

The other side of Y-12

Y-12's name has long been synonymous with national security and secrecy. But there is a part of Y-12's work that is less well-known. Jimmy Stone, manager of Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO), knows that flip side of Y-12. You could call it the humanitarian side.

"We don't just make nuclear weapons. We take old weapons parts (teardowns), melt them down and reuse the nuclear material, and that's what keeps the lights on in our houses and gives doctors diagnostic tools and treatments for cancer patients. We have a huge effort people don't know about," said Stone.

As directed by the Highly Enriched Uranium Disposition and Reactor Supply Programs at Y-12, EUO recovers highly enriched uranium from Y-12's backlog of material stored on site and received from other DOE facilities then breaks it and resizes it for shipment in rough metal form.

Soon, Y-12 will be shipping material to Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) down blending vendor, Nuclear Fuel Services, in Erwin, Tennessee. There, the material will be fabricated into fuel for use in TVA's nuclear reactors for the production of electricity.

Some of Y-12's material also goes to the BWXT Naval Nuclear Fuel Division in Lynchburg, Virginia, for further

"We're affecting people's lives in some pretty significant ways."

processing and shipment to the Navy and to the United States Enrichment Corporation. Y-12 is the sole uranium supplier for fuel for all of the Navy's nuclear reactors. One might say that Y-12 keeps the nuclear navy sailing.

"If they don't have us to supply the material, they don't run. Y-12 is the starting point," said Stone. "People are relying on us. We don't just deal with companies in the U.S., we have customers in Canada, France, Japan, The Netherlands and other countries," he said.

The medical community also relies heavily on Y-12's recovered materials to operate isotope research reactors, such as High Flux Isotope Reactor in Oak Ridge. There are more than 300 research reactors in the world, and Y-12 has supplied fuel materials to one-third of them.

Stone said, "We're affecting people's lives in some pretty significant ways. If somebody in your family has cancer, it's important for Y-12 to be open and operating because your family member may be depending on us to supply the fuel to produce the isotopes critical to saving that life."

Without question, people around the nation and world rely on Y-12—whether they know it or not.

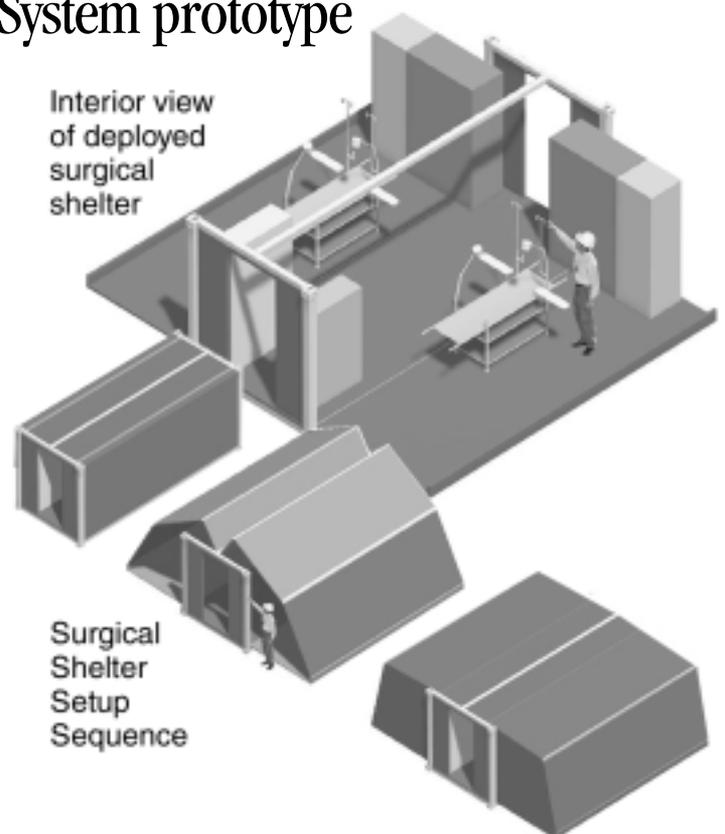
Y-12 building Future Medical Shelter System prototype

What may be the future of the treatment of wounded soldiers is being designed at the Oak Ridge Center for Manufacturing and Materials Science (ORCMMS).

Called the Future Medical Shelter System, or FMSS, it is a highly mobile, two-table, surgical suite that can be set up and performing trauma surgery in a matter of minutes. It will also offer protection against small arms fire, and equipment to both detect and protect against nuclear, chemical or biological contamination, according to Duane Bias, the project manager.

FMSS, in its current design, will be a unit that is 8 feet by 8 feet by 20 feet and has two 8 by 8 by 10 wards. It folds out, equipment cabinets slide in and it plugs into its own portable power supply. "There are not a lot of pieces to assemble, not a lot of tentage. It has solid walls. It can be ready to go in about 30 minutes," said Mike Monnett, the ORCMMS program manager.

With two surgical tables, a pre-op and post-op, FMSS is designed to be self-supporting (except for water and fuel) and capable of handling up to 30 patients in 72 hours. It can also be attached to other units to provide a 44-bed facility that includes laboratory and pharmacy, Monnett said.



Computer-based machinist training system being developed at Y-12

An anywhere, anytime, training system for machinists is the goal of a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) between BWXT Y-12 and Immersive Engineering, a computer-based training development company.



Chris Bien, left, of Immersive Engineering and Karen Rogers of Y-12 Engineering, with one of the computer numeric controlled machines in the Y-12 Skills Demonstration Center.

The two companies are working together to refine a prototype system called Applied Instructional System for Machinists, AISM, which was developed at the Y-12 National Security Complex as part of an earlier CRADA.

The goal of the CRADA is to bring AISM from its current state of development into a fully functional system that can be used with or without an instructor and will use computer-based simulation in place of actual machine tools to teach skills.

AISM is a PC-based, low-cost, system that can be used to train machinists in the operation and programming of computerized numerical control (CNC) machine tools.

“Y-12 currently uses unique machine tool controllers and through the Stockpile Readiness Campaign will be

investing in new controllers. This complicates both training and learning. AISM starts out teaching skills on a generic controller and then takes the student to a specific machine tool controller.

“This way, machinists can quickly adapt to new equipment and controllers, better evaluate problems with existing machines and provide more flexibility for the workforce,” said

Debbie Sumner, of the Oak Ridge Center for Manufacturing and Materials Science.

Y-12 is nationally recognized for its expertise in precision machining and has extensive expertise and experience in machinists’ training and training curriculum development and applied machine tool simulation.

Immersive, located in of Bloomfield, Michigan, is a leader in the development and integration of simulation and training curriculum and has extensive experience in training development projects that use simulation.

Chris Bien, president of Immersive, said AISM is a powerful tool for training that can encapsulate Y-12’s five decades of experience in precision machining and bring that machinist experience to any person, any place, and at any pace.

“AISM provides tremendous flexibility by providing a learn-on-demand capability for the next generation of machinists no matter what their skill level or where they are located, said Bien.

Sumner, “a three-axis CNC milling machine is the ‘starting point’ for AISM as the generic controller. As training progresses, students will then learn a specific machine tool system.”

Because it is designed to be easily integrated with specific machines tools and controller types, AISM will be a valuable tool for Y-12 as it revitalizes manufacturing processes and capabilities.

AISM will provide:

- training in new processes;
- training in safe working conditions;
- fast, cost-effective training; and
- training for specific procedures and critical skills.

Voices from the past—Technology Development has extensive archives

The Technology Development organization has announced the availability of its Electronic Document Archives.

The reports and other documents contained in the archives include the entire scope of technical work performed by the Technology Development organization throughout its history. Report topics include all major processing operations and materials at Y-12.

The archives may be securely accessed over the Classified Services Network (CSN) by personnel with CSN access and a demonstrated need-to-know. Currently, the archives contain four collections:

- Technical Progress (Quarterly) Reports (TPR)—Copies of every TPR published from 1959 to present. TPRs represent significant segments of work on longer projects. The number of reports is in excess of 8,900.

- Topical Reports—Reports that usually cover the entire scope of a project with final conclusions. Report total is greater than 750. Time period spans mid-1950’s to present.

- Informal Reports—Reports covering substantial bodies of work but that are less formal than a Topical Report. They typically are for focused reporting purposes and include journal articles and proceedings submissions. More than 500 reports are available.

- Knowledge Preservation—The contents of this collection are varied. Transcripts of knowledge-preservation interviews of 240 former and present Y-12 personnel make up the bulk of the material. These interviews were performed in the 1993–97 time frame as part of the Y-12 Knowledge Preservation Program. Much of the content is

experiential, safety-related commentary, but significant “nuggets” of technical knowledge are present, as well.

Another segment is composed of transcripts of the John Googin seminars on weapons design and manufacturing history and physics. Historical development organization charts and Y-12 National Security Complex organization overviews and status documents are also present. These resources can provide technical and historical information in a very accessible, complete and efficient manner.

All collections are searchable in the full text and by title, author, date and report number. Literature searches can be accomplished in seconds rather than hours. Contact Jerry Whittaker of Technology Development at 574-0886 for additional information on user access and computer-system requirements.

81-22: Careful planning, delicate work yields another IR success

With careful planning and a deft touch, the Y-12 Infrastructure Reduction (IR) organization successfully completed their first demolition project with Facility and Infrastructure Recapitalization funding. The team has amassed a series of injury-free, innovative, cost-efficient facility removals and demolitions in the last twelve months. Their latest success story, Building 81-22, tested their creative and technical limits.

The first hurdle to overcome in the 81-22 project was to rid the building of the material being stored in it. Routine surveys revealed that the building no longer was structurally fit to be used as a storage facility and needed to be taken down. The effort to remove the stored materials from the building was headed by Jane Hatfield, who completed her portion of the project almost a month ahead of schedule. In addition to standard security and protective measures, Hatfield and her team had to deal with some more unusual project restrictions: Due to questions concerning the soundness of the building, her team would have to evacuate whenever high winds were possible or there was a threat of snow collection on the roof. Using conservative guidelines and integrated safety planning, the team finished their work safely and ahead of schedule.

After the building was emptied, it was time for the actual demolition process to begin. As with all demolition projects, one of the primary steps is an accurate characterization of the building. In the case of 81-22, surveys revealed that the concrete floor of the structure was contaminated, while the walls and roof were clean. This presented a major puzzle for project manager Gene Hess: How would he remove the walls without letting them touch the foundation in order to avoid cross contamination?

Traditionally, bulldozers were the workhorses of choice for the IR team in demoli-

tions, but they couldn't be utilized in this situation. Eventually Hess decided on an excavator with a special grapple (pincher) attachment. Hess and his team brought in a truckload of gravel for the excavator to operate on to

prevent it from churning up and coming in contact with the underlying soil. They also placed two large pieces of plastic over the concrete floor to isolate it from the walls. Then the real work started.

Piece by piece, the excavator grapple would pick up and remove pieces of the walls and roof. The work was painstaking and time-consuming. Special care was taken not to let any pieces of debris fall and rupture the protective barrier over the contaminated floor. When the walls and roof were gone, the excavator operator gently picked up a large piece of plywood with the grapple and used it to "sweep" away small pieces of debris from the work site.

Careful planning and patient execution was the key to this latest challenge. Through their meticulous planning, the team was able to finish the project ahead of schedule and under budget. Benefits of the project range from reduced surveillance and maintenance costs to improved security sight lines. The project is the latest success of the Y-12 IR team and another example of the "can do" spirit Y-12 is known for.

IR was formed to help prepare the Y-12 National Security Complex for modernization. The first project milestone is an aggressive pledge made by BWXT Y-12 to reduce the Y-12 "footprint" by 500,000 square feet in the first two years of their contract. In the first year of the contract, the IR organization achieved a 100,000-square-foot reduction in footprint with the removal of four structures and scores of cleanup projects. With the demolition of more than 20 structures this year, along with aggressive consolidation and reuse projects, IR is on pace to achieve an additional 400,000-square-foot reduction in the by their September 2002 deadline.



Before



During



After

FMSS prototype *continued from page 1*

"It is absolutely mobile—by truck or by air, either by C130 cargo aircraft or by helicopter. It may also be designed to be mated to a totally new Army truck that is being developed. The potential for this is tremendous," Monnett said.

"Lee Bzorgi, the BWXT Y-12 engineer who designed this is one of the best I've ever seen," Monnett said.

ORCMMS is working with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the National Transportation Research Center (NTRC) to provide the power supply and chemical biological detection needs of the FMSS. "We working with NTRC on a project to develop light-weight generators for the Army that can handle heating and cooling loads of the FMSS," Bias said.

Monnett said project engineers believe "the combination of ballistic protection and chemical and biological detection capability designed for this provide a surgical capability for the highly skilled, highly professional Army surgeons and nurses that will be light years better than what is currently available."

FMSS is a project of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Overall it is a \$12 million project, with approximately \$8 million earmarked for Y-12's portion of the project, Bias said.

Putting Six Sigma to work: Improving excess material removal process

“In God we trust; all others bring data.” That’s how David Dinse, Y-12’s first Six Sigma black belt, describes the importance of data in analyzing a problem, recommending improvements and tracking the effectiveness of solutions. “Let the data tell you where the problem is,” said Dinse. “That’s the key to focusing the problem so that you can make improvements that are measurable.”



David Dinse

Dinse knows what he’s talking about. He has two process improvement projects under his belt—er, black belt. His first project dealt with reducing the cycle time for disposing of excess Y-12 property. Dinse notes that numerous buildings and laydown areas are cluttered with excess property, wood and scrap metal that not only take up workspace but also create unsafe working conditions. Using Six

Sigma tools, which include one graphics and two statistical programs, Dinse and his team reduced the cycle time to dispose of excess property from 21 days to 8 days, a 62 percent reduction.

“Time and money are being saved,” notes Julia Landreth, who participated on Dinse’s team. “PRISM, Y-12’s property management system, is being modified to allow for a multiple-item entry, electronic notifications to the participants that are involved in the excess process, report generation for the participants and data-gathering capabilities that allow for tracking of the process.”

Pinning down the root causes of the problem was key to making process improvements. Dinse noted that analyzing the project data highlighted the need for standardization and ownership of the excess property process.

“When the team began the Six Sigma process, we each had our perceived idea of what the problem was. However, as we gathered the data and worked through the process, we found that the actual problem was not what we had originally thought,” Landreth said.

Dinse’s second process improvement project was a spin-off of the first one. The project objective was to speed up the process for selling and donating excess Y-12 material while improving safety and accountability.

Dinse’s team identified that the draft bid package and sale preparation contributed to 85 percent of the cycle time, which begins when the item formally has been excessed and continues through the sale, donation or reuse of the item.

The team recommended standardizing draft bid package and sale preparation procedures, developing checklists to streamline the steps involved and creating a Web site to improve the sale process. Although current security measures at Y-12 are preventing the full implementation of the team’s recommendations, the team expects a 42 percent reduction in cycle time (from 144 working days to 83).

Dinse notes that with this reduction, Y-12 has the opportunity to conduct an estimated 19 additional sales per year (an increase from 12 sales a year to 31). He also said that the company can avoid approximately \$100K in increased personnel costs.

“I’m pumped,” says Dinse. “Six Sigma works.” He admits, however, that he was somewhat skeptical at the onset. “But once we start showing real successes at Y-12, other people will start to believe in it as I now do,” he said.

Both of Dinse’s process improvement projects were completed in about eight months and occupied about 10 percent of each team member’s time. In addition to Landreth, project team members for the first effort were Mary Sadler, Dianne Hamblen, Jerry Stokes, Mary Wiginton, Matt Guilford, Andrejs Simanis, Dick Weldon, David Swenson, Ron Cox and Dallas Fritts. Team members for the effort involving the sale and donation of excess property included Landreth, Hamblen, Weldon, Stokes, James Huddleston, Wayne Carlton and Eva Irwin.

Hey, Matt! What’s the weather?

Matt Hinkin, WATE-TV’s chief meteorologist, recently spoke to the Campaigns organization about hazardous weather. Hinkin also covered some interesting facts about East Tennessee’s biggest hazardous weather factor, thunderstorms. The session was taped by Video and Motion Picture Services, and copies are available to anyone interested in them.



What's News

Another all-hands meeting question answered

In the January all-hands meetings, some questions were posed to President and General Manager John Mitchell that he deferred to a more knowledgeable source. A.C. Hollins' office answered a question that asked if Y-12 could procure some traffic cones that had reflective qualities because commuters that come to work while it's dark were hitting non-reflective cones accidentally as they passed the guard portals. The cones will be replaced with ones that have reflective qualities.

Congratulations to Video and Motion Picture Services

The video program "What We Do at Y-12" was selected as a winner in three categories in the prestigious Communicator Awards International video competition. The production, prepared by the Video and Motion Picture Services group within Communications Services, won two top awards of excellence in the categories of "Creativity in Cinematography" and "Creativity in Editing." The program won another category of award, the Award of Distinction, for "Creativity in Directing." Larry Gibbs wrote, directed and edited the production for Public Relations and Human Resources to be used in recruiting efforts for the Y-12 National Security Complex.

Helms becomes manager of Central Scrap Management Office

Pat Butler Helms has been appointed as manager of the Y-12 Central Scrap Management Office (CSMO). Helms has been working with the Advanced Infrastructure Management Technology organization for the past ten years. She replaces Sherri Redmon who is now working in the Nuclear Materials Control and Accountability organization. In this capacity, Helms will manage the CSMO activities that are geared toward consolidation of uranium materials no longer needed at other DOE/NNSA sites. The Y-12 National Security Complex was designated as the Department's centralized site for the consolidation of excess, but useful, uranium materials. The CSMO

Program has been a successful program in achieving such successes through the years and has reduced risks and costs at other sites through material consolidation at the Y-12 National Security Complex.

March is Women's History Month

The DOE Contractor Awareness Programs Partnership will sponsor a program in recognition of Women's History Month that will be held Thursday, March 21, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the American Museum of Science and Energy. The theme for this year's event is "Women Sustaining the American Spirit." The children's program will begin at 5:30 and end at 6:15 p.m. A panel of women representing diverse occupations will share their career perspectives with the audience at 6:30 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer segment. Refreshments will be served, and this activity is open to the public. Students also are encouraged to attend.

Y.E.S. puts out the call for co-ed softball teams

The Y-12 Employees' Society (Y.E.S.) is calling for softball teams who wish to participate in the co-ed softball league (YSL), which will begin play at Clark Center Park in May. Games will be held Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays on the upper field. The YSL is open to all Oak Ridge DOE and DOE contractor employees and retirees. Spouses also are eligible to play. All non-Y.E.S. players must pay a Y.E.S. sports and activity fee of \$10, which is good for all Y.E.S. sports for the year.

Entry deadline for teams is April 16. A roster and a check for \$250 (not including \$10 non-member fees) must be submitted by this date. No team entries will be accepted without payment. Each participant must sign a waiver and have eligibility verified before the start of league play. Mail or fax copy of your team roster to Peter McKenzie, Building 9202, MS-8097, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. Mail or take your check for \$250—made payable to Y-12 Employees' Society—to Victoria Steward, Y.E.S. treasurer, P.O. Box 2009, Building 9109, MS-8027, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.

Co-op students talk engineering

The BWXT Y-12 Co-op Program recently sponsored a tour of the Y-12 National Security Complex. The program offers challenging assignments to students majoring in chemical, electrical, industrial, materials, mechanical, metallurgical and software engineering who have completed at least one year at a four-year college or university.

Currently there are 10 engineering students involved in the program, with eight additional students slated to report for work in the spring and summer of 2002.

At left, Cindy Hayes, director of Y-12 Modernization, talks with from left, Josh Metcalf from Oak Ridge, Brandon LeMarr from Knoxville and Kevin Jones from Hendersonville.



Accident investigation class also teaches accident prevention



Instructor Ed Werden prepares supervisors in Building 9212

At his January all-hands meetings, Y-12 President and General Manager John Mitchell opened each session with a “safety minute” about reporting accidents and near misses. The message he conveyed was that no unsafe situation can be corrected unless you report it to your supervisor. That’s when Ed Werden’s accident investigation training program becomes a key element to everyone’s working safer.

Werden, a Safety Engineer in the Environment, Safety and Health organization provides supervisors the necessary tools and information to investigate an occupational injury, illness or incident, find the causes and initiate the appropriate corrective actions to prevent recurrence.

“Not only are line managers responsible for the protection of employees, but each employee must understand that he or she is responsible and accountable to help ensure his or her safety and the safety of their coworkers,” said Werden. “If supervisors understand how to recognize at-risk behaviors, they can teach their employees to avoid these at-risk behaviors and unsafe acts and replace them with safe behaviors. If we perform work

using safe behaviors, many future incidents and accidents can be avoided.”

Werden points out in the class that the Y-12 facility has one of the highest recordable injury and illness rates in the DOE complex. At-risk behaviors and unsafe acts have been recognized as major causes of these high rates. Last year, 78 percent of the injuries at Y-12 were because of unsafe acts. Of those, 193 injuries and illnesses (75 percent) were caused by at-risk behavior. For example, Enriched Uranium Operations’ list of accidents and incidents was topped by eight events involving employees having body parts in the line of fire and five occurrences of people not having eyes on path. Both of these are considered at-risk behaviors. There are more than 24 other organizations at Y-12, and Werden said most of them have similar records.

Besides learning to recognize at-risk behaviors, Werden also covers techniques for conducting interviews with employees after an accident or incident, teaches a method of cause analysis to find the causal factors of incidents, how to develop and implement corrective actions to prevent a recurrence of the incident, reporting requirements and sharing lessons learned with the rest of the site.

If you would like to know more about the Accident/ Incident Investigation Training Program, contact Werden at 576-6048.

Service Anniversaries

48 years

Russell T. Goodpasture, Quality Assurance

42 years

William R. Ragland, Financial Management

30 years

Gene M. Epps and Garry C. Loveday, Facilities, Infrastructure and Services; Margie R. McCloskey, Engineering and Technology

25 years

David D. Reid and Blake W. Van Hoy, Quality Assurance; Ronald Jeffers, Planning and Integration; Gail L. Sewell, Performance Assurance; Kenneth W. Carter, Johnnie B. Moore, Jacky D. Dunaway, Freddy M. Bullock, Estel C. Lane, David S. Miller, David R. Spradlin, David D. Vann and David A. Jenkins, Manufacturing; Willie Crosby, William T. Gilkey, Stella L. Red, Royce J. Stallions, Roy G. Harville, Richard S. Sampson II, Randall D. Hassler,

Philip E. Isham, Marion F. Floyd, John W. Mullins, John E. Hughes, John C. Byrum, Harold A. Durant, George M. Rimel Jr., Gary W. Harvey, Cynthia O. Smith, Billy J. Neeley, Alfred T. Hudgens and Albert W. Grant, Facilities, Infrastructure and Services; Robert J. McAlister Jr., Environment, Safety and Health; Samuel C. Robinson, Kenneth W. Buchanan, Jeffrey W. Zink, James C. Yearwood and Arnetta H. Peters, Engineering and Technology; Rebecca G. Ball and Dale M. Davis, Center for International Threat Reduction; Stephen D. Parks and David W. Schubert, Business and Information Systems

20 years

Brenda S. Weaver, Quality Assurance; Robert M. Vaught, Michael I. Henley and Donald R. Goodman, Manufacturing; Linda B. Williamson, Financial Management; Peggy E. Grider, Kenneth P. Bowling, Karen L. Lewis and Jeffery E. Summer, Facilities, Infrastructure and Services; Kenneth D. Lewis, Engineering and Technology

In case you missed it—here's the highlights of the January all-hands meetings

BWXT Y-12 President and General Manager John Mitchell opened the meeting with a safety minute concerning accident reporting. He said that if you are involved or if you see an accident, you need to report it. He also said that he knows that it's unpleasant to report accidents because people come to "help" you by asking you a lot of questions and filling out lots of paperwork, but you could be helping someone else avoid an accident later. He said don't worry about adding to safety statistics—this is not a perfect world. If you don't report something, then it definitely won't get fixed.

Mitchell's first topic continued with safety. He encouraged everyone to make safety a more natural part of your workplace. He said the safety numbers did not change much from 2000 to 2001. He said the typical rise in accidents occurred in the spring and summer. He doesn't know the exact reasons are for the increase, but they are all across the plant, so he thinks it's probably general.

He was happy to report that October 23, 2001 was the last lost workday case. He said they can't find any recent time when this long of a period time has gone by without one. He said whatever we did in the last three months, we need to do more of it.

Mitchell then turned to security. He said he believed we are close to a steady state of security now with two exceptions—purposeful change and Bear Creek Road.

He said sometimes we changed things to purposely throw off anyone looking to do something bad. He also said that Bear Creek Road will never be fully reopened. He said a decision should be made some time in February as to what will be done to allow access to the road by certain employees.

He said security is costing extra, but he thinks it's the right way to spend the money. NNSA and others are looking for extra money to pay for the unexpected security measures that we've had to take at Y-12 and other sites. Mitchell said it would take two to three months to get the extra funds. He said we are going to assume that someone is going to pay us for doing the right thing.

Mitchell continued discussing the budget by saying that Y-12 would receive \$50 million more than last year. Most of the money (about \$40 million) is going to Facilities and Infrastructure. He said we only received the money last week, so that meant that we've been working for some three months with no money. We also didn't receive all of the money, only a small part of it. He said we are funded on an allowance basis, which slows things down. We think we can do everything on time, however.

Infrastructure Reduction got rid of four buildings last year. Building 81-22 just came down, and 25 more are scheduled to be taken down this year.

The Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility and the Special Nuclear Materials Facility are both proceeding as projects and are in the final planning stages. He said the CD-1, the permission to move to the next step in the HEUMF project, should be obtained in February. Some type of groundbreaking should be done in March.

The SMC project has been cut up into pieces, and the CD-1 on it should also be obtained in February. Mitchell said that we are looking at ways to change the handling of Beryllium. He said this piece is not as mature as other parts of the project.

Utilities upgrade planning should get done this year. He said this is a key part of getting things done, but it can't interfere with other work.

Mitchell said the down side to all of these projects is that we are the first site to do these types of projects, and NNSA has never gone through this before.

Mitchell said we are going to start disassembly soon. We thought this work would start six months ago, but the restart process took a lot longer and required a lot more money than expected. Mitchell that does not reflect badly on the disassembly crew.

Enriched Uranium Operations is on a more steady state, and Mitchell said he is pleased things are on the right path. Production also is going well. He said that last year we made many detailed plans. Now, we are following those plans.

Mitchell thanked Maintenance for their good work. He said there is a much better relationship between Maintenance and the rest of the plant. The group is doing more preventative-type maintenance, which is critical in certain machine types where we are thin.

Mitchell said one of his bosses recently was in town, and he took him on a tour of Y-12. He said he told him that this is a big, old plant that looks rough, but it looks much better than last year. We've gotten rid of a lot of "stuff and junk." Mitchell said we have to keep going, and that he's pleased with the efforts made, so far. He really sees progress.

Mitchell said that ORNL and Y-12 are getting back together for several reasons. They've created a chief scientist position that's held by ORNL's Doug Craig. Mitchell said that ORNL will help us come up with better technology to work better. The relationship also will create new work for both companies. By using one marketing plan, customers will have access to both ORNL and Y-12 expertise.

ORNL had indicated in the past that they would like to leave some of the Y-12 buildings. We agreed and found that some of their buildings were in better shape than ours. Alpha 3 (9201-3) is the first building that Y-12 has attempted to occupy. When we went to take samples so that we could "characterize" it, some of the readings exceeded our expected levels. Making sure that the building is safe for our employees to occupy it has slowed down the moving process, but it all should be done by the end of February. Mitchell said that we're willing to do this right, and we're not going to put anyone somewhere that's not safe.

Mitchell said that the Six Sigma process must be embraced, and we will take the teams' recommendations and act on them. He said anyone can contribute to change processes. He encouraged those interested in it to talk with their supervisor.

Mitchell addressed the award fee level that the company received by saying that we got about what we expected. He said the NNSA report was fair and accurate, and we will do more to change for the better in EUO and disassembly.

Mitchell reminded everyone that they must have General Employee Training by February 1 or they would not be able to enter the portals. He encouraged everyone to check on their training records and make sure they were current.

Do you know why we 'spring forward'?

- Daylight Saving Time begins for most of the United States at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of April. (Sunday, April 7 this year.)
- The correct spelling of this event is Daylight Saving (singular) Time, not Daylight Savings Time. We are saving daylight, so it is singular and not plural.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation is responsible for overseeing the uniform observance of daylight saving time in the U.S. as well as U.S. time zones.
- Many fire departments encourage people to change the battery in the smoke detector when they change their clocks, because it can be so easy to forget otherwise. More than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors, but one-third are estimated to have worn-out or missing batteries.

Y-12 Employee brings comfort to families displaced by war on terrorism

Y-12 employee Deborah (Dee) Smith is helping families who are struggling as a result terrorism. The catch? The families are in Afghanistan. Smith is member of the Army Reserves, in the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, based in Knoxville. She is scheduled to be in Afghanistan by the time this paper reaches distribution.

Smith has been an employee at Y-12 since 1996. Before that she served briefly at DOE headquarters in Oak Ridge. Smith's father, John Rogers, also works at Y-12 as a machinist. He clearly is a proud father. When asked what he wants the complex to know about his daughter, he beams and replies, "I just want them to know she's a real good kid." Serving her country is nothing new to Smith. She also



was called into service during Desert Storm.

Smith's coworkers also are very proud of her and hosted a going-away party for her January 11. "She seems to be taking everything in stride," says co-worker Diane Price. "She's handling this a lot better than I would be."

Smith left Knoxville on January 20. She initially went to Ft. Bragg in North Carolina for two weeks of training. After

training, her unit stayed in North Carolina awaiting deployment. They left the United States March 6, with Turkey as the first stop on their journey.

The job of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion is to work with families and rebuild communities. Many Afghans have been displaced and traumatized by the war on terror. Smith and her unit will try to help the families and communities achieve some sense of normalcy. They will tackle logistical problems, such as helping families secure shelter and rebuilding damaged key infrastructure components. While front-line soldiers may stay in the region for a relatively short period of time, Civil Affairs members stay considerably longer, helping to minimize damage to community life and rebuild cities.

Soon after her deployment is over, Smith plans to return to Y-12 as a chemical operator. According to her father, Dee "really appreciates the wonderful support of all the great folks at Y-12." We really appreciate people like Dee Smith.



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