
Chilton, commander of the U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, visited Y-12 March 3. He is responsible for the global command and control of U.S. strategic forces to meet decisive national security objectives. During his visit, he was briefed on Y-12’s mission and challenges and visited several production areas. This visit was on behalf of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to strengthen our relationship with the U.S. Department of Defense. Robert Smolen, NNSA deputy administrator for Defense Programs, participated in the visit.

Corker paid a first-time visit to Y-12 Feb. 11; he met with Ted Sherry, Y-12 Site Office manager, Darrel Kohlhorst, B&W Y-12 president and general manager, and other Y-12 leaders. Corker toured production areas and the under-construction Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility.

“This was most informative. What Y-12 does is important to our country and the world. We have a great plan as far as moving ahead goes. … Modernization must take place,” Corker said during his visit.

—U.S. Senator Bob Corker
Information flies fast and furious in this computer age, and when so much is moving so quickly, it’s easy for personal identity information (PII) to fall into the wrong hands. A local company, for instance, recently e-mailed hundreds of social security numbers to the wrong address.

Software first developed at Y-12 could prevent such mishaps. Deep 6, a commercial application of Y-12’s Ferret software, is designed to find PII and block it out.

“Deep 6 protects privacy information by looking for names, addresses, social security numbers and e-mail addresses,” said Al Klein, project manager for Ferret’s Work for Others applications. “And they can design it to search for other specifics.”

The Y-12 software technology was licensed to AreteQ, a small company in Athens, Tenn. “They took our idea, commercialized it and enhanced it,” said Klein.

Klein says the new software is perfect for areas where the Freedom of Information Act overlaps protecting personal identification. “Take beryllium studies, for instance. The study information is available to the public, but you don’t want to release PII about the subjects.” Before the studies are released, patient information such as names and addresses must first be edited out, or “redacted.” In many cases redaction is still done with a black magic marker, on paper, at a cost of about $30 per page. Using Deep 6 could save a fortune.

“The Veteran’s Administration is very interested and so is the Department of Justice. They’ll spend $700 million on redacting this year,” said Klein. Large legal firms also see the software as a time and money saver.

An apple a day may keep the doctor away.

My family and I try hard to avoid whatever virus or bacteria may be going around. We’re not always successful, but we have tried to cultivate some habits that may keep us at least a little healthier.

- We have several bottles of hand sanitizer around the house, in our cars and in our offices.
- After we recover from a cold or flu, we run our toothbrushes through the dishwasher or replace them, and we wash our bed sheets and pillowcases.
- We use sanitized wipes in the kitchen and bathrooms of our house. After an illness, we use them to wipe down doorknobs, switchplates, remote controls—anything the sick member of our family has touched.

—Stuart Hames, Public Affairs and Communications
Silver Eagles roost at Y-12

Robbie Cordani of Production and Joe Marshall of Projects each recently received a Silver Eagle Award from Steve Goodrum, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) assistant deputy administrator for military application and stockpile operations.

Cordani received an individual award for his leadership role in bringing the original 13 Y-12 Throughput Improvement Plan (YTIP) actions, as well as many additional subordinate actions, to successful conclusions in the past 18 months. Marshall received a team award for the relocation of quality evaluation (QE) operations and equipment from several facilities into a single consolidated location. The project, which also won a Defense Programs Award of Excellence for 2006, is ahead of schedule and under budget. The efforts of the teams led by Cordani and Marshall were critical to meeting B&W Y-12’s fiscal year 2007 commitments to NNSA.

Under Cordani’s leadership, YTIP has proven to be successful, leading to a significant increase in productivity in critical areas and reducing the costs of operation through the careful assessment and revision of procedures and practices. Y-12’s performance demonstrates the impact of YTIP initiatives to increase the amount of productive time. The YTIP suggested modification of inventory procedures and implementation of new security procedures enabled Y-12 to regain 40 days of production time annually lost to material inventory.

QE relocation is one of several projects critical to the successful transformation of Y-12. QE operations are at the heart of the Y-12 Stockpile Surveillance mission. Marshall and his team worked to plan, model and execute a complicated, multimillion-dollar project that involved the relocation and upgrade of two large gloveboxes, and their associated equipment, under budget and ahead of schedule. The team included representatives from almost every organization.

Employee leaves legacy

Chuck Egert of the Technology Development Division (now Applied Technologies) died in 1998 at the age of 45, leaving his wife, Mary Beth, and their two sons. He also left an unexpected legacy.

In 1997, Egert received a U.S. Patent for a coating that is used at Y-12 to extend the life of equipment.

When he passed away, his family managed with Mary Beth’s income, but still there were college loans and expenses involved with being a single parent. After Y-12’s management and operating contract changed, Mary Beth was contacted by Y-12 to arrange for royalty payments. A trust was set up for royalties, and the Egerts continued to benefit from Chuck’s work.

This past November, Mary Beth got a call from Y-12 with surprising news. Because of a dispute resolution, she received a substantial windfall check to catch up on royalties—in an amount Mary Beth had never imagined would come her way. “I was so dumbfounded,” she said. “I just couldn’t believe it.”

Mary Beth urges other families with patents to modify their wills and set up trusts now. Chuck never knew he was leaving such a legacy, but Mary Beth is sure he would be proud.

Chuck’s memory is kept alive through his continued contribution to his family’s well-being.
Hands-on style brings success

“When I started at Y-12 just over 20 years ago,” recalled metallurgical engineer Amy DeMint of Applied Technologies (AT), “highly experienced technicians did most of the laboratory work, directed by engineers who generally stayed in their offices.”

DeMint, however, is a hands-on kind of person. She couldn’t confine herself to an office. “I spent as much time as I could in the labs, working with technicians and learning from them,” DeMint said.

In doing so, she rediscovered the synergy that once existed between engineers and technicians in AT. “In the early days, the engineers and technicians worked side-by-side in the labs,” DeMint said.

Most of the technicians retired, leaving only DeMint and one other engineer—Jack Gooch—to handle the traditional foundry work in AT.

DeMint’s work sometimes involves gathering, interpreting and reporting results of research her team has proposed and found funding for.

“Other jobs come from within AT and might involve castings and molds or heating material in a furnace,” said DeMint.

She is particularly excited about an assignment from a customer outside Y-12. “The job was to fabricate uranium for ultimate use as fuel in research reactors,” she said. “After a few short years, this project has developed into high-visibility work that has potential to provide jobs to Y-12 employees for many years.” Another success for Y-12, thanks to DeMint and her hands-on style.

What you do counts

In her spare time, Amy DeMint enjoys traveling and horseback riding.

Secrets abound at the Y-12 National Security Complex, but one secret employees can share is when they worked with NASA.

According to Ray Smith, Y-12 historian, “It all started with BIG—Blood in Gravity—a special Y-12 project for NASA in 1965.” NASA was working on the Gemini program and had concern that going into space might affect the astronauts’ blood.

“Y-12 employees designed and fabricated a test kit for NASA’s use. Walker Smith, a now-retired Y-12 engineer, actually took the apparatus to the launch pad and handed it to the astronauts onboard the rocket 210 minutes prior to blast off,” Smith explained.

It is always exciting to see a launch, but can you imagine handing a tool to the astronauts right before liftoff? “Walker then stayed in a special trailer at the launch site during the entire flight with an identical device, which he used as a control for the experiment,” Smith said. “The control was activated at the same time as the experimental device on the flight in space.”

When the astronauts returned, a physician was on the recovery ship and immediately removed the device to test the blood as quickly as possible after splashdown.

Y-12’s cosmic partnership

In the 1960s, Y-12 developed a blood test kit for NASA’s Gemini program. Photo provided by NASA.

Y-12 contributions are worldwide and beyond!
Legal raises the bar

Paige Thompson of Legal is easygoing—except when it comes to the law library.

She can become downright persnickety if books aren’t reshelved properly. “My co-workers laugh at how protective I am of my books,” she said.

Thompson’s conscientiousness and attention to detail are more than personality traits; they’re job requirements. As Y-12’s law librarian and only paralegal, she pores over boxes of evidence and case files, reference material and online documents, searching for information to support the work of Y-12’s six lawyers.

The lawyers’ jobs, as Chief Legal Counsel Rick Anderson described, are to be problem solvers. “We try to nip problems in the bud before they get elevated,” explained Anderson. “We want to prevent getting to the stage where there’s a lawsuit.”

By all accounts, the legal team has been successful. Since 2001, 17 federal cases have been resolved in favor of the company without a trial. Anderson credited this success to a crackerjack in-house staff: “We have a unique understanding of the business—our contract and operations—because our legal services are embedded within the company, not contracted.”

Y-12’s legal eagles and support staff specialize in contracts and intellectual property, worker’s compensation, environmental and compliance law, and employment and labor law. In addition, Legal operates the company’s insurance program for lost and damaged property claims as well as eliminates or reduces civil penalties related to Price-Anderson Amendments Act noncompliances.

Anderson noted that the sought-after ending for all parties in a case is a happy one. “When both sides walk away with a smile,” he said, “it’s good for us and good for them.”

Going greener

Y-12 has begun recycling empty/clean glass containers from both the Jack Case and New Hope centers. This initiative currently is limited to empty/clean glass containers generated from Jack Case and New Hope centers only, but the Pollution Prevention team hopes to extend glass recycling Complexwide in the future. To participate, discard your empty/clean glass containers into the containers marked “Recycle Clean Glass Containers Only” located in break rooms in the Jack Case and New Hope centers.

Did you know?

The Legal department administers workers’ compensation claims for all employees—past and present—with 1,000 claims pending at any given time.

Paige Thompson stacks up as a top-rate legal assistant. “My job is to dot the i’s and cross the t’s,” said Thompson, who recently became a Certified Legal Assistant, one of only 281 in Tennessee. “When I deliver 10,000 pages—every piece of paper the attorneys need to successfully do their jobs—then I’ve done my job.”

Did you know?

• In 1980, recovery of glass from the municipal solid waste stream was 750,000 tons. In 2006, it was more than 2.9 million tons.
• Glass can be recycled multiple times with no loss in quality.
• About 90 percent of recycled glass is used to make new containers.

For more information, see http://www.epa.gov/msw/glass.htm
Y-12’s Construction employee participation increased from 14 percent to 53 percent during the 2007 campaign. Shown from left to right are Joe Kato, James Heatherly, Dennis Grove, Jack Huffaker, Ray Whitehead (president of the Knoxville Building and Construction Trades Council), Tommy Fuller (business manager for Sheetmetal Local #5) and Mel Schuster.

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2007 United Way contributions rise

B&W Y-12’s 2007 United Way campaign raised some $835,368 for local charitable organizations, which is more than a 29 percent increase over last year’s campaign. Overall giving to this campaign increased by over $188,000.

Leadership giving at Y-12 increased by 35 percent and Construction employee participation increased from 14 percent to 53 percent. The 2007 campaign focused on retirees, whose participation increased by almost 30 percent, and the electronic donation card system (e-card) was implemented, which eliminated printing cards and manual entry. The e-card system made enrollment easier, convenient and private.

Included in the total is a B&W Technical Services corporate contribution of $60,000.

Y-12 Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County*</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knox</td>
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*Top five counties receiving Y-12 United Way contributions in 2007

In memoriam

Loyd M. Skeen of Quality Assurance (QA) passed away Feb. 14. Buster, as he was known, had almost 33 years of company service.

“Buster was an A-1 guy. Absolutely,” recalled friend Eddie Warren, also of QA, who worked with Skeen for 17 years. “He was a walking missionary. He lived a Christian life every day—even at lunch he read from his Bible. Buster never failed to ask about my family members when they were sick. He was a fine man who is missed.”

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SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY

42 years
Projects: James K. Dyer

40 years
Engineering: Douglas E. Bailes

35 years
Engineering: William S. Mayfield

30 years
Document and Property Management: Roger D. Carrington and Douglas H. Woods

Environment, Safety and Health:
Jerome Q. Miller

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:
Milton L. McClanahan, James R. Robbins, Johnny R. Sharp and Donald A. Taylor

Production: Keith E. Cofer, Peggy A. Kelly, Gary W McNeely, John R. Renfro and Linda S. Sanders

Quality Assurance: Ralph M. Mack and Jeffery W. Wade

Safeguards and Security: Jimmie E. Choate

25 years
Applied Technologies: Rosanne A. Smith
Information Technology: Jackie R. Dixon
Internal Audit: Woodrow E. Davis Jr.

20 years
Environment, Safety and Health:
Michelle M. Reichert
Production: Patsy R. Ruppe
Quality Assurance: Adam F. Hild
Lewis bikes to ‘mecca’

Crossing the country with virtual strangers is just fine with Dave Lewis of Engineering—as long as it’s on the back of his Harley Davidson.

Lewis isn’t a natural risk taker but traveling to the annual motorcycle rally of about 650,000 bikers in Sturgis, S.D., last summer was a longtime dream. His excitement about “going to mecca” led him to throw in his hat for a trip planned through a motorcycle website.

To calm thoughts like “What on earth are you doing?” he met his seven traveling companions at a get-acquainted weekend to size up their personalities and riding styles. But making sure the individuals could mesh safely as a group was only part of Lewis’ planning.

“You have to think about safety long before you start the engine,” he said. His preparations included installing new tires, changing motor oil and plugs, adjusting the suspension and drive components, and practicing packing. “A good rider makes sure extra weight is distributed evenly and securely,” he said.

The three-week odyssey covered 5,600 miles, wound through 11 states, including Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks and the infamous Beartooth Pass, known as “America’s most spectacular highway.”

Lewis said the trip met all his goals—being safe and coming away with lasting memories and friendships. “Sure, there was an element of danger,” he admitted, “but being focused helped to level the field.”

And what about those other riders? “They were absolutely fantastic,” he said. “I’d gladly do it again.”

In memoriam

He had 31 years of company service.

“Jerry was a true inspiration to his co-workers,” said Lively’s supervisor Dean Shipley.
“Despite undergoing treatments several times a week, he always made an effort to be at work. When he wasn’t at work, he was apologetic and made sure his plant customers had a means to contact him. His work ethic was contagious to his co-workers.”

MARCH
48 years
Chief Financial Officer Division:
William R. Ragland

40 years
Quality Assurance: Joseph P. Konopka
Strategic Planning and Transformation: Thomas E. Smith

35 years
Applied Technologies: Jerry W. Whittaker
Engineering: Joe G. Arnold
Production: Ernest C. Wright

30 years
Engineering: Jeffrey N. Pipes
Environment, Safety and Health:
Richard A. Hamby and Sherilu D. Rowan
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:
Harold W. Duncan, Michael L. Lovely and Condy D. Sharp

Production: Shirley A. Hamilton, Gloria J. Shell and Robert L. Stooksbury
Quality Assurance: Theresa K. Smith and Jerry V. Spence

25 years
Engineering: Patsy A. Crossno and Allen T. Woods
Production: William A. Cate
Quality Assurance: Patricia L. Johnson

20 years
Defense Programs Management:
Ronald F. Milligan II
Engineering: William J. Moore
Environment, Safety and Health:
Beverly J Shontz and Merritt C. Wiest Jr.
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:
Marcus O. Phillips
Production: Michael A. Aloi and Hayes A. Tinker
Program Planning: William S. Allison
Safeguards and Security: Donna K. Vickery
Administrative Professionals Week April 20–26

Don’t forget to recognize the valuable contributions of office support staff.

Water system ups the pressure

The most visible change will be the erection of two 220-foot-tall water tanks, associated pumping station and new transmission piping, which will increase Y-12’s water pressure margin and provide a new primary and backup water supply. A change in tie-in to the main pipelines will allow separation from the city of Oak Ridge water supply and further increase the water pressure available to Y-12. Other work includes sprinkler system modifications and the replacement or repair of original cast iron water mains.

After almost seven years of planning, construction for the Potable Water System Upgrades (PWSU) Project is under way. Dignitaries from Y-12, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the city of Oak Ridge were on hand for a groundbreaking ceremony March 4 to kick off the $62.5 million project.

Melissa Portwood, PWSU project manager, explained that the work will allow needed repairs and upgrades to Y-12’s potable water supply and distribution system. Construction is scheduled through March 2010.

Because of the mobilization of equipment and workers to the construction site north of Bear Creek Road near the Jack Case Center, employees can expect additional truck traffic and periodic lane closings. “We will try to keep the disruptions as manageable as possible,” said Portwood. First to be built will be a retaining wall into the hillside, with water tank foundations and pedestals to follow in early summer.

The project is expected to eliminate about $25 million in deferred maintenance costs associated with Y-12’s water distribution system.

The tanks will dominate the skyline at Y-12 (almost as tall as Pine Ridge) and will be seen from other locations in Oak Ridge.