



MISSION: RELIABILITY

HANFORD

MISSION

INTEGRATION

SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

# MISSION: RELIABILITY

August 2022

**HMS**  
HANFORD MISSION INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS

Our teams provide reliability to the One Hanford cleanup mission by ensuring availability, security and serviceability of systems.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Guest Message	2
Volunteer Spotlight: Tracy Desmond	3
Mission Accomplished	4
Sec. Granholm Makes First Hanford Visit	5
Patrolmen Receive President's Lifesaving Award	6
EZAC Chairs Recognized for Commitment to Safety	7
HMIS Completes EMS Audit with Flying Colors	8
New Emergency Radios Deployed	9
Fiber Optic Line to Improve Service	10
Team Focus: Construction, Testing & Commissioning	11
Crews Solve Storage, Safety Need	13
New Officers Graduate from Hanford Patrol Academy	14
New VALOR Program Reaches Local Military Veterans	15

Hyperlinks  
to stories



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



As the Hanford Site integrator, HMIS is responsible for an expansive scope of essential service delivery to our customers at DOE and the One Hanford contractors. They rely on us to make sure the power is always on, the water is always running, and the roads are in good condition. We also ensure information and business management systems operate smoothly, while continually introducing technical innovations and maintaining state of the art safeguards and cybersecurity. Our DOE customers and One Hanford contractors also look to us to provide emergency response and sitewide security, radiological protection, and real-life workforce training,

I take a lot of pride in knowing we can be counted on to deliver services that enable the cleanup mission, and I'm extremely proud of the work you all do to make sure it happens every day. Our team continues to meet and exceed goals, while producing innovative services that streamline operations at the Hanford Site.

We've tackled a lot of challenges so far this year by working together and relying on each other to get the job done. Our HMIS family is stronger because of your contributions and our "proud but never satisfied" collective mindset.

Stay safe, stay healthy and keep up the great work!

*Bob*

## Guest Message – Todd Eckman

After more than three decades in the information technology field, I am as enthusiastic as ever about delivering consistently secure, responsive and robust information technology/operational technology solutions to the One Hanford team. With technology integrated into nearly every facet of the work we do, a modern IT/OT system is critical to overall reliability by ensuring the availability, security and serviceability of systems.

We are committed to ensuring IT/OT reliability through continuous modernization, with cybersecurity a main driver. Employee training/testing keeps our workforce an informed and integral part of our technology immune system. This ensures we can successfully operate, maintain and monitor Hanford's business systems and utility systems, such as water and electrical.

Reliability also depends on ensuring redundancy – which is a very good thing in the IT world – while at the same time reducing duplication of solutions through consolidation. My team and I have worked

hard to build modern telecommunications, network, server and storage systems to deliver first-in-class applications. We also leverage multiple/diverse internet connections, dual data centers, redundant power/HVAC systems and real-time health monitoring to ensure IT/OT systems and data archives are available during both human-caused and natural disasters. Our IMS team is passionate about doing its part to keep the paychecks delivered, the records available, the projects moving, the water flowing and the lights on in support of the One Hanford mission!

I am honored to play the role I do in ensuring the reliability of information and operational technology for the Hanford Site and to work with such a talented, motivated team who is equally committed to the cause. I am also grateful to the larger HMIS family. I am consistently impressed by your ability and willingness to help keep the Site's technology systems safe and secure. Reliability really does require a village – if not a small army – to safeguard. Thank you for being that army!



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**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:**  
Tracy Desmond

Our Volunteer Spotlight shines on Tracy Desmond, part of the One Hanford Communications team. Tracy devotes much of her time to Royal Family Kids Pasco, a non-profit Tracy “holds dear to my heart.”

RFK’s mission is to provide a week of safe and positive memories for local foster children who have experienced abuse or neglect. This is done through a yearly summer camp experience and school year mentorship program. Tracy has volunteered with both programs since 2015 as a camp counselor and mentor.

Tracy explains why the camp is so important to her and the kids who take part, “Myself and my adult children have volunteered as counselors at Royal Family Kids Camp each summer. We spend an entire week with these kids having fun, singing songs, teaching them archery, how to swim, rock climb, woodwork and more. We also throw them a birthday party full of gifts, games, cake and ice cream. We have heard from many of these kiddos that they never had a birthday party before. Our goal is to show them there are caring and trusting adults who support them. We believe the 100 contact hours we spend with them every summer will make a difference for the rest of their lives. It is an absolutely amazing organization. Every child deserves to feel unconditional love and hope.”

And you’re an absolutely amazing person, Tracy! Thanks for being a great part of our local community and our HMIS family.

**MISSION:**  
**ACCOMPLISHED**



Congratulations to Chris Bates, a truck driver with our Warehousing group, who recently finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at this year’s Washington State Truck Driving Championships. But the bigger story is that Chris has driven in this annual competition 40 straight years, and he’s won the state championship ten times!

Each of those state titles earned him a spot in the American Trucking Association’s National Truck Driving Championships as well. “The competition itself is kind of like watching paint dry,” Chris joked. “But it’s a great opportunity to test your skills against some of the best drivers in the country.”



Chris is retiring this fall after a 47-year career as a truck driver, and we just want to say congratulations on a job well done!

**!** To submit an item for our Mission: Accomplished section, please email [hmiscomm@rl.gov](mailto:hmiscomm@rl.gov)

## RECOGNITION



CPCo Worker Trainer Ed Seitz shows Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm some of the valuable instructional tools available at the HAMMER Federal Training Center.

### Sec. Granholm Makes First Hanford Visit

U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm visited the Hanford Site for the first time since she was sworn in last year, and started her Site tour with a stop at our HAMMER Federal Training Center. She also viewed many of the cleanup projects, met with tribal leaders and took part in a community forum.

Granholm said, "My first visit to Hanford provided me with a deeper appreciation for the magnitude of the mission as well as the considerable progress in cleaning up the environment and protecting workers, the community and the Columbia River."



Even when you're expecting it, the burn prop at HAMMER still elicits a reaction!

## RECOGNITION



Patrolmen Jason Barrow (left) and Nathan Reed were presented the President's Lifesaving Award by Bob Wilkinson at the August PZAC meeting.

► **The immediate action by Barrow and Reed likely saved the driver from serious injury or even death.**

### Patrolmen Receive President's Lifesaving Award

A quick response may have saved a life – and this has resulted in a President's Lifesaving Award for Jason Barrow and Nathan Reed, members of our Hanford Patrol.

The officers were notified a car had driven into the sagebrush near Horn Rapids Road. They found a man behaving unusually and suspected the driver was having a medical emergency. Barrow and Reed stayed with the man and kept him conscious until paramedics could arrive. The man is diabetic, and his blood sugar had fallen dangerously low.

The immediate action by Barrow and Reed likely saved the driver from serious injury or even death. Thanks to their quick response, the driver was able to return home to his family again. Barrow and Reed were presented a Lifesaving Award by President Bob Wilkinson at this month's PZAC meeting.



Leadership and EZAC chairs pose for a group photo during the recognition breakfast.

## RECOGNITION

### EZAC Chairs Recognized for Commitment to Safety

*Contributor: Cerise Peck*

An annual breakfast hosted by HMIS leadership recognized Employee Zero Accident Council chairs for their commitment to protect and improve the health and safety culture of their organizations. HMIS leadership handed out awards thanking chairs for their contributions to the safety mission.

The EZAC provides the leadership to influence positive behavior and continual improvement toward the goal of zero accidents. This is done by demonstrating commitment to affect positive change within the five

elements of DOE's Voluntary Protection Program and promoting the Integrated Safety Management System. The goal of zero accidents is a cooperative effort by all HMIS employees and management to provide a healthy, safe and injury-free workplace.

Presenting safety information to their organizations at monthly meetings is a core duty of EZAC chairs who are responsible for relaying information from the All-Chair EZAC and the Presidents' Zero Accident Council. Each organization has at least one chair who can help with questions and share resources with their team.

Thank you to our EZAC chairs for helping make HMIS and Hanford a safer place to work!

## MISSION: RELIABILITY

### HMIS Completes EMS Audit with Flying Colors

*Contributor: Joy Shoemake*

HMIS successfully completed its most recent Environmental Management System audit, earning a recommendation for continued ISO 14001 certification. This year's audit was an external independent assessment to evaluate our performance in achieving EMS goals and objectives while adhering to the standard.

ISO 14001 is a standard related to environmental management that helps organizations mitigate environmental impacts, fulfill compliance obligations and enhance environmental performance. Certification means HMIS can be relied on to continually improve our EMS through specific measurements.

An EMS is required by our contract, but ISO 14001 certification is voluntary and requires an extra commitment to an independent review. During the audit, some of the comments about our team included, "You didn't miss a beat," in reference to our EMS resiliency through a pandemic, contract change and personnel turnover.

Auditors were also a fan of improvements made to the management review process, saying they "didn't like the management review binder – they loved it," and recommended every site use one.



Environmental Management System Auditor Jesse Glasshoff inspects a drum of PCB-containing equipment at the Centralized Consolidation/Recycling Center.



Audit interview session with Biological Controls team, from left, Megan Newton (auditor), Katie Hall, Daniel Tucker, Beth Wright, Briana Colley and Brian Bergum.

Some of our strengths included resiliency through major challenges, our culture of environmental awareness and on-screen access to requested documentation. These auditors have been performing audits for years and mentioned our EMS to be one of the best in industry.

Our Environmental team ensures HMIS complies with our EMS and the ISO 14001 program, while also looking to streamline ways our entire team considers the environment in all we do. Being a good steward of the environment is built into our culture. Impacts to the environment are considered with every work package, every procedure and purchase, and so embedded in our daily activities that most of the time we make environmentally sound choices without thinking twice. That is a recipe for environmental success!

## MISSION: RELIABILITY

### New Emergency Radios Deployed

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

New emergency radios are in use on the Hanford Site, providing reliable two-way radio communications between Waste Treatment Plant facilities and our first responders, the Hanford Fire Department and Hanford Patrol. This wraps up a project to program, test and distribute the radios.

"This accomplishment was possible because of the collective team not only acquiring the technology that allows our Fire and Patrol to have communications in WTP facilities, but also getting the new radios programmed and deployed," said Todd Eckman, vice president of Information Management Services. "There were numerous challenges along the way, but no one gave up!"

Our IMS team managed the acquisition of the radios and batteries that will work within WTP to provide reliable communication. The group had to

verify the radio frequencies will not interfere with other systems already in place on the Site. Once the technical team finished testing, Patrol and HFD also conducted field testing of the radios to confirm they could communicate successfully within WTP. Once complete, it was back to IMS to program 131 portable radios for Patrol and 139 for HFD.

Just when the system seemed ready to go, field teams identified an issue with the batteries that came with the radios, requiring replacement. New batteries were held up in global supply chain challenges before they could be installed and the Safeguard, Security & Emergency Response teams could confirm the replacements met our high standards for reliability.

"HFD would like to extend our gratitude and sincere thanks to all parties involved in implementing the solution," said Assistant Fire Chief Thomas True. "This truly was a group project to get to resolution, and the hard work and effort involved are both recognized and appreciated."



New radios are in use on the Hanford Site that allow Hanford Fire and Hanford Patrol to communicate while in Waste Treatment Plant facilities.



Lt. Lucas Simmons uses one of the new radios available to HFD.

## MISSION: RELIABILITY

### Fiber Optic Line to Improve Service

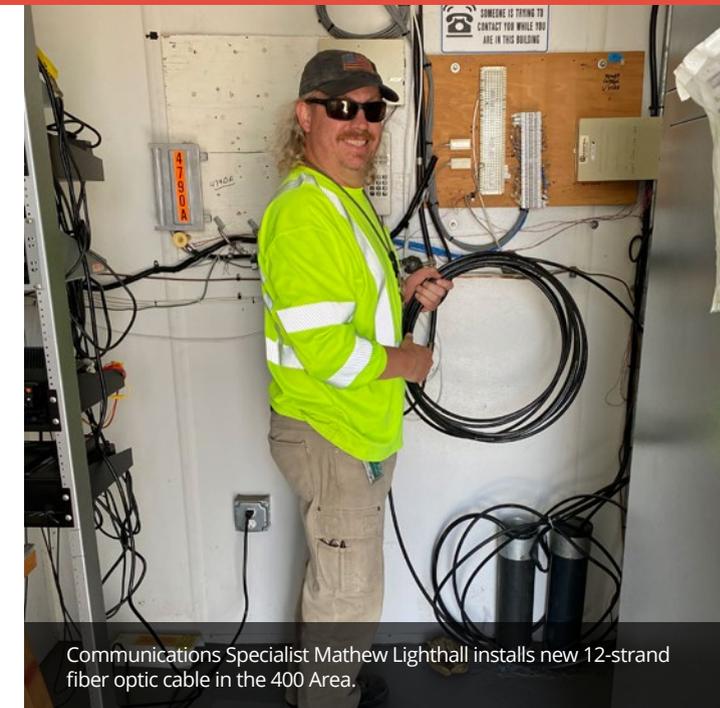
Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Thanks to the handiwork of our Information Management Services team, a brand-new, high-speed fiber optic cable is in place in the 400 Area. The cable will provide service reliability to a telecommunication building.

"This is a significant milestone for the Site, since this location houses a 110-foot lattice tower supporting emergency communications with our neighboring counties," said Kenny Ferguson, director of Field Support Services for IMS. "Because this tower is centrally located on Hanford, it provides a great opportunity to service north Richland and the southern areas, as well as eastern portions of the Central Plateau."



A trench was dug to hold a new fiber optic cable.



Communications Specialist Mathew Lighthall installs new 12-strand fiber optic cable in the 400 Area.

This upgrade to provide 12-strand fiber optic cable paves the way for future enhancements on the Hanford Site, including supporting the emergency radio system used by our first responders, as well as a new fire station planned for the 400 Area. The fiber optic cable is also part of technology upgrades that support the entire One Hanford mission through improved services for 5G connections on cell phones.



Workers guide a new trench box into place at the 200 West sanitary water tank replacement project.



**“We’re replacing a lot of legacy infrastructure installed from the inception of Hanford, bringing it up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”**

**MARK WALKER**

*Workers prepare to complete a hydrostatic test on new equipment at the 200 West sanitary water tank replacement project.*

Crews work to install new security fencing around the 251W substation.

## MISSION: RELIABILITY

### Team Focus: Construction, Testing & Commissioning

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

Whether it’s replacing legacy infrastructure or building a new multimillion-dollar water treatment facility, you can count on the Construction, Testing & Commissioning team to be involved, often confirming its reliability. “From conception to completion, we’re a part of every HMIS construction project,” shared Mark Walker, HMIS’ director of Construction, Testing & Commissioning.

Walker oversees a team of more than 20 construction managers, construction engineers, commissioning managers, test directors, procedure writers and other support staff who make up the field piece of the Project Delivery functional service area for HMIS. “When a project comes to fruition, we are the boots on the ground who build it,” Walker added. “As we’re building, we write and administer the testing and

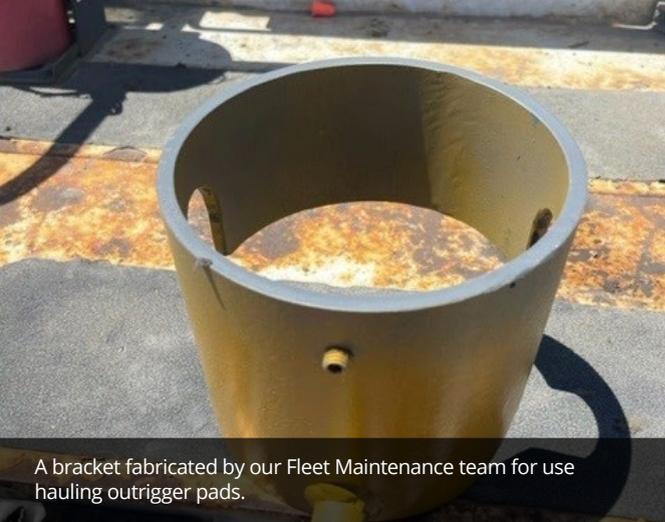
commissioning plans for the project and make sure everything is working correctly before we turn it over to operations.”

Some of the team’s big projects include building the new Central Plateau Water Treatment Facility, replacing the sanitary water tank and pump system in 200 West, and replacing the pumps and other infrastructure for the fire protection systems on the Central Plateau. “We’re replacing a lot of legacy infrastructure installed from the inception of Hanford and throughout the decades, bringing it up to the 21st century,” Walker said.

The big projects grab attention, but Walker’s team also manages dozens of smaller projects, like installing new fencing around the 251W

substation, replacing the HVAC systems at a Hanford fire station, and making roof repairs at HAMMER. “Those projects turn quickly. There’s a lot of them, but they’re shorter in duration and smaller in scope.”

The variety of work helps to keep things interesting. “We don’t do the same thing every day. It’s always evolving, and we work all over the Site. We’re always working under some tight deadlines, but it’s a good team and we really enjoy working with each other,” Walker added.



A bracket fabricated by our Fleet Maintenance team for use hauling outrigger pads.



Loren Talkington (left) and Chris Hebison safely move an outrigger pad.



The bracket in place on a crane, with a pad safely stored on the side.

## MISSION: RELIABILITY

### Crews Solve Storage, Safety Need

*Contributor: Robin Wojtanik*

Our teams live the concept of “proud, but never satisfied,” and that was the case when a safety concern arose about transporting crane outrigger pads. The heavy, awkward composite pads are moved frequently between worksites and the pads need to be safely stored for transport and easy access. Our Fleet Maintenance team designed and built brackets to haul the pads reliably and safely.

“The brackets allow workers to quickly and ergonomically store the pads temporarily during travel and relocation of cranes during work evolutions,” said Sean McFadden, director of Crane & Rigging Services. “HMIS worked with the crane manufacturer for approval of the aftermarket devices.”

The brackets slip right onto a column on the corner of the crane and allow for the pads to hang off the side, making it easier for workers to access them from a safe lifting position. The pads are used to stabilize a crane on uneven ground, keeping it level and increasing the size of the outrigger.

Now that the brackets are approved for use, our Fleet team will fabricate more and install required decals for their use in the field.

## ONE HANFORD



Hanford Patrol welcomed 16 new officers following their completion of a 14-week training academy.

### New Officers Graduate from Hanford Patrol Academy

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

Sixteen outstanding officers were sworn in on August 9 to begin their careers with Hanford Patrol. This year’s applicant pool included more than 200 prospective officers, but these 16 graduates rose to the top as they successfully completed a screening process that included several fitness tests, detailed pre-employment checks and interviews and medical and psychological evaluations.

During the 14-week training program, these officers learned about the legal authorities associated with their Federal Commission and conducted extensive firearms, defensive tactics and special weapons training. They also completed certifications in emergency vehicle operations, first aid, CPR and RadWorker.

The academy features several weeks of training in hands-on, real-life scenarios. Candidates test their skills in several simulated events, including active shooter situations and terrorist attacks. The mock scenarios provide officers with valuable experience as they prepare to protect Hanford and its critical assets.

“Though the Hanford Site’s mission has changed from production to environmental cleanup, our mission has not,” shared Hanford Patrol Chief Lorin Cyr as he addressed his newest officers during their graduation ceremony. “We are still responsible for the protection of special nuclear material, DOE assets, property and site employees. As you enter the ranks of Patrol, remember our proud history and our commitment to our nation and our fellow employees. We run to the fight, not away from it.”

Congratulations to this incoming class of Hanford Patrol officers: Emilio Avila, Adam Baker, Thomas Begalka, Kelin Day, Matthew Elvik, Eric Enriquez, James Lewis, Nicholas Roberts, Cody Ryan, Raul Sabalza, Melvin Santos, Kyle Smith, Dylan Sumner, Mitchell Thayer, Phil Vorheis and Evan York.

## ONE HANFORD



### New VALOR Program Reaches Local Military Veterans

Contributor: Jill Harvill

Since our new Veterans Advocacy for Learning, Opportunities and Resources Program began, we kicked off our first community partnership! HMIS hosted a BBQ with the Columbia Basin Veterans Center to connect local veterans to the Hanford Site.

President Bob Wilkinson emceed the event, marking the official launch of VALOR, which provides employee support and subject matter expertise in assisting job-seeking veterans with translating their military experience to civilian careers.

Veterans employed by HMIS also attended, helping spread the word about the VALOR Program. "We are thankful for our HMIS veterans who are supporting this mission," said Bob. "I am also proud of my colleagues who saw a need in our community and created a solution."

DOE and contractor leaders were invited to visit with veterans and discuss employment opportunities at the Hanford Site. DOE RL/ORP Manager Brian Vance spoke about the value veterans bring to the Hanford workforce, "The mission focus and experience of veterans in a team role is truly valuable and something we may have to teach to most, but it's inherent in someone who served in the military."

► We value the commitment and sacrifice veterans have made.

We value the commitment and sacrifice veterans have made, and recognize the attributes and skillsets acquired during military service are ones that could significantly benefit the Hanford Site.

We are proud to be a veteran-friendly employer and look forward to future community partnerships!



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