NEVADA NATIONAL NNSS SECURITY SITES

Global Security

Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST) Nevada Training Complex (NNTC)

Introduction

The Nevada National Security Sites (NNSS) is home to the Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST) Nevada Training Complex (NNTC), a multi-mission, multi-hazard venue supporting NEST and strategic partners. Its purpose: Provide the nation with an enduring, robust and flexible training capability enabling the highest level of readiness for elite professionals performing the counterterrorism-counterprolifera-tion (CTCP) mission.

The team of technical specialists are the nation's go-to experts for all types of nuclear events, from detecting and defeating nuclear devices to mitigating the effects of radiological incidents around the globe.

History

NNTC began as the Radiological/Nuclear Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Complex (RNCTEC), designed for nuclear detection test and evaluation with a unique capability to use special nuclear materials. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the goal of the program was to improve the country's ability to detect and intercept nuclear payloads intended for illicit use. RNCTEC helped federal agencies develop these capabilities for U.S. points of entry including border crossings, toll plazas and bridges.

Prototyping for National Security

As the DHS program ended, NNSS began the RNCTEC transition from testing to training. NNSS scientists and national laboratory partners repurposed RNCTEC facilities to support the Enhanced Staging Program (ESP), making it a prototyping facility for workers handling nuclear materials, allowing them to develop, verify, validate and troubleshoot operational procedures, and to evaluate equipment. Here, NNSS scientists and engineers practice receiving and handling drums, verifying measurements and staging material on a complex rack system.

As part of the ESP prototype, NNSS established the Remote Monitoring System (RMS) as a testbed to allow scientists to access facility temperature data from any location where there is access to the company network. The RMS allows personnel to view temperature graphs, generate queries, answer alerts and perform other related functions. The new system empowers personnel with information to know whether it is safe to enter a room or building.

Transformation to NNTC

ESP improvements to the facilities made RNCTEC a viable alternative as an enduring training capability for CTCP. Recent additional strategic investments are quickly transforming the NNTC into the premier site for training and exercises using high-fidelity test objects containing special nuclear material. This capability provides NEST and strategic partner teams a unique opportunity to benchmark their instruments. They can then perform an emergency response type event to test their procedures and validate the performance of their systems. This ability to train with actual special nuclear materials in a safe and secure environment is extraordinarily valuable to U.S. national security.

NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration

For more information, visit:

www.nnss.gov

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