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**NNSS Aviation Professionals Win Top Honors from Department of Energy**

**Las Vegas, Nevada**—The Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Aviation Program has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy as Aviation Program of the Year for 2016. Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) Chief of Maintenance Dave Krausnick has been awarded Aviation Professional of the Year, it was announced last week in Washington D.C.

With the award, the aviation team was recognized for being the most outstanding, safest, and most efficient and effective in all aspects of the flight program. The NNSS Aviation Program is responsible for helicopters and fixed wing aircraft that conduct an array of special missions, ranging from aerial surveillance for radiological threats during major events around the world to aerial monitoring for consequence management to wildland firefighting operations at the NNSS. RSL's aviators also were called on to help in an advisory capacity during the 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster in Japan. The aircraft are based out of Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas and Joint Base Andrews in Maryland.

Krausnick was recognized as the top professional in DOE Aviation whose operational skills and accomplishments contributed in the most outstanding manner to improving and sustaining the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of the NNSS Aviation Program, said Richard Fischer, Aviation Section Manager at RSL.

"I am exceptionally proud of this accomplishment on behalf of our whole Aviation Team which includes our pilots, mechanics, operations and administrative staff, and our Aviation Safety and Management Team within NSTec and the Nevada Field Office (NFO)," Fischer said. "This is the result of a true team effort from an extraordinary group of talented professionals who are exceptionally dedicated and represent the best aviation professionals in all of the Department of Energy. Each and every member of our team brings value to our operation and customer, and this award reflects recognition of your truly outstanding efforts."

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For many years, the RSL program has been noted as one of the nation's most prestigious programs for excellence and innovation in aviation management and administration, operations, maintenance, training and safety. RSL's aviation program also was recognized for more than 18 consecutive years of operations without an accident or incident, and several RSL team members have received numerous individual safety achievement awards.

NSTec manages operations at the NNSS and its related facilities and laboratories for the National Nuclear Security Administration/NFO. NSTec teams with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories on many national security programs. NSTec also works on projects for other federal agencies, as it fulfills its national security missions.



*RSL Aviation Chief of Maintenance Dave Krausnick*