



National Nuclear Security Administration **Y-12 Site Office News Release**

News Media Contact:
Steven Wyatt (865) 576-9918

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Y-12 DEPLOYS FIRST AUTOMATED SECURITY WEAPON SYSTEM IN THE DOE NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX

Oak Ridge, Tenn. -- The National Nuclear Security Administration today announced that the first automated security weapons system within the U.S. Department of Energy Nuclear Weapons Complex has been deployed at the Y-12 National Security Complex. The use of the technology provides a significant improvement in the level of security for the Oak Ridge facility.

The new system, known as the Remotely Operated Weapon System, or ROWS, is an automated weapons platform used to protect special nuclear materials at Y-12. The system is operated by a Security Police Officer stationed in a remote location using video cameras and electronic controls.

Jerry Paul, Principle Deputy Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, said, "The application of new technology is an essential part of our plan to providing the security necessary to protect important national assets such as Y-12. We are very pleased with the deployment of this technology, which dramatically increases the security of sensitive facilities at Y-12. We expect that this and other security related technologies also will be applied to other key nuclear weapons production and research facilities across the nation."

Paul visited Oak Ridge today to participate in tours and briefings on Y-12 programs, missions and modernization activities, including the plant's role in U.S. nuclear nonproliferation activities. In addition to serving as the Principle Deputy Administrator, Paul also is serving as acting Deputy Administrator of the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation.

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In his remarks at a demonstration of the ROWS at the Oak Ridge Central Training Facility, Paul noted that the application of new technologies reflects an innovative and aggressive approach to security. “Y-12 and other NNSA facilities across the country have made dramatic improvements in safeguards and security. We are very pleased with the results of the recent assessment of security at Y-12 that was performed by the DOE Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance.”

The ROWS was deployed at Y-12 earlier this summer. The technology was developed by Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico. Wackenhut Services – Oak Ridge, BWXT Y-12 and the Y-12 Site Office coordinated the deployment of this new security weapons system.

Also as part of his tour at Y-12, Paul visited the construction site for the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF), which currently is over 33 percent complete. Paul said, “Modernization and materials consolidation programs being led by BWXT Y-12 will lead to additional levels of security and cost effectiveness. The construction and operation of HEUMF and the Uranium Processing Facility are essential to achieving this goal.”

Y-12 is a key part of the national Nuclear Weapons Complex. It manufactures parts from uranium and other special materials, specializing in the second stage of warheads. Y-12 also is responsible for the disassembly of warhead components and recycling of usable materials. It is the nation’s storehouse for weapons-usable special nuclear material.

Established by Congress in 2000, NNSA is a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear energy. NNSA maintains and enhances the safety, security, reliability and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear testing; works to reduce global danger from weapons of mass destruction; provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion; and responds to nuclear and radiological emergencies in the U.S. and abroad.

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