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Mission Support Alliance: HAMMER Training & Education Center

(NOTE: MSA manages HAMMER for the Department of Energy)

In the two years since the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center (HAMMER) was part of the Progress Edition, significant changes have taken place at the campus. HAMMER transitioned to the Mission Support Contract managed by the Mission Support Alliance, LLC (MSA), the Hanford Site received \$1.9 billion in Recovery Act funding, and HAMMER added three new buildings to our campus.

Under the direction of MSA, HAMMER took on the responsibility of standardizing the required safety and health training courses for Hanford workers. This critical mission assignment has the attention of the Department of Energy (DOE) complex. Safety and health programs and training are crucial due to the complexity of Hanford operations. As such, MSA and HAMMER have developed and are implementing 14 site-wide safety standards for the most commonly encountered hazards on the site in an effort to improve and streamline safety and health programs. This effort began as soon as the MSA took over the contract and much of it has already been implemented site-wide. One of the biggest highlights of this effort was the successful collaborative and cooperative partnership between contractors, DOE and organized labor to achieve the final programs and resulted in a reduction of redundant training, clearer roles and responsibilities for the workers and ultimately a safer, more efficient and effective workforce.

Recovery Act funding resulted in hiring hundreds of new workers to support Hanford contractors and subcontractors to accelerate the clean-up mission. These new workers required the same level of safety training as the existing workforce. Implementing this surge in new worker training took tremendous coordination and cooperation between all the site contractors, building trades and metal trades unions, and HAMMER. HAMMER provided a majority of the safety training for the new workers. HAMMER set a record of 63,500 student days of completed training in 2010, an increase of 49 percent. To date, HAMMER is on track to support over 70,000 student days in training as Recovery Act work is completed.

Dr. Inès Triay, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, committed to supporting HAMMER and has called HAMMER DOE's "crown jewel" for its standardized training programs, worker trainer program and its partnership with labor, management, tribes, the community and DOE. HAMMER opened a building last year that supports multiple training activities every day, and plans to open another building to house HAMMER operations and training staff. This building will include a maintenance shop allowing for staff and resource consolidation into one building freeing up campus space for supporting additional hands-on training.

Other agencies and organizations continue funding HAMMER to manage and deliver their training programs. All of these programs use the strengths of the HAMMER staff, existing Hanford training programs or staff

capabilities and facilities for supporting hands-on training programs. International Border Security training, funded by the Department of State (DOS) and conducted by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) scientists and subject matter experts, has been delivered effectively at HAMMER since the facility opened in 1997. Due to the success of this program, DOS funded HAMMER to construct an additional, dedicated building for the program that was dedicated in spring of 2009. As a further commitment to the program, DOS committed \$2.9 million to HAMMER for construction of a Field Exercise Building that will consolidate field training activities presently used in four areas of the campus. The new building will reduce student down time and enhance learning by reducing the impact on training caused by inclement weather.

Looking forward to the future, HAMMER will continue focusing on training Hanford Site workers. This includes meeting emerging needs of the Waste Treatment Plant workforce, and continuing efforts in support of non-Hanford customers such as the National Guard Bureau, PNNL and the DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. As the Hanford Site transitions, HAMMER will continue to partner with DOE and community organizations like TRIDEC to position itself in supporting new energy industry missions that may come to the Hanford Site.

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