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Mission Support Alliance: HAMMER Training & Education Center

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

This past year, Mission Support Alliance (MSA) celebrated 15 years of operation for the Volpentest HAMMER Training and Education Center. Managed by MSA for the Department of Energy (DOE), HAMMER serves a global mission of reducing health and safety risks to Hanford workers, emergency responders and the public. HAMMER has excelled in providing safety instruction and training over the years, and it is demonstrative in our achievements.

HAMMER has provided critical hands-on safety training for the Hanford workforce, while also forging many partnerships with non-Hanford customers.

HAMMER has done very well adapting to rapid change while strengthening its core competencies. When Sam Volpentest and DOE envisioned the HAMMER concept, the objective was to provide training that would save lives and reduce injuries for Hanford's hazardous work, while also making the facility's unique capabilities available to customers outside of Hanford. I'm proud to say that we continue to excel in both areas. With strong support from DOE and MSA, we were able to accomplish a great deal in 2012—despite funding challenges and fluctuating training demands.

Our Hanford training programs still make up the majority of our customer base. This past year we upgraded our processes and training. This led to improved training, saved money, allowed us flexibility and kept us ready for emergent training and special requests. HAMMER continues to meet customer needs and realizing cost savings through standardization efforts in construction safety training and general and sitewide employee training.

MSA was instrumental in leading HAMMER's sitewide efforts in beryllium protection, chronic beryllium disease prevention, and in establishing and implementing the Hanford Respiratory Protection Program. Additional training courses and training props also supported the growth of the Hanford Sitewide Safety Standards. These standards focus on hazards commonly encountered at Hanford, as well as those encountered across the DOE complex. Implementing these standardized processes and training is essential for a consistent approach for performing work safely.

Aside from HAMMER's Hanford training mission, we continued forging new relationships with federal customers resulting in new contracts and broadening our existing customer base. MSA provided key support to the DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability with HAMMER's response coordination for Hurricane Sandy. HAMMER staff coordinated the deployment of DOE responders to several Federal Emergency

Management Agency regions and provided staff for DOE's Energy Response Center in Washington, D.C. These efforts gained national recognition across the DOE complex.

HAMMER supports the DOE National Training Center, the primary training facility for the DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security, to develop safety culture training for the DOE complex and to establish a process for accrediting safety and health training by other sites using HAMMER's Radiation Worker Safety Training as the pilot for the program.

In 2012, we constructed a new field exercise building funded by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) that supports the international border security and law enforcement training conducted by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for DOS, the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Hanford Site training programs.

Above all else, HAMMER prides itself on safety excellence, and this is reflected by DOE designating the HAMMER facility as a Voluntary Protection Program Superior Star Site in 2012.

Finally, we'd be remiss if we did not note the retirement of Congressman Norm Dicks who has been a long-time supporter of HAMMER. Recently, the HAMMER Steering Committee issued a resolution in support of his commitment to HAMMER and the Hanford Site. Even though he didn't represent our Congressional district, Dicks was a true friend and ardent supporter. His efforts over the past 15 years have helped us become the success we are today.

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