



MISSION: INTEGRATION

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SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

HANFORD MISSION  
**HMiS**  
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# MISSION: LEARNING

With opportunities and readiness to learn, we continue to develop innovative solutions for continuous improvement.

Hyperlinks to stories

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- 5 Minutes with... 2
- PZAC Lifesaving Award 3
- Leadership Tri-Cities Class XXVII Graduation 4
- Hanford is Well-Prepared for Emergency Response 5
- Meet the New HAMTC Safety Reps! 7
- Team Focus: Condition Assessment Survey Inspectors 8
- HMIS Makes Small Business Connections in Minneapolis 9
- 18-Month Effort Leads to Implementation of QA Graded Approach 10
- Crane & Rigging Supports CPCCo with High-Profile Project 11
- Radiological Site Services Maintains DOELAP Accreditation 13
- Helping Feed our Community 14
- Employees Help Select Junior Youth of the Year 15

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



I think it's only appropriate that this month's newsletter focuses on learning and that this will be my last message as the HMIS president – because my career has been focused on learning. I take great pride in all that I have learned in my 30+ years at Hanford. I'm grateful for those who taught and mentored me and for having the opportunity to enable the growth and learning of so many others.

The opportunities to learn at HMIS and Hanford are countless. From DOE's One Hanford approach, where HMIS has the Site integrator role of coordinating communications and events that bring a cohesive message from all contractors, to activities like our field exercises and drills that allow us to reinforce best practices and learn how to adapt to changes in the field, these interactions benefit the entire Hanford Site and help us learn from one another.

Through courses offered by Workforce Solutions, and programs like Leadership Tri-Cities – which just graduated Class XXVII, our workforce continues to show up for their own professional growth and development. I'm proud to be surrounded by individuals who are motivated to continue learning, which is as important to the individual as it is to the success of our company and the cleanup mission.

It's motivating as a leader to reflect on all that we have accomplished as HMIS through our willingness to keep learning. I look forward to seeing how this team will continue to evolve personally and collectively under Amy Basche and Todd Synoground's new leadership roles. And of course, I'm excited (and a little nervous if I'm being honest) for all that I will learn at CPCCo starting next month. Thank you for all that you have done to support me as your leader and I hope that you will keep learning with me no matter where we all go from here.

Bob

## 5 MINUTES WITH ANDREW CRAWMER



We caught up with Andrew Crawmer, a technical advisor with HAMMER, this month. We learned he originally came to Hanford because it offered a more flexible schedule and career advancement. Interestingly, he only made that choice after a rather diverse career path including being a barber, white-water rafting guide, radio commercial writer, college counselor and project director. Here's what else we learned while visiting with Andrew:

### 1. When you're having a tough day, what do you do to turn things around?

Tough days are hard to avoid but I've found that keeping things in perspective can help a lot. I try to make sure I leave work at work so when I am home, I can step away from the chaos and remember what is really important in my life.

### 2. Who is a mentor that has made an impact on you?

Currently, I'm being mentored by Daniel Saucedo, which has been one of the best experiences of my career. It has provided an opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of HMIS, Hanford Site operations and how to be more impactful in my current position.

### 3. What does *learning*, this month's newsletter theme, mean to you?

One of the most important aspects to learning in the training world is changing your actions or behaviors due to learning. Experiencing something that impacts your

senses visually or physically will stick with you much longer. You can read all about how to ride a bike, but nothing can replace actually getting on one and experiencing it.

### 4. What do you do in your free time?

I have two special needs kids, so I spend a lot of my free time with them and my wife. Even though they require so much investment, I cannot imagine life without them. The rest of my time is currently filled with home improvement projects and our super fluffy bernedoodle.

### 5. What song do you have to sing along with when you hear it?

Sadly, "Gangsters and Thugs" by Transplants.

### 6. What team do you root for?

I'm not sure I have one team, but I am a big college basketball fan and love March Madness.

## RAPID FIRE

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## RECOGNITION

### PZAC Lifesaving Award

Congratulations to Tia Newell, with Information Management Maintenance Services, who received the President's Lifesaving Award at the June PZAC! Following a conversation with a coworker regarding pain in their leg, the coworker took Tia's advice to go to the emergency room to get checked out, instead of going home and lying down. An MRI showed a blood clot had formed in the coworker's leg, and it would have been fatal if left untreated. Thank you, Tia for your safety-first mindset that helped save a life!



## RECOGNITION

### Leadership Tri-Cities Class XXVII Graduation

*Contributor: MaryAnne Wuennecke*

After an 11-month intensive program to learn more about our community and develop leadership skills, Class XXVII of the Leadership Tri-Cities program graduated in June. Jill Harvill, a project specialist on our One Hanford Communications team, was a member of the most recent class and says it was fulfilling both professionally and personally. "Our class worked so well together – we just fed off each other and learned together. A unique part of this program is the access to people and places that you wouldn't otherwise have."

Leadership Tri-Cities was founded in 1994 to develop local leaders. Classes consist of 10 full-day sessions on topics that affect our community, including agriculture, education, government, healthcare, social services and of course, Hanford.

"I've worked on the Site for nearly 20 years, but Hanford Day was still educational," Jill said. "It was interesting to see it through my classmates' eyes, people who don't have that background and experience."



HMIS staff celebrated with Jill at the June event.



Leadership Tri-Cities Class XXVII commemorating their completion of the program.

Each class also selects a project to benefit a local nonprofit. They raise the funds, create a project plan and work evenings and weekends as needed to complete the activity. Class XXVII built a playground for the B5 Learning Center, which provides educational opportunities and after-school programs for refugee families in the Tri-Cities. Jill served as the operations lead for the project and says it was a great experience.

"I learned to take more risks and trust those supporting me." Jill was also selected to serve a 3-year term as the Hanford Day session director working with future classes. "The backbone of the program is service to the community. You don't have to be in a 'position' to lead, you just need the desire. We learned that the best way to learn leadership is to lead."

HMIS is proud to sponsor Leadership Tri-Cities and we congratulate Jill on her successful completion of the program!

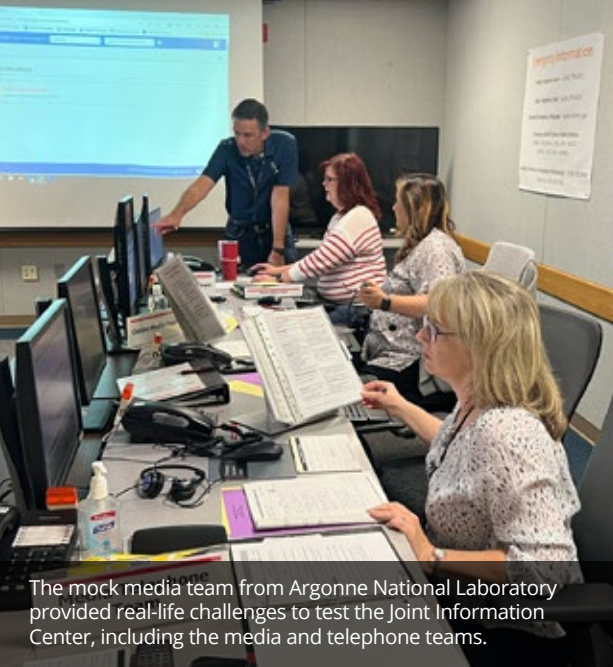


Photo #5

EXERCISE USE ONLY

A photostopped image of a tornado on Hanford Site, provided as part of the exercise.

The mock media team from Argonne National Laboratory provided real-life challenges to test the Joint Information Center, including the media and telephone teams.

Radiological Control Technicians practiced doffing firefighters after they exited a highly contaminated area.

A simulated injured and contaminated worker was wrapped for contamination control and loaded into an HFD ambulance for transport to Lourdes Medical Center.

Firefighters in a simulated contamination area extricated a simulated injured and contaminated patrolman from his vehicle after it was thrown by the tornado into waste packages.

## MISSION: LEARNING

### Hanford is Well-Prepared for Emergency Response

*Contributor: René Brooks*

While Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz may have said “There’s no place like home,” we think today she’d say, “There’s no place like Hanford.” At least that was the case during the Annual Field Exercise, intended to test and validate the effectiveness of Hanford’s emergency response and Emergency Operations Center. This year’s exercise was conducted at the Solid Waste Operations Complex and included a tornado wreaking havoc across the Hanford Site.

The exercise showed how capable the Hanford Emergency Response organization is in responding to hazardous material operational emergencies. It highlighted the Site’s high level of training and expertise and created an opportunity to showcase the adaptability, skill and knowledge of our One Hanford team in protecting workers, the public and the environment.

This year’s exercise featured several unique aspects, including simulated multiple hazardous material release points, contaminated injured and deceased personnel, contaminated Hanford Patrol weapons, a 200 West Area power outage and sitewide communication disruptions. It was much longer than

normal, lasting nearly seven hours from start to finish. The exercise was designed to stress Hanford resources and meet DOE’s requirement for a “Severe Event” exercise every five years. Hanford’s small Unmanned Aircraft System was also tested to determine how drones can be an asset during emergencies.

In addition to the numerous HMIS teams who supported this exercise, the One Hanford contractors participated, as well as several offsite participants, including Lourdes Medical Center, who received an ambulance transport of a simulated injured and contaminated patient.

“The knowledge and experience our emergency response teams bring to the Hanford Site is impressive,” shared Rick Boarder, deputy vice president of Infrastructure & Site Services who acted as the Site emergency director. “During actual or simulated emergencies, things are coming at you fast and from many directions. While we never want to experience the challenges we encountered in this exercise, we are in good hands with the professionalism of the One Hanford team.”



Chad Agen



Ashley Burows



Matt Goble

### Meet the New HAMTC Safety Reps!

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

When you've got a question or concern that is safety related in your workplace, who are you gonna call? Well, you could try the Ghostbusters, but you'll probably get a quicker response from our new HAMTC Safety Reps, who started in their new roles this month.

Chad Agen is taking over as HAMTC Lead Safety Rep, replacing Kevin Schoonover who has transitioned to a new position within the Mission Assurance organization. Chad is a 16-year veteran at the Hanford Site and an electrician by trade. Over the years, he's been a part of the Site-Wide Standards organization and sat on several Site-Wide committees. He's also been involved with the Employee Zero Accident Councils and a trainer at HAMMER.

"I just want to help us continue to grow our safety program and reinforce our safety culture," Agen shared. "Safety is part of everything we do here at HMIS and our safety culture is second to none."

Ashley Burows is one of two new HAMTC Safety Reps. She's spent the last five years working with the Transportation Field Ops team. She's also been involved with EZAC and has taught several Load Securement classes at HAMMER.

"I think this will be a great learning opportunity for me," Burows said. "I really have a passion for helping people."

Matt Goble spent eight years as a stationary operating engineer with Water & Sewer Utilities before transitioning into his new role as a HAMTC Safety Rep. He's been at the Hanford Site for more than 14 years and was part of the EZAC and the Lock and Tag committee with W&SU. He was also a HAZWOPER instructor at HAMMER.

"I want to play a bigger role in the worker safety and health programs here at the Hanford Site," Goble stated. "This position will allow me to do that and I'm grateful for the opportunity."



### TEAM FOCUS: Condition Assessment Survey Inspectors

*Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg*

Imagine thoroughly inspecting the condition of about 1,500 real property assets across Hanford; real property being buildings, trailers, and other structures and facilities such as wells, railroads and underground tanks. That's exactly what our Condition Assessment Survey inspectors do on a revolving five-year schedule. Rick Bowe, Jay Johnson, Lenore Maydole and Greg Williams assess Hanford's property to provide DOE with complete and accurate information to ensure appropriate funding for our real property needs.

Visual, non-intrusive inspections are done to review and document the condition of everything from carpets to siding to ceiling tile issues, or stair and concrete repair needs. Information collected during an assessment is entered into a DOE database used to report repair needs, deferred maintenance, replacements and upgrades, which feeds a reporting system at DOE headquarters that's used to make daily management decisions as they relate to the condition, mission and operations costs, among other things.

The team targets inspections of 200-300 pieces of property annually to ensure they meet the five-year review deadline for each asset. When the team is unable to physically inspect an area, such



CAS Inspectors Team (left to right): Rick Bowe, Greg Williams, Jay Johnson and Lenore Maydole.

as a roof, they rely on reports from other team's inspections, such as drone imagery. They may also review engineering drawings and talk to points of contact to ensure they have the full picture of what is happening within a building. They also review all work orders (in planning and scheduling) and fire systems maintenance requests for the property and include that information in their reports. "There are a lot of moving parts with some of these buildings," shared Greg Williams, CAS building inspector.

During condition assessments the team performs functionality assessments, which are used to determine if the real property, in its current state, meets mission needs. Functionality assessments can also provide insight into modernization improvement opportunities, such as switching to LED lighting. The team takes this role as a teaching opportunity. "As the inspectors perform their surveys, they teach building owners about the condition assessment process and how it can help in future planning," said Jeff Stachofsky, Maintenance Management Programs director.

## ONE HANFORD

### HMIS Makes Small Business Connections in Minneapolis

Contributor: Jill Harvill

Minnesota's tater tot hotdish has nothing on small business opportunities at Hanford! HMIS Small Business Program manager Calvin Callahan joined his Hanford Small Business Council colleagues at the 2024 DOE Small Business Symposium and Expo to share about the Hanford Site cleanup mission and contracting opportunities.

"It was nice seeing how excited small businesses were to seek opportunities at the Hanford Site", said Calvin. "Especially when they learned about our quarterly forums and the Bridging Partnerships event." Calvin made over 70 new connections and helped spread the word about our role in the cleanup mission.

Small businesses provide valuable services and expertise to continue advancing the Hanford Site cleanup mission.



HMIS Small Business Program manager Calvin Callahan talks with an attendee about contracting opportunities.



Hanford Small Business Council representatives (left to right): Jody O'Connor, Staci Downing, Kylie Rolloson, Shannon Malisani, Susan Hiller, Brandon Lilly, Bill Craven and Calvin Callahan.

HMIS has contract-driven small business goals and aims to exceed those. Of our subcontracted work, at least 55% needs to be awarded to small business. In FY23, we awarded almost 72% to small business, with a total contract value of over \$101M.

The Hanford Small Business Council provides guidance and assistance to small businesses interested in doing business at Hanford. Contractor program managers help ensure procurement opportunities are made available for small businesses to the maximum extent practicable and interface on behalf of small businesses with contracting officers and contract specialists.

## ONE HANFORD



Members of HMIS' Quality Assurance and Software Quality Assurance teams gathered to celebrate the updates made to the graded approach for software process. (Left to right): Mike Winkel, Marina Tiede, Andrew Webster, Sarah Nagel, Marnelle Sheriff, Jason Turner, Warren Brown, Anel Suarez, Todd Eckman. Not pictured: Alison Hull, Sheri Harshberger, Brad Schaffer, Diana Marquez, Todd Billings, Bill Clarno and Butch Marshall.

### 18-Month Effort Leads to Implementation of QA Graded Approach

Contributor: Shane Edinger

When it comes to making headlines, Controlled Software Management probably isn't the most exciting work we do here at HMIS. But when a collaborative effort between Quality Assurance, Software Quality Assurance and DOE that spanned more than a year reaches a major milestone, it's definitely worth celebrating.

Representatives from the three teams devoted themselves to going line-by-line through the graded approach for software process, overcoming some differing opinions to find consensus, and eventually ending up with product that met our company's needs and earned DOE's stamp of approval.

"We were not in alignment with our customer about our approach, but this work has aligned us so now we have the same perspective," shared Marnelle Sheriff, director of IT Governance. "Now, as we implement it, they have assurance that we're meeting all the standards and DOE requirements we need to, and we have assurance that the program will work the way we need it to."

That implementation has included changing and updating several policies and forms and starting up an SQA community of practice group to help reinforce the changes made. It also means regrading more than 800 pieces of software based on the updated grading checklist, which is still ongoing.

"We've still got a lot of work to do with the implementation," added Warren Brown, Software Quality Assurance program manager. "But looking back on what we were able to accomplish as a collaborative group, it is very rewarding."



The Crane & Rigging team moves a vertical concrete cask into position on a leveling platform outside the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility.

## ONE HANFORD

### Crane & Rigging Supports CPCCo with High-Profile Project

*Contributor: Shane Edinger*

Crane & Rigging continues to provide support with a ‘heavy lift’ for Central Plateau Cleanup Company. CPCCo has started assembling a canister storage system that will support moving more than 1,900 radioactive capsules out of a water-filled basin into safer dry storage, a significant step in risk reduction at the Hanford Site.

C&R is playing a key role in the construction of these vertical concrete casks (VCC) outside the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility, utilizing a Link-Belt Lattice Boom Crawler crane and a team of seven ironworkers and two crane operators.

“It’s a lot of moving parts,” shared Ryan Foeppel, Crane & Rigging’s supervisor of operations. “First, they pick up the concrete cask from its staged location and move it over to the leveling platform. Then they grab the TICA (Transport Insertion Curtain Assembly) and place it inside the VCC. After that, they grab a TSC (Transportable

*Cont’d*

“The folks we have working on this project all bring a wealth of experience to the job. We wanted to assemble a team we knew would be able to work well together to resolve any issues that come up.”

– Ryan Foeppel, Crane & Rigging supervisor

Storage Container), tip it upright so it’s vertical and then slip it down into the VCC through the TICA.”

The TSCs weigh nearly 16,000 lbs. each, while the VCCs each weigh approximately 134,000 lbs.

Currently, the capsules filled with cesium and strontium are stored under 13 feet of water inside WESF. CPCCo will begin transferring the capsules into the large concrete casks sometime next year for storage on a secure concrete pad near the facility. Dry storage will eliminate the possibility of a release of radioactive material in the unlikely event of a loss of water in the basin, and subsequent overheating and breach of the capsules.



Crews carefully lower a Transportable Storage Container into the concrete cask, through the Transport Insertion Curtain Assembly. The TICA will house equipment that will be used to monitor the capsules stored inside.

## ONE HANFORD

### Radiological Site Services Maintains DOELAP Accreditation

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

A DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) onsite review was recently conducted as the final step in the three-year accreditation process for internal dosimetry. Our Radiological Site Services team maintains the required accreditation for both the internal and external dose monitoring programs for the Hanford Site, an achievement that's been continuous since the Site's first accreditation for radiobioassay in 1999!

During the accreditation cycle, DOELAP conducts performance testing, reviews program documentation, and conducts an onsite assessment. "This is a thorough review of our program," said Darci Teel, senior vice president for Mission Assurance. "I'm proud of our team's ongoing commitment to achieving this milestone."

For the RSS program, DOELAP conducts three types of performance testing using "blind" samples, meaning only DOELAP knows the quantity of activity in each. RSS receives irradiated dosimeters and blind samples from DOELAP for processing. RSS reports the results for each dosimeter and sample received and the program is graded pass/fail on the accuracy of the dose measured. The assessors also review procedures, quality assurance plans and other program documents before conducting the onsite visit.



The DOELAP onsite assessment opening meeting. (Clockwise from top) Don Stewart, HMIS RSS manager, Myra Long, DOELAP assessor, United Cleanup Oakridge, Rob Jones, DOELAP assessor, Oakridge National Laboratory, Erick Scheerer, DOE-RL, Ken Kawabata, DOE-RL, LaVonne Stamper, HMIS In Vivo technical lead, Cheryl Antonio, HMIS Internal Dosimetry technical lead, Kelly Crandall, DOELAP Assessor, Savannah River Site.

While on Site, the DOELAP team, comprised of experts in the industry from around the DOE complex, go through lines of inquiry looking for evidence of the RSS program's function. The review team looks at training, work processes and record keeping to ensure the program is doing what it says it is doing.

The RSS team (which has three qualified DOELAP assessors itself) is responsible for about 10,000 personnel and 300 ring dosimeters, 7,500 whole body and chest counts, and 9,000 excreta analyses annually. Knowing the program is operating to DOE's performance and quality assurance standards is critical for the health and safety of our workforce. "Achieving the accreditation means there is integrity behind our numbers," shared Tim Armstrong, Quality Assurance project manager for RSS. "We continually review standards and make quality improvements to keep up the accreditation."

## HMIS FAMILY



Volunteers sorting through 12,000 pounds of pears to be distributed by Second Harvest.

### Helping Feed our Community

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

Thank you to all the HMIS employees, along with their family members, who volunteered at Second Harvest Tri-Cities. Over 20 volunteers sorted more than 12,000 pounds of pears! This will help provide 10,000 meals to families in our region.

HMIS has a longstanding partnership with Second Harvest, supporting their Bite 2 Go program, Thanksgiving Turkey Drive and more. And the HMIS Family is unmatched when we show up to volunteer – always going above and beyond!



HMIS employees and family members celebrate their volunteer efforts.



### Employees Help Select Junior Youth of the Year

As part of our sponsorship of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin Counties' Youth of the Year program, HMIS has the opportunity to help mentor and judge the contestants at all levels. The Club recently announced this year's winner of the Junior (middle school) Youth of the Year – Joseph from Prosser! Thank you to employees Lorie Blehm and Mike Winkel who served as judges for the Junior YOY competition – they were very impressed getting to know these young leaders!