

Mission Support Alliance

Streamline

Fall 2013

HANFORD SITE RECEIVES DOE VPP OUTREACH AWARD

MSA Receives 3 Star of Excellence Awards

**Hanford Fire Department
Gets New Chem Trucks**
Saving Money, Increasing Capacity

Electronics Recycling
Reducing Negative Impacts on
Hanford Environment



Message from the President

I am proud that MSA was recognized at the recent National Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association (VPPPA) Conference with several awards acknowledging our successes in safety. The effort and dedication all of you put into ensuring that our workers are safe is admirable and deserves the positive recognition it has received.

At this year's conference, MSA received three DOE Superior Star Status awards – one each for the HAMMER Federal Training Facility, the Safeguards and Security organization and for Mission Support Services. Along with all MSA employees, these organizations have worked hard to ensure that everyone goes home safely at the end of each day.

Additionally, MSA employees participated on a sitewide VPP team that received the VPPPA Outreach Award for having the best VPP outreach program in the nation, and taking the principles of VPP across company lines, ensuring a strong safety culture for all at Hanford.

It is important to protect the health and safety of ourselves and each other. We must all continue to be diligent, be aware of the situations around us and maintain a positive environment, confident that safety is a top priority.

J. Frank Armijo

mission forward



Mission Support Alliance supports the Department of Energy's Hanford cleanup activities by providing key sitewide services and critical infrastructure support to the site's contractors. Partnering with DOE, Hanford contractors and the community, MSA is committed to achieving the vision of a prosperous future for the Hanford Site and to continue building a community that is economically strong, culturally rich and environmentally conscious.

Mission Support Alliance: Partnering to move the mission forward

<http://msa.hanford.gov/msa>





PROTECT
the assets and employees of the site

- Support WTP and Waste Complex Operations
- Excel in the Safe Performance of Work
- Drive Efficiencies and Cost Savings

SERVE
the diverse needs of the cleanup mission

INTEGRATE

the Hanford Site services and infrastructure to optimize productivity



- Lead Site-Wide Integration
- Right-Size the Infrastructure

TRANSFORM

site services and infrastructure for energy efficient operations

RIGHT-SIZE
the site infrastructure

- Prepare for the Future
- Be a National Leader in Clean Energy
- Implement Commercial Service Delivery Model

STANDARDIZE

standards of service excellence

MODERNIZE

the infrastructure to ensure reliable service to all projects



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Mission Support Alliance Streamline



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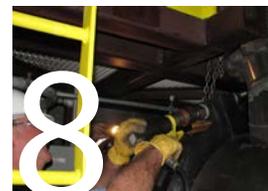


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Cover Photo:

MSA Electrical Utilities linemen safely make repairs to electrical lines on the Hanford Site.



A Closer Look

Streamline is published by Mission Support Alliance Communications and highlights company business and employee contributions. Readers are invited to share news events, including volunteer activities, individual achievements and program accomplishments.

Please email your ideas, suggestions and specific news items for consideration to:

MSACSo@rl.gov or call

(509) 376-0469



Employees & Customers



WSCF Waste Operations Team

Back L-R: Mike Heagney, Matt Mills, Jeff Stachofsky and Rodney Patterson.

Front L-R: Briana Colley and Melanie Myers.

Not pictured: Kevin Beebe.



2013 Environmental Leadership Award

MSA's Environmental Leadership Awards Program recognizes employees with outstanding environmental, energy and transportation management accomplishments.

MSA recently recognized 24 employees with Environmental Leadership Awards that were judged on environmental improvements achieved, innovation, value creation, pollution prevention and demonstration of a commitment to sustainable environmental stewardship.

Best Overall Achievement went to the Waste Sampling & Characterization Facility's (WSCF) Waste Operations Team.

The team reduced waste and streamlined several processes that resulted in more than \$500,000 in savings.

For more information, please visit the MSA Environmental & Energy Services webpage and click on Environmental Integration Services.

Kudos...

TO: Rudy Almeida, Hanford Patrol Academy

The session at EVOC provided for MSA Project Planning & Integration and Interface staff was the single most valuable and most practical one hour of safety training I have ever experienced.

For anyone who has ever rolled a vehicle, or experienced a momentary loss of control in rain or ice conditions, the simulator vehicle for skid control practice is a more effective method of previewing, teaching and practicing the correct responses for front versus rear versus all four wheel skids. Making it fun and repetitive makes the lesson memorable, so key information is more likely to be retained for recall when needed.

Instructor Rudy Almeida provides a high level of enthusiasm and subject matter knowledge, plus a great demonstration of the advanced skills required for trained public safety personnel for their job roles.

I highly recommend instructor Rudy Almeida and MSA's driver safety instruction available at the unique EVOC training facility.

—Matt Mathes, MSA Project Planning & Integration

Hanford's Fill the Boot Campaign a Success

On August 29, Hanford firefighters spread out across the Hanford Site with empty fire boots in hand to collect donations from Hanford employees during the morning commute. Once again, Hanford workers were extremely generous, contributing \$4,910 to benefit the work of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, which seeks cures for the 42 neuromuscular disorders that affect children and adults alike.

Impacting Our Community

At first glance, Bob Byrd of MSA's Water & Sewer Utilities group, looks like just another tough biker. However, his friends know him to be compassionate with a soft spot for kids. His tough biker persona led him to spend the past three years with an organization that stands up for and supports kids who have had their safety threatened through abuse. Byrd spends between 10-12 hours a week being a support mechanism for abused kids through his involvement with the nonprofit Bikers Against Child Abuse, or BACA, organization. According to Byrd, the kids have a sense of security when facing abusers in court by having someone strong on their side.

All motorcycle enthusiasts, BACA members volunteer to support kids, helping them feel empowered and not afraid to stand up against their abusers. Many of the bikers attend court hearings with the kids, befriending them over time and helping them come out of their shell.

Byrd says he enjoys being able to help and believes kids have an inalienable right to grow up not afraid and to feel safe. In June, Byrd and another BACA member took off from work so they could drive to Albany, Ore., to stand beside a 7-year-old who had to testify against his father.

The Hanford Fire Department (HFD) and its firefighters would like to express their appreciation to all the site employees for opening their wallets to support an important charity," said Fill the Boot coordinator, HFD Captain Mark Cope. "The Hanford family never fails to amaze us with their generosity."



"It's like the analogy 'my gun is bigger than yours.' Kids feel a sense of safety and empowerment when one of us biker guys stands with them. It allows them to face their abusers knowing they have us by their side," said Byrd.

Byrd is the local chapter vice president, sits on the executive board and represents his chapter at the state level. BACA holds meetings every second Wednesday of the month at the Northwest Protestant Church in Richland. Meetings are open to anyone wanting to attend.

BACA members Bob Byrd (left) and Rich Shumate with MSA's Water & Sewer Utilities group, receive a \$390 donation check for BACA. SI&L employees raised the money during a morale night out at a Dust Devils baseball game.



Safety, Health, Quality & Training



Andrew Lebrun collects wipe samples for beryllium as part of MSA's beryllium assessment and characterization activities.

Workers to See New Beryllium Postings and Labels at Hanford

Workers will soon notice new beryllium postings and labeling on some of Hanford's facilities, structures and equipment.

Over the next several months, MSA, along with other Hanford contractors, will perform beryllium assessments and characterizations of Hanford facilities. Depending on the results, contractors will post warning signs when the potential for beryllium exposure exists.

These activities are taking place because of a recent revision of the Hanford Site Chronic Beryllium Disease Prevention Program (CBDPP). The CBDPP is a sitewide program developed to minimize beryllium exposure to employees working at Hanford, and is an integral part of maintaining worker health and safety. The new program revision is based upon a Corrective Action Plan developed in response to a 2011 DOE-HQ Health, Safety and Security organizational assessment of Hanford's CBDPP.

The revised CBDPP outlines new procedures for beryllium assessment and sampling of all buildings, structures and conex boxes, and electrical equipment across the Hanford Site. The team leading this effort for MSA includes Silvette Boyajian, Bob Gilmore, Nancy Butler, and several other industrial hygienists.

"Our team has been diligently working to meet the forthcoming requirements outlined in the new procedures and are making excellent progress," said Darrell Riffe, director of MSA's Integrated & Sitewide Safety Systems organization that oversees MSA's beryllium assessment team.

The work begins with a thorough assessment of each area and includes researching historical records and conducting interviews with facility owners or employees who worked in or around any of those areas. This is done to identify where beryllium may have been used.

For more information on beryllium, assessment and characterization processes, or the postings and labeling requirements, please contact your industrial hygienist or Silvette Boyajian at 376-2116.

"Our bargaining unit employees have helped immensely in providing information about buildings and equipment across the Hanford Site. Their support has assisted tremendously in our process and is vital to collecting comprehensive information."

—Silvette Boyajian, MSA Industrial Hygienist

Hanford Site Receives National VPP Outreach Award

MSA Employees Travel to Accept Award with Team

The Hanford Site VPP Champions Committee, which includes safety members from MSA, Washington Closure Hanford, CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company, Bechtel/Waste Treatment Plant, Advanced Technologies Laboratory International and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, received the National VPP Outreach Award from the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association, Inc. (VPPPA) at the National VPPPA Conference in Nashville, Tenn., on August 26.

VPPPA selected the Hanford Site as the best in the nation for VPP outreach, using resources across company lines to mentor and further the commitment to safety, health and environmental compliance.

The Hanford Site Champions Committee is a unique mix of contractors and regulators who work together to guide and facilitate excellence in safety and health, representing workers on the Hanford Site.

As a group, committee members expressed what an honor it was receiving this award and being recognized as having the best VPP outreach in the nation.

"It validates that our Hanford contractor workforce is achieving outstanding levels of outreach," said RJ Debevec of MSA's Safety, Health, Quality & Training organization, and the committee member responsible for assembling the application for the site. "It also recognizes our ability to involve and engage each other in the best safety practices, whether here on the site, at home or provided as knowledge-



MSA VPP Representatives

Pictured L-R: Todd Eckman, Melissa Ivy, Gordon Denman and Rocky Simmons.

MSA Receives 3 Awards

At the 2013 VPPPA Conference, DOE also presented MSA with three "Star of Excellence" awards. The awards were presented to MSA's HAMMER Federal Training Facility, Safeguards and Security, and Mission Support Services organizations.

The Star of Excellence award represents the highest annual achievement level in DOE's VPP Program. DOE gives this award to its VPP Star site contractors who meet the following criteria:

- Achieving an injury and illness rate 75 percent below the national comparative standard set by the North American Industry Classification System.
- Maintaining an active and improving safety system.
- Mentoring other companies about VPP.



Partnering to Move the Mission Forward



Pictured left, MSA teamster, Paul Ratsch, works on reclaiming fuel from a portable light plant brought to the 200 East maintenance shop for repairs.

Fuel Trucks On-Call 24-Hours a Day

MSA fueling operations is a service provided to prime contractors and PNNL seven days a week, 365 days a year. MSA Motor Carrier Services operates two fuel trucks delivering gas and diesel to various vehicles and equipment on the Hanford Site, as well as the HAMMER Federal Training Facility and the Hanford Patrol Training Academy located south of the Wye Barricade.

Fuel trucks work on-call 24-hours a day responding to all emergency situations, wildland fires and equipment failures, as well as refueling backup generators and compressor during power outages. During fall and winter, the fuel trucks are refueling light plants staged throughout the site, and lighting up walkways, tank farms and trenches.



Snow Owl

MSA Integrated Biological Control staff recently spotted a snow owl (pictured) just north of the 2101M building in 200 East Area. The picture was taken by WRPS employee, Richard Hoglen.

Crane and Rigging Supports PFP Glove Box Removal

Crane and Rigging Services supported CHPRC key milestone activities at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). Support included scaffold erection and inspection; ladder inspections; crane, hoist, rigging inspection and maintenance; and glove box removal support.

The photos, at right, show Crane & Rigging personnel separating and rotating the glove box assembly and placing it on rollers. Once on rollers, the glove box assembly is ready to be rolled out of the building and hoisted into a waste box in preparation for shipment.

MSA Crane and Rigging crew on this job were Victor Webley, Tim Buck and Mike Pomrankey.



Transfer of Electrical Power

MSA Electrical Utilities linemen provided support to PNNL and the city of Richland in the Hanford 300 Area for the transfer of electrical power over to Richland. Pictured left, linemen disconnect and remove the transformer that once fed the Emergency Radiation Detection System tower.

Hanford Story Kiosk

MSA's Communications & External Affairs organization facilitated the move of the Hanford Story Kiosk from the Richland Federal Building to the Kennewick Public Library. The Hanford Story Kiosk is a touch-screen interactive video player that displays five chapters of the Hanford Story and serves as a tool for educating the public about Hanford, its history and its cleanup mission.



Boilermakers, Sheet Metal Workers Support CHPRC at Effluent Treatment Facility



In late July, MSA boilermakers and sheet metal workers were called to support CHPRC at the Effluent Treatment Facility to repair a leaking heat exchanger. In order to get the facility up and running again, the crew installed a special clam shell device over the end of the heat exchanger so that it could continue operating before a total replacement may be needed. Pictured above, MSA boilermaker, Juan Castaneda, gets the clam shell ready for installation.



Pictured above, MSA boilermaker Marvin Trusley torques the clam shell. Others taking part in the repairs included boilermakers Mark Mackey and Fred Rumsey, and sheet metal workers Brad Watts and Doug Duvey.



Barometric Pressure Calibration Preventative Maintenance

Dan Breitenfeldt, an instrument technician with MSA Maintenance Services, performs barometric pressure calibration preventative maintenance on a site meteorological tower. The meteorological data from these towers is used by Hanford contractors for regulatory compliance with operating permits and routine operations that have environmental constraints like temperature and wind speeds. In the event of a site emergency, this data can be used to direct site personnel to safe locations away from hazards.

Crane & Rigging Support LERF Basin Cover Cleanup

MSA's Crane & Rigging Services supports CHPRC by performing cleanup of the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF) basin covers. LERF stores liquid waste until it can be processed at the Effluent Treatment Facility. Soil and water have collected on top of the basin covers over several years, with sufficient soil collecting in some places, allowing for wetland vegetation growth.

The process involves a crane outfitted with a specially-constructed apparatus that allows it to drag the soil and vegetation to the edge of the basin. The track hoe operator then consolidates the debris into a pile and pushes it into a skip suspended from the crane. The crane operator then dumps the debris into a lined roll-off container for transport to ERDF.

Pictured: Kenny Flowers operates the track hoe. Other riggers on the job include D.T. Carr, Bill Dyes and Dale Smith.



Heavy Equipment, Motor Carrier Services Support CHPRC Waste Shipment Preparations



CHPRC Waste and Fuels Project requested the use of the heavy haul Peterbilt tractor and Terex trailer to support a priority waste shipment in the Super-7A waste box.

The tractor/trailer was being stored at an on-site pit. MSA employees Brian Bergum and Mark Walker rearranged work schedules and enlisted a teamster to move the tractor/trailer from the pit to the 200 East Area Fleet Maintenance shop.

Fleet maintenance performed an annual DOT inspection on the tractor/trailer, and teamsters took the tractor/trailer to the 200 West Area and removed the rail deck that was chained onto the flat deck trailer using a 60-ton forklift.

Teamster Todd Schrader drove the tractor/trailer to the 1100 Area for the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) inspection performed by Washington State Patrol.

The tractor/trailer passed the CVSA inspection and was delivered to the 200 West Area to support CHPRC's Waste and Fuels Project.



Site Infrastructure & Logistics



The 200 Area Pump and Treat Facility is just one of the many Hanford facilities MSA manages and tracks in FIMS for DOE.

Managing *Real Property* at Hanford

Currently, DOE has 'real property' holdings totaling over 2.3 million acres and 115 million square feet of facilities.

Real property includes land, improvements on the land, or both. So, anything permanently affixed to the land such as buildings, fences and building fixtures are considered real property assets.

One of MSA's Land and Facilities Management (L&FM) responsibilities is managing the more than 586-square-miles of Hanford Site land including close to eight million square feet of structures and facilities for DOE-RL and ORP. These structures and facilities range from those dating from the pre-Hanford era that remain on site and cocooned reactors to more recent construction like the LEED Gold-certified Pump and Treat Facility in the 200 Area.

DOE tracks and manages this data using the Facilities Information Management System (FIMS).

DOE relies on information contained within FIMS for making daily management decisions as they relate to utilization, disposition, condition, mission dependency and maintenance. Additionally, FIMS directly supports other aspects of DOE Order 430.1B, including the Ten-Year Site Plan, which is a planning document for real

property in support of DOE's overall strategic plan and the Long Term Stewardship program.

Annually, the FIMS data undergoes a three- to four-day validation conducted by DOE to assess the process of obtaining the data and the accuracy of the data. At Hanford, a random generator selects 50 managed assets from the more than 1,300 assets on the site. Validation focuses on buildings, trailers and other structures and facilities, as well as land and DOE-leased items. On the last day, validators are in the field assessing how well the data matches the actual assets. Validators review 48 of the current 148 data fields for each asset during the validation, using a red, yellow and green scorecard to assess how well the site is managing the data.

Information populated into FIMS is obtained from a variety of sources including Hanford contractors, other Hanford databases (Caretaker, Hanford Site Structure List, Sunflower, Condition Assessment Surveys) and other MSA organizations (Site Sustainability Group).

For more information on FIMS, contact Brent Gneiting at 372-1663/ Brent_C_Gneiting@rl.gov or Stephanie Lathim at 376-3671/ Stephanie_M_Lathim@rl.gov. You also can visit the Land and Facilities Management page on the MSC-IMS website.

Tim Orsborn, an RCT with MSA Integrated Biological Control, prepares the contaminated nests for safe removal from a building at the WTP construction site.



Contaminated Nests Safely Removed from WTP

In July, Bechtel National teamed with MSA to ensure the safe removal of 356 swallow mud nests containing radioactive contamination from three areas at the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) construction site.

MSA provided radiological control technicians (RCTs) and biological controls experts who safely performed surveys and removed the nests.

The project required two phases. Phase one involved RCTs surveying the nests to assess levels of contamination in the nesting material. Direct surveys identified low levels of contamination in nearly 70 percent of the nests and no contamination in the other 30 percent.

MSA's biological controls experts removed the nests during phase two.

In preparation for the removal, MSA's team sprayed the nests with a water/disinfectant solution to mitigate risk of dust and biological hazards. They then enclosed each nest in a plastic bag, and collapsed the nest off the facility into the bag. Workers then labeled and properly disposed of the bagged nests.

Excerpted from Bechtel Communications article

“Logistical support from Bechtel was outstanding. They didn’t spare any efforts in making sure we had what we needed by way of materials, equipment and support.”

—Richard Roos, MSA Integrated Biological Control Group



Josh Lampson, an RCT with MSA Integrated Biological Control, collapses the nest from the building into a plastic bag for disposal.



Dennis Finley, lead storekeeper with MSA Asset Control, prepares electronics for shipment to UNICOR.

Electronics Recycling

Reduces Negative Environmental Impacts of Electronic Assets

MSA continues making countless contributions to the Hanford Site's efforts in recycling thanks to the combined efforts of MSA's Site Sustainability, Asset Control and Information Management organizations.

MSA's Environmental Stewardship begins when purchasing electronics like our site standard and non-standard desktop computers, notebooks and monitors. MSA purchases products that are registered in the Electronic Procurement Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT). EPEAT is a system wherein specific products must conform to very specific environmental criteria. EPEAT products must meet strict criteria such as reduction/elimination of environmentally sensitive materials in order to qualify.

MSA wants to prolong, to the extent possible, the useful lifespan of computer systems. By converting to thin client workstations that have longer life cycles and are more energy efficient, we allow more opportunities for reusing existing equipment.

Equipment replaced by thin clients typically is sent to the PC Nationalization Program that is responsible for redistributing Hanford Site computers, monitors, printers and other electronic

equipment to MSA and participating Hanford contractors for reuse at no cost.

Equipment found to be not sufficient for use on the Hanford Site, but can be useful in non-Hanford environments, is mainly transferred to the Tri-Cities Asset Reinvestment Company for sale to the general public. However, asset control also transfers equipment to schools through the General Services Administration's Computers for Learning (CFL) program, and donates some to various local entities.

All items that cannot be reused or refurbished are "wiped" of information and sent to UNICOR, an R2 certified recycler. R2 certification assures Environmental Protection Agency guidelines are met. "Using UNICOR has allowed us to consolidate our electronics recycling to one vendor and meet federal recycling standards," said John Horton, manager of MSA's Property & Warehouse Management. UNICOR recycles or refurbishes 100 percent of the material sent to them and sends nothing to landfills, all at no cost!

For more information on electronics recycling, please contact Billy Shoemaker at 376-4555.

MSA Environmental Management System Sets the Bar—Again

MSA recently received verification that its Environmental Management System (EMS) continues to conform to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001:2004 standard. ISO 14001 is an international standard that sets the bar for an environmental management system by specifying what requirements an EMS must meet.

MSA became registered to ISO 14001 in 2011. Following registration, MSA was required to submit to annual surveillance audits for the next two years, the last successfully completed in July 2012.

A four-day Surveillance Audit in July 2013 by accredited registrar, NSF-International Strategic Registrations, included interviews with 20 employees to discuss MSA's implementation of the standard's 17 core elements. The visit also included stops at nine MSA operations areas to verify implementation and interviews with 10 senior staff members to gauge top management commitment.

EMS identifies environmental impacts, sets and achieves environmental objectives and targets, and provides progress reports to management, workers, customers and stakeholders. Key aspects to MSA's EMS are continual improvement and innovations for reducing MSA's environmental "footprint."

"As a company, we continue promoting environmental stewardship along with worker safety and health," said Anthony Nagel, MSA's EMS Coordinator. "As a result, MSA has minimized its impact on the Hanford environment. What's really exciting are the employee-initiated environmental programs that help us achieve our envi-

ronmental objectives and targets. We saw several excellent examples of this over the past year and this fact didn't go unnoticed during this year's ISO 14001 certification assessment," said Nagel.



Pictured L-R: Lori Fritz, vice president of MSA Energy & Environmental Services; Dave Ruscitto, MSA Chief Operations Officer; Steve Weil, DOE-RL Division Director for Environmental Management; and Anthony Nagel, MSA EMS Coordinator.



Information Management



Nelson does some last minute work on the safety video that he will present using his tablet computer.

Safety and Productivity Go Mobile at Hanford

From Mike Nelson's Hanford Site office, he can easily access all his computer applications and procedures needed for his job. However, as an MSA Safety Representative, his work often takes him out in the field. After receiving a tablet computer several months ago, Nelson is seeing his productivity increase dramatically. With the tablet, he can access necessary safety information anywhere on the Hanford Site. "The most beneficial aspect of the tablet is the ability to facilitate communication," said Nelson.

MSA and DOE have led the mobility effort at Hanford to allow for more efficiency and productivity throughout the site. As the site encompasses 586-square-miles, much of the work requires significant travel time from offices to worksites. Mobile computing increases worker productivity allowing them to retrieve work orders, procedures, email, approval forms and other vital information while in the field. Removing the need to be physically in the office to access computer files lets employees get more done while in the field.

An important aspect of Nelson's job is accessing safety procedures, post-event reviews, and quarterly safety inspection checklists from the network or his personal computer drive. With the tablet, he has all his safety files in the palm of his hand, anywhere on the site. "Sometimes

safety comes down to compliance, and it is very helpful to access procedures in the field so we can bring closure to safety issues as quickly as possible. I can access real-time information for making work decisions quickly, without needing to travel back to my office," said Nelson.

"I don't use my iPad because it's a cool thing or a gee whiz toy. I use it because it helps me do my job better and faster."

***—Jon Peschong, DOE-RL Deputy Asst. Manager
for the River and Plateau***

Secure tablet computing is changing the way Hanford employees think about how they approach their work. "Mobility is an attitude. We have to embrace technology because it can do so much for us," said Jon Peschong, deputy assistant manager for the River and Plateau for DOE-RL.

Peschong warmly embraces technology as part of his work; he has a paperless office and takes his iPad wherever he goes.

VDSL Saving Time, Money and Increasing Capacity

For years, Hanford's 300 Area fire station endured slow computer network performance, posing a challenge for firefighters who needed access to HLAN network for applications. "They were lucky to get one megabyte per second, at best," said Todd Eckman, vice president of MSA Information Management. "We thought the best way to upgrade the fire station was with fiber optics, but the installation cost would have been more than \$10,000."

Eckman's group came up with a solution that provided increased computer speed and was affordable. The answer was installing a small, affordable box that had the ability to pump up the available bandwidth to over 10 megabytes per second.

An inexpensive media converter, the box transmits network traffic over existing copper telephone wire using a newer version of DSL called VDSL—very high bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line. VDSL can offer speeds more than 10 times faster than DSL.

"VDSL technology is transformative because it uses the existing copper infrastructure and allows for increased capacity at a low cost," said Eckman. "With this new technology, it is possible to replace some of Hanford's legacy wireless Internet infrastructure with VDSL, giving MSA the ability to decommission legacy wireless systems that have served Hanford well in the past, but

badly need upgrading for both performance and cyber security reasons.

Although wireless Internet is effective in many remote areas of the site, for buildings with existing copper wiring, it can cost more and is not as fast as VDSL. This fiscal year, MSA will transition eight trailers from "old wireless" to VDSL links to enhance performance.

"We upgraded the 300 Area fire station for approximately \$3,000 as opposed to \$10,000. That is a huge cost savings."

**—Todd Eckman, MSA Vice President,
Information Management**

As support for the computing demands in the field continues, MSA has scheduled additional projects in FY 2014 to transition buildings from DSL to VDSL. Since many existing buildings still have copper telephone wire, the VDSL possibilities are plentiful.



Hanford firefighter Dave Williams uses a thin client work station at the 300 Area fire station to access applications he needs. The inexpensive media converter box now allows HLAN computer information to be transmitted over the station's existing telephone copper wiring using VDSL.



Emergency Services

Hanford Patrol Conducts Tryouts for New Recruits

Over the last year, Hanford Patrol has been experiencing a larger than expected number of security police officers leaving due to attrition and retirement. In order to maintain staffing, Hanford Patrol worked with MSA's Human Resources to hold Security Police Officer II recruitment tryouts.

The tryouts attracted more than 400 applicants. After reviewing applications, Patrol selected 200 individuals to move forward with tryouts. Of those 200, 124 showed up for the tryouts held July 19-20 at the Hanford Patrol Training Academy (PTA). All candidates were required to meet initial fitness and academic requirements.

Tryouts this year included a reading comprehension, grammar and observation, and written statement skills test. Patrol based this new requirement on other law enforcement exams, such as the Washington State Patrol Exam.

Physical aspects of tryouts required applicants to run one mile in eight and a half minutes or less, and run a 40-yard dash from a prone position in eight seconds or less. In the firearms category, candidates were administered a trigger-pull assessment test.



Potential recruits take part in the 40-yard dash as part of their physical assessment testing.



Potential recruits take part in the firearms trigger-pull assessment. Far left, Hanford Patrol Capt. Rudy Almeida (standing) takes part in assessing the group.

Of the 124 who attended the tryouts, 23 received offers.

While receiving an offer letter is good news to a candidate, the journey to become an elite Hanford Patrol officer doesn't stop there. All selected candidates must attend and graduate from a comprehensive 17-week Security Police Officer II Training Academy class. During this training, new hires receive extensive training in areas like firearms, physical fitness, defensive tactics, close quarters battle tactics, access control and emergency vehicle operations. Training ends with mock exercises involving volunteer role players who act out potential scenarios that security police officers must be able to face. These include the ability to respond to vehicle accidents, apprehend criminals and intruders, and deal properly with disgruntled employees.

"We had a large amount of highly qualified applicants," said Casey De Groof, who manages Patrol's Operations Support and Training. It was a very competitive group of candidates, and Patrol is expecting some great new officers."



Hanford firefighters stand next to the 31-year-old chemical truck. Pictured, left to right, are Hanford Fire Lt. Robert Smith, Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Harbert, Firefighter Don Blackburn and Capt. Sean Barajas.

Hanford Fire Department Gets New Chem Trucks, Saves Money

Last year, the Hanford Fire Department (HFD) set out to replace its aging chemical truck used for metal fires. Originally purchased to respond to potential incidents at the Fast Flux Test Facility, the 31-year-old vehicle was at the end of its lifecycle.

HFD learned that instead of buying a factory-built truck, it could procure two chemical skid-mounted units for about \$80,000 and then mount the equipment on smaller trucks, saving approximately \$325,000.

“Having two more chem trucks increases our fire extinguishing capabilities for metal fires dramatically, while saving the taxpayer a considerable amount of money,” said Hanford Fire Chief Jeffrey Hawkins.

HFD provides life-safety services at the 586-square-mile Hanford Site in support of the safe and timely cleanup of the site. Services include fire suppression and prevention, medical and rescue response, incident command, as well as hazardous materials, chemical, biological and radiological emergency response.

Better known in firefighter lingo as a “chem” truck, its main purpose is to put out Class D fires, or combustible metal fires. Magnesium and titanium are the most common types of metal fires, but metal fires also may include elements like liquid sodium and metal shavings leftover from plutonium production.

Chem trucks use a dry powder extinguishing agent and work by smothering and heat absorption. Water, which is the common extinguishing agent on most fire trucks, cannot be used effectively on a Class D fire. If water were applied to a combustible metal fire, it would accelerate the burning and add the potential for steam and hydrogen reactions and explosions, ultimately increasing the risk to a fire crew.

HFD staff is being trained on the new chem truck apparatuses, which will be staged north and south of the Wye Barricade.



One of the new chemical trucks recently purchased for the Hanford Site.



Hanford firefighters spent time with Northwest MedStar staff on August 21 to hone their landing zone safety skills for medical airlift evacuations. Pictured are HFD Firefighters Lester (Shag) Williams (left) and Kyle Lockhaven.

Firefighters Hone Medical Air Transport Landing Zone Skills

Hanford firefighters received medical air evacuation landing zone training on August 21, and August 26-27, at the Emergency Vehicle Obstacle Course located on the HAMMER Federal Training Center. Northwest MedStar, a local critical care transport service, provided the classroom instruction and crew.

While Hanford's firefighters have been involved in several mock trainings with MedStar over the years, this was the first 'official' classroom training. "This forum allowed us to provide more focused training in a non-emergency setting," said HFD Lieutenant Anthony Lovato, Jr., who was responsible for setting up and coordinating the training with MedStar.

During the classroom portion, firefighters learned how to activate an air transport call and to safely select and mark a landing zone for the pilot. They also were instructed on how best to direct a helicopter to the scene and provide landing zone information, as well as the basics involved in helicopter hazards and safety.

The second half of the training placed attendees outside as the MedStar helicopter flew in from its hangar base. The crew—comprised of a pilot, a registered nurse, and a respiratory therapist—gave participants a firsthand look and overview of the aircraft and explained the importance of obtaining certain information from emergency

responders such as terrain, electric lines in the area and where to land.

"This is great training for our guys," said Lovato. "This training and exposure allows Hanford's firefighters and emergency medical services personnel to shorten the ground time for MedStar, providing better patient care and increases the safety awareness of our crews. Not everyone has been on a call involving medical air transport, so this gives them a better idea of what to expect and to learn what is expected of them on these kinds of calls."



Hanford firefighters listen to MedStar's onboard flight nurse and respiratory therapist on what they need to know about the patient before they arrive on scene.

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