



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

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SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

HANFORD MISSION
HMiS
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MISSION: READINESS

Readiness is not just about being prepared for today; it is about anticipating the challenges of tomorrow.

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



As we continue our critical role in supporting the Hanford Site cleanup mission, I want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of readiness in our daily operations. Our commitment to preparedness is crucial in ensuring the safety, security and success of our team and the community we serve.

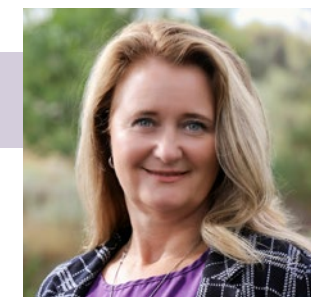
Whether we are adding physical infrastructure, building a new fire station, getting a new tractor for biological controls or improving our comprehensive training programs, like active shooter training and cybersecurity threat detection, being prepared is at the heart of everything we do.

Readiness is not just about being prepared for today; it is about anticipating the challenges of tomorrow. I am proud of the proactive measures we are taking and the collective commitment of our team to uphold the highest standards of safety and security.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work. Together, we will continue to build a culture of readiness that supports the cleanup mission and ensures the success of HMIS and the Hanford Site.

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5 MINUTES WITH NICOLE ZAWADZKI



Let's spend a few minutes with HAMMER National Programs Manager Nicole Zawadzki. Before coming to Hanford, she worked in the Alaska oil fields; and in her 20s, her original career aspiration was to be a pre-school teacher... which she may go back to someday after retirement.

1. What made you want to be a leader?

I had some amazing women who were leaders in my life who made a difference and believed in me. People like Karen McGinnis and Mary Brown. They encouraged me to help support others, especially to pay it forward to other young women in the workplace. I enjoy passing on what was given to me and encouraging people to live outside their ideas of themselves.

2. What does this month's theme, "readiness," mean to you?

It's an essential part of what I do with the Emergency Support Function #12 Team. It's like being a good Girl Scout – we have to think through all the possibilities and prepare for the worst-case scenario while hoping we never need to implement it. I'm a planner by nature, which helps in my role preparing programs and procedures for federal agencies. We help get the team ready so they know what to do BEFORE an incident happens and they can hit the ground running.

3. What do you do in your free time?

Read! I also enjoy gardening and, now that my kids are in their 20s and doing their own thing, I'm discovering other activities to fill my time. I like staying physically active and traveling for fun, not just work. My husband and I just celebrated our 28th anniversary with a trip to Montana – I'd never been there!

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

I keep a lot of motivational quotes posted by my desk. I'll turn the lights off, close the door and say words of positive affirmation to calm myself and not react emotionally to situations. We also have nice paths for walking on the HAMMER campus if I need a quick reset.

5. What's your bucket list travel location?

I lived in Scotland for a year when I was 16 and I'd love to go back and take my daughters. Or just go to the beach and do nothing but read!

RAPID FIRE

EARLY BIRD	NIGHT OWL
SUMMER	WINTER



STEPS graduates, front row (from left): Andrew Shupe, Scott Davis, Kristina Zuhlke, Ryan Foeppel, Chris Cope, Kenny Oldford, Jared Nolan and Shane Burkhead. Back row (from left): Diane Torres, Dana Klepper-Mitzel, Brianna Floyd, Tarrin Gojenola-Lee, Meagan Martinez, Veronica Andersen, Annette Fox, Mari Clark, Kerri Scott, Levi Mathews, Justin Didier and Thomas Beams. Not pictured: Dan Kooopsma and Christopher Derrick.

RECOGNITION

STEPS Program Readies New HMIS Leaders

Contributor: Shyanne Palmus

The Supporting Talent & Engaging Professionals for Success (STEPS) program is a transformative development initiative that focuses on three main areas: enhancing participants' current skills while cultivating new ones, fostering regular mentor/mentee relationships to support growth, and building inter-departmental relationships with both current and future leaders at Hanford.

As part of the program, participants collaborated on a group project presented to our executive leadership team. This year's class focused on improving communications throughout the company with a multi-faceted approach, including new micro-trainings, town halls and digital display enhancements.

Along with their mentors and executive leaders, participants celebrated their achievements at a graduation ceremony, marking the completion of their nine-month journey. Congratulations, graduates – we look forward to your leadership and contributions at HMIS!

RECOGNITION



The Historic Marches Nijmegen

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

Hanford Patrol's own Kyle Saltz recently represented both his community and country by completing the world-renowned Marches Nijmegen in the Netherlands, an event steeped in military history, camaraderie and perseverance.

Known as the "Four Days Marches" or "The Walk of the World," Marches Nijmegen is the largest multi-day walking event in the world. The event has taken place for more than a century and holds special meaning for American service members. Each day of the 100-mile challenge takes participants through historic towns, villages and battlefields where Allied forces fought during World War II.

 To submit an item for our Mission: Accomplished section, please email hmiscomm@rl.gov

For Saltz, a veteran paratrooper of the 82nd Airborne Division, the march was far more than a test of endurance; it was a personal mission to honor the legacy of those who liberated the Netherlands all those years ago.



Kyle reached the finished line and completed his mission.

Kyle's first attempt in 2006 was cut short due to extreme heat. It was one of the few times the event was canceled.

"This year was personal," Saltz explained. "Despite setbacks, I was determined to cross the finish line. I wanted to finish something I started 19 years ago."

Congratulations to Kyle for his inspiring accomplishment, his commitment to honoring history and for embodying the values of courage, resilience and service that define Hanford Patrol.



TEAM FOCUS: Paws on Patrol – Meet Hanford's K-9 Team

Contributor: MaryAnne Wuennecke

As much as we might like our individual jobs, it's hard to argue with Bryce Jackson when he claims that he has the BEST job at the Hanford Site. Manny Rodriguez and his fellow K-9 handlers would probably say the same. That's because Bryce, Manny and the other five members of the team get to work with dogs all day.

But it's not just about having a four-legged buddy join them on the job. The Hanford Patrol K-9 Unit, consisting of six handlers and their canine partners, plays a crucial role in maintaining the security and safety of the Site.

The K-9 Unit conducts nearly 150,000 searches annually, ensuring that no explosives or dangerous devices make their way onto the Site.

This includes visitors and all packages that come through the warehouse. "We do the due diligence to ensure that anybody trying to sabotage the Site won't succeed," said Rodriguez.

The team is always at the ready, with canines working 24/7 every day of the year. Their responsibilities also extend beyond Hanford, providing mutual aid to area law enforcement agencies for activities like gun searches and bomb threats; and supporting community events, such as the Ironman triathlon in Richland.

Training the dogs is a rigorous process. Bryce Jackson, the team's trainer, oversees a comprehensive program that includes roughly 800 training scenarios of explosive detection training a year ensuring they're ready to protect against any type of threat. Each dog is also thoroughly vetted for medical suitability and performance on a continuous basis.

Jackson says, "Seeing all the dogs interact and succeed in their tasks is incredibly rewarding. It really is the best job on Site."



Erik Bombard (left) and K-9 League with trainer Bryce Jackson (right) after successfully completing 400 hours of Explosive Detection canine training outlined by the Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Rodriguez adds, "It's so fulfilling to watch my dog find the training aids she's trained to detect. The bond we share is unlike any other."

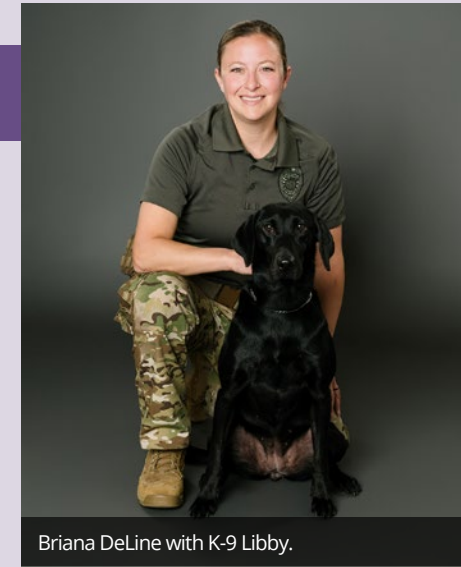
We appreciate the team's commitment to safety!



Erik Bombard with K-9 League.



Bill Conn with K-9 Basil.



Briana DeLine with K-9 Libby.



David Donovan with K-9 Freda.



Levi Glatt with K-9 Belle.



Manny Rodriguez with K-9 Dee.

MISSION: READINESS

Hunting Cyber Threats Before They Strike

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

When it comes to cybersecurity, waiting for an alarm to sound is not enough. This is why Hanford's Digital Forensics and Incident Response (DFIR) team is taking a bold, proactive approach with the new Threat Hunting program, a deliberate search for trouble on the networks.

What is Threat Hunting?

Threat hunting flips the usual security model. Instead of relying solely on automated alerts, skilled analysts actively comb through Hanford's networks, looking at over 10,000 devices, to uncover hidden risks.

"Imagine searching for breadcrumbs in a forest," said Joe Garry, Security Operations and Engineering manager. "Attackers often hide by using tools that are already on our systems. Our job is to spot those small clues before they turn into bigger issues."

Recent Focus: LOLBins

One recent hunt zeroed in on "Living Off the Land Binaries" (LOLBins). When hackers use legitimate tools, they can be hard to detect because they blend in with normal operations. By carefully planning hunts, collecting system logs, analyzing anomalies



Digital Forensics and Incident Response Team (from left): Zoran Djuric, Thomas Collette, John Shaw, Joe Garry, Daniel Johann, Corey Hopper and Ashlee Gonzales.

and validating findings against threat intelligence, the team can confirm there are no active LOLBins and can create new security alerts to guard against future attempts.

Collaboration Is Key

A hunt can last hours or weeks, depending on complexity, and no two are alike. The Threat Hunting Program started in 2023 and has since expanded to six DFIR specialists. While the team has not found an active threat in 50 hunts, they have stiffened our defenses with 14 new threat alerts as a result of uncovering vulnerabilities that could have gone unnoticed.

Why It Matters

Threat hunting is essential to layering defenses and keeping attackers out. As Garry explains, "No network can be completely secure, but the more difficult we make it for attackers, the more likely they'll give up and look elsewhere."

MISSION: READINESS

Enhanced Readiness Through Joint Training

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

Hanford Patrol and the Hanford Fire Department (HFD) came together for a joint training focused on improving response during active shooter scenarios and bridging gaps between fire and patrol operations, enhancing response efficiency and safety.

The training at the Patrol Training Academy was held over seven days and included classroom presentations and field exercises. The primary objective was to deepen the understanding of each team's roles and improve coordination of rescue teams during an incident. Each session aimed to include different patrol and fire personnel, to train as many responders as possible.



Hanford Fire personnel simulate recovery of a victim as part of the rescue team's role during joint training with Patrol.



Hanford Patrol neutralizes simulated threats during active shooter training with Hanford Fire.

Hanford Patrol training manager Ron Hayden emphasized the importance of the training, "Patrol and Fire partnered to design this training with a clear goal: strengthening readiness for active shooter scenarios. This exercise marked a significant step forward in preparedness and highlighted the importance of working together. Just as Fire relies on us, we rely on them—and training side by side enhances our readiness if or when an event occurs."

In the event of an active shooter, Patrol teams seek to neutralize threats and secure warm zones, or areas of no active threat, enabling HFD and medical teams to enter and provide critical care swiftly. Teams entering the warm zone include both patrol and fire/medical personnel and are known as rescue teams or the rescue task force.

Joint training among emergency responders is essential for ensuring the safety of the Hanford community, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and continuous improvement initiatives.

MISSION: READINESS



HMIS attendees (from left): Joey Carel, Kim Reynolds, Yolanda Olivera, Cassandra Lycett, Briana DeLine, Masha Sells and Daniel Saucedo.

VPPPA Symposium Highlights Innovative Solutions

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

HMIS recently attended the Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association (VPPPA) National Safety+ Symposium to learn about the newest safety and health tools for the workplace.

Highlights included the introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and services as well as tailoring stretches and injury prevention programs to workers' everyday tasks.

HMIS Leadership Meeting

Contributor: Patrick Conrad

More than 200 HMIS managers and supervisors came together last month to hear updates on a variety of topics including company milestones and successes, upcoming projects, funding outlooks and future badging requirements.

As a wrap up, President Amy Basche encouraged the team to be diligent in their day-to-day activities, citing that when it comes to safety, paying attention to the small things matter. Stay tuned for dates and times of upcoming all-employee meetings.

President Amy Basche addresses HMIS managers and supervisors.

ONE HANFORD

In With the New for Biological Controls

Contributor: Shane Edinger

You have to admit, 33 years is a pretty good career, even for a tractor. The Biological Controls team is tackling their work this fall with a brand-new Kubota M6-111 tractor, finally replacing a tractor that had been serving their needs since 1992.

"The old tractor was costing us so much in repairs," shared Michael Kinnison, HMIS' Biological Controls manager. "We would get it back from the shop and then go out and use it, and something else would break. We looked at the numbers and saw the repairs outweighed the cost of a new tractor. So, we pulled the trigger and ordered a new one."

The 114-horsepower tractor arrived in August, and the team spent a couple weeks going through the operations manual learning about everything it can do. They've been using it extensively to corral tumbleweeds along the 200 West and 200 East fence lines so they can be burned when the fire danger levels drop back to safer levels.

"We only have two tractors that can do that work, so when one of them is in the shop, it impacts how much we can do," Kinnison added. "With the new tractor, we should be able to catch up on our backlog."



Jose Renteria with Biological Controls prepares to start up the new tractor.

The new tractor can also be fitted with a 300-gallon spray tank to treat weeds along the rail line that serves Energy Northwest and at several other sites. Crews can also pull a haybuster behind the tractor to spread hay and cover up seeds on revegetation projects.

"The old tractor served us well, but it was time for a change," Kinnison said. "Hopefully we can get 30 years out of this one, too."

ONE HANFORD

Breaking Ground on a New Fire Station

Contributor: Shane Edinger

It's a project that's been talked about for more than a decade, and it finally took a big step forward this month. HMIS President Amy Basche and Hanford Fire Chief Nick Thomas welcomed several Hanford Field Office leaders for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction on a new Hanford Fire station.

"We've been working on this idea for a long time, and a lot of our teams have been involved in the process," Basche shared during the ceremony. "We couldn't have done it without the teamwork and dedication of everyone involved, and I'm so excited to see construction finally get underway."

The new, 22,000 square-foot fire station will be a single-story building that will house up to 12 firefighters, with vehicle bays to



From left: Tim Haddick, Hanford Field Office (HFO); Vanessa Turner, HFO; Brian Harkins, HFO; Nick Thomas, Hanford Fire Chief; Amy Basche, HMIS president; Brooks Payne, Fowler Construction president; and David Chase, HMIS.

support eight emergency response vehicles. It will be located less than a mile from the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, which is scheduled to begin hot commissioning in October.

"The ability to respond quickly and effectively during emergencies is essential to our mission," said Hanford Fire Chief Nick Thomas. "This new station will bring our firefighters and emergency responders closer to where the work is happening, helping us protect Hanford's people and property, along with the environment."



This rendering shows what the newest Hanford Site fire station will look like after completion. Richland's Fowler Construction has already started mobilizing the team, with scheduled completion in spring 2027.

ONE HANFORD

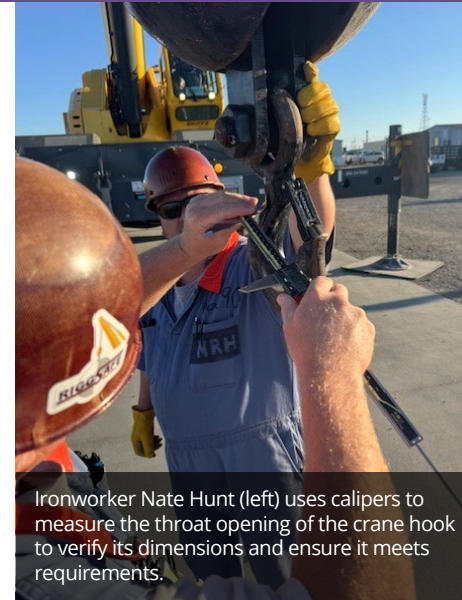
Crane & Rigging Hosts Crane Inspection Training

Contributor: Shane Edinger

As part of their responsibility to maintain Hanford's mobile crane fleet, the Crane & Rigging team must continually inspect the cranes they manage. To help handle that workload, the team recently held a 30-hour crane inspection training course to get more employees qualified as crane inspectors.

A group of eight – two crane operators, four ironworkers and two mechanics – completed the three-day course taught by RiggSafe Solutions. The classroom portion of the training covered records and history file requirements, as well as the standards established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the **Hanford Site Hoisting and Rigging Manual**.

Each student had to pass a 50-question written test and then perform a hands-on crane inspection with the instructor observing and evaluating their performance.



Ironworker Nate Hunt (left) uses calipers to measure the throat opening of the crane hook to verify its dimensions and ensure it meets requirements.



Ironworker Jason Hemperly measures the diameter of the main hoist wire as part of the crane inspection process.

"It's important to get a majority of our team members qualified as crane inspectors," shared John Alley, Crane & Rigging's Field Operations manager. "Manufacturers require these inspections every time one of their cranes is used, as well as monthly and annual inspections. So, the more people we have qualified as crane inspectors, the faster we can get our work packages signed off and get those crews out in the field."

The certification needs to be renewed every five years. Alley says about 75% of C&R's ironworkers have completed the crane inspection training, and all but two crane operators are qualified. The others will go through the training either later this year or early next year.

"Getting recertified every five years is really important," Alley added. "It ensures everyone stays current with any new requirements or changes to the guidelines, especially as new technology gets introduced."

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Supporting the Wishing Star Foundation

HMIS was proud to be an elite sponsor for the Wishing Star Foundation's annual fundraiser!

This year's event raised over \$80,000 to support Wishing Star's mission to provide hope to children and families facing life-threatening illnesses. Thank you to all the HMIS employees who attended!!



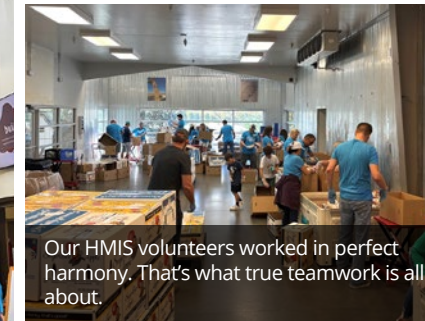
HMIS FAMILY



Our HMIS Family is proud to partner with Second Harvest.



Michael Mejia and his sons representing next generation of HMIS volunteers!



Our HMIS volunteers worked in perfect harmony. That's what true teamwork is all about.



Jasmine and Mireya Morales volunteering with a smile!

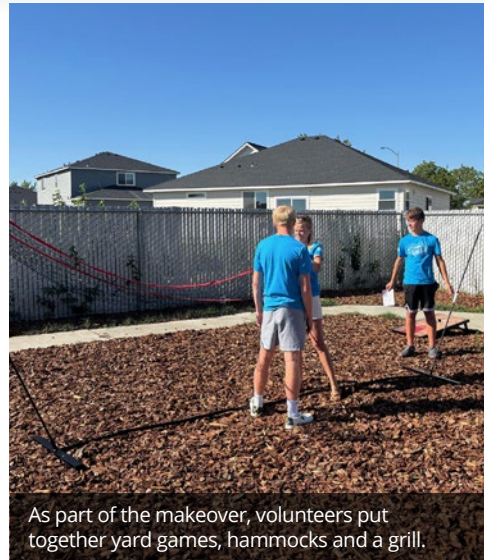
Feeding Our Community, One Box at a Time

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

What an amazing day of service! Our HMIS volunteer team joined forces with Second Harvest Tri-Cities and, in just a few short hours, packaged over 11,000 meals for families in our community.

We are so proud of our HMIS Family volunteers who continue to show up with compassion and dedication.

A big thank you to Second Harvest for their tireless work every single day. We're grateful to support their mission and are already looking forward to the next opportunity!



As part of the makeover, volunteers put together yard games, hammocks and a grill.



Volunteers put together patio furniture.

Backyard Makeover for Local Teens

Contributor: Dustin Arbogast

We are a proud partner of Safe Harbor Support Center's flagship program, "My Friends Place," which provides housing and resources for teens in need. HMIS proudly sponsored a backyard makeover with a \$10,000 donation.

HMIS volunteers also brought out their tools to help transform the new space. The project created a safe, welcoming and enjoyable outdoor space where teens can relax, have fun and build positive memories.

The logo consists of the letters 'HMiS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'H' is stylized with a horizontal bar extending to the left. The 'M' and 'S' are also stylized with thick strokes. The 'i' is lowercase and positioned between the 'M' and 'S'.

HMiS

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