proper techniques for steering and braking to control the vehicle.

The first SkidCar became available for

training at Hanford in the fall of 2004. In October 2006, a second vehicle was added – a SkidCar Sport Utility Vehicle. All Hanford Patrol police officers have been trained in one or both of the cars since the System was introduced to the Site in 2004.

The SkidCars are only driven on the EVOC and only under the supervision of trained instructors. The EVOC is a 1.3-mile asphalt roadway located in the 600 Area, near HAMMER and the Patrol Training Academy. The EVOC was developed to train Hanford Patrol in the driving techniques necessary to their mission. The track includes a quarter-mile

straightaway, nine curves of varying radii and elevations changes, an intersection, and a wet-skid pan area. There is also a 400-foot-square asphalt area for specialized driving, such as backing, autocross, and the SkidCar training.

For more information on the EVOC, or the SkidCar training program, contact Rudy Almeida at 376-2350.

■ **Karen Welsh,**  
**Communications**



Hanford Patrol now has two vehicles equipped with the SkidCar System to enhance driving skills.

## Adapting to conditions: walk on ice , swim in water



Canada geese were photographed by Karen Welsh, Communications, last week as they took a walk on the pond near the 2420 Stevens Center building. Higher temperatures this week should turn the ice to liquid, allowing the geese to use their normal method of navigating on water. ■

## Nuts & Bolts

**Volunteers sought for E-Week activities.** The Hanford Engineers Week Committee is recruiting volunteers to help with a variety of activities taking place in Feb. 12-24: visiting classrooms, judging student competitions, and helping with the annual exhibit at the Columbia Center shopping mall. For more information, please contact either Marie Gillespie at 373-0771, or Karen Welsh at 376-2151, or send an email to [^Enginers Week](mailto:Enginers Week).

**Science fair needs judges.** Judges are being sought for two local science fairs: Feb. 16 and March 8. Judges are needed for the Carmichael Middle School Science Fair, Richland on Feb. 16 from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. There are also openings for later until 2 p.m. "This is a great opportunity for you to share your enthusiasm for scientific matters and encourage young people," said Diane Call, Fluor Hanford Industrial Hygiene and Chemical Management. Call is a community volunteer for the science fairs. To serve as a judge for this science fair, contact Call at 372-8371 or by sending an e-mail message to her at [diane\\_g\\_call@rl.gov](mailto:diane_g_call@rl.gov). Call said judges are also needed for the Mid-Columbia Regional Science Fair March 8 at the Columbia Center shopping mall, from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. "This regional fair will have several hundred projects by middle school and high school students," Call said. "Many judges are needed." Sign up as a judge for the regional science fair by visiting the web site at <http://www.mcsf.net/index2.html> and clicking on "Judging" shown on the left side of the screen. Then go to the "Online Judging Sign-up Form." The judging process is also described at the web site.

**Video showcased on DOE's public web site.** *A Few Good Things*, a four-minute video produced by Fluor Hanford Communications, is currently posted on DOE's Hanford web site on the world wide web (<http://www.hanford.gov/>). To view from the home page, click on "Hanford Cleanup Progress Video"

under "Hanford Site News" in the upper right corner, then scroll down to select the video from the list. The video can also be accessed directly on the Hanford Site at this web link <http://www.hanford.gov/hanford/files/few.asx>. The video was developed for the DOE Richland Operations DOE Office and Office of River Protection, and their prime contractors, for the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce briefing last July. The video will be posted on the Hanford web site until the end of February.

**Survey assesses desire for more daycare in north Richland.** Workers in the north Richland area who might be interested in using additional daycare capacity in the Research Park area are invited to complete a short online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=203223224878>. The Research Park area is also called "the Research District," covering the area bounded by Cypress St. to the north and Spengler St. to the south, the Columbia River to the east and Stevens Dr. to the west. Surveys will be accepted through Feb. 28 at 5 pm. by Solaris Group Corporation, a development company that is planning to use the results of the survey in its plans for land-use development.

**Rooms reserved at north Idaho amusement park.** The Hanford Employee Recreation Organization (HERO) has reserved a block of rooms March 24 for "the Triple Play Family Fun Park Weekend" at Hayden Lake, Idaho. The park is located four miles north of Coeur d'Alene. A package of \$195 plus tax includes one night in a standard room, breakfast for four, \$40 of credit for food, four entrance passes to the Raptor Reef indoor water park, and 24 tickets for attractions at the Triple Play Family Fun Center. An additional night can be added for \$89. To make reservations, dial 1-800-720-4207 and mention Hanford. Direct questions to Jamie Rohling at 438-1357. ■

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### HERO

<http://www2.rl.gov/phmc/hero/>  
**Van pools – Ben Franklin Transit**  
<http://www.bft.org>  
**Security Ed**  
<http://apweb02.rl.gov/phmc/sas/index.cfm?PageNum=214>

### Employee Concerns

<http://www2.rl.gov/phmc/empcon/>  
**Hanford Fire Department**  
<http://www.hanford.gov/fire/index.htm>  
**Safety Topics**  
<http://www2.rl.gov/phmc/OSH/index.cfm?PageNum=45>

**Fluor Hanford is a DOE prime contractor for cleanup at the Hanford Site**