Issued on March 15, 2018

DOE-ID Operations Summary
For the Period October 1, 2017- December 31, 2017

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The following is a summary of contractor operations at the Idaho National Laboratory Site, managed by the DOE- Idaho Operations Office. It has been compiled in response to a request from stakeholders for more information on health, safety and environmental incidents at DOE facilities in Idaho. It also includes a brief summary of accomplishments at the Site. POC: Danielle Miller, (208) 526-5709.*

Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP)

October 11: While paving a roadway leading into an asphalt storage area at Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center, a worker smoothing the asphalt passing over a culvert stepped backward tripping over the culvert headwall and falling into a concrete drainage ditch. The worker was immediately taken to the Central Facilities Area medical facility for evaluation. The worker was released back to work with some temporary work restrictions. The worker was wearing the proper Personnel Protective Equipment; hard hat, safety glasses, leather gloves, and leather boots when the incident occurred. [EM-ID--FID-ICPWM-2017-0002]

Notable Accomplishments: **Site contractors contribute over $668,000 to United Way and nonprofit organizations in eastern Idaho:** Employees of the U.S. Department of Energy's two largest contractors in Idaho provided more than $668,000 in contributions to three regional United Way offices for the coming year. United Way organizations and nonprofit agencies throughout eastern Idaho will receive the donations.

Battelle Energy Alliance, which manages and operates Idaho National Laboratory, and many of its 4,200 employees have pledged $354,644 to United Way offices and agencies.

Employees participated in several fundraising events and an online auction that also brought in nearly $35,000. INL employees contributed nearly $17,000 in additional funds to 33 other nonprofits as part of their write-in option in the campaign. This year's total includes a BEA $55,000 donation, which will be shared among United Way offices in Idaho Falls, Pocatello and Twin Falls based on the percentage of INL employees residing in each United Way region.

"This year, we asked volunteers from each of our divisions to visit United Way-supported agencies. They were able to see firsthand the incredible work those agencies perform to change the lives of those in our communities. These volunteers were then able to share with their co-workers the impact of their contributions," said Ron Crone, INL associate laboratory director and United Way campaign champion. "We are very passionate about United Way and the important services the agencies they support provide to our communities. It was a very successful campaign. Our employees are very generous; they stepped up and raised $406,204, beating our goal by over $11,000."

Fluor Idaho, which manages the environmental cleanup work at DOE's Idaho site, and its 1,800 employees, pledged more than $207,000. "Some of the Fluor Idaho employees had an

opportunity to tour local United Way agencies and learn more about their missions," said Fluor Idaho Environment, Safety and Health Director Alice Doswell, who served as Fluor Idaho's United Way campaign champion. "The employees then shared that information with their co-workers, creating a much better understanding of how much United Way accomplishes in our community."

Fluor Idaho Program Manager Fred Hughes also referenced a Fluor corporate commitment to United Way: "Like our employees, Fluor is committed to supporting United Way, and it's more than just words," Hughes said. "Fluor matched the employee contributions by 50 cents on the dollar, adding $64,000 to our campaign. Fluor Idaho appreciates the contributions made by all the employees and companies who are great private and corporate citizens, working to improve the quality of life we can all enjoy."

Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

October 5: While moving a Transient Reactor Test Facility fuel assembly to a new core location, a small hole was identified in the fuel cladding. Contamination surveys were taken, and the contamination level was determined to be 90,000 disintegrations per minutes per 100 square centimeters beta/gamma. The fuel was removed from the core and will remain in safe storage. [NE-ID--BEA-TREAT-2017-0001]

October 27: A seal on the latch side of a confinement door at the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) detached from the door and was discovered on the floor. The ATR Maintenance organization was requested to troubleshoot and repair the door. [NE-ID--BEA-ATR-2017-0045]

October 30: A DOE Facility Representative discovered a partially open door to an electrical control cabinet and notified the Hot Fuel Examination Facility (HFEF) facility management. A status review found that communication line installation activities performed in the spring of 2016 left portions of the electrical control cabinet in a modified and noncompliant condition. The control cabinet was removed from service. [NE-ID--BEA-HFEF-2017-0002]

October 31: The Advanced Test Reactor Lobe Power Calculating and Indicating System was declared inoperable in response to apparent erroneous indication from one of its channels. [NE-ID--BEA-ATR-2017-0046]

October 31: Following a review, it was determined that a network and system engineer at the Materials and Fuels Complex had performed work on a network cable connection without the proper work controls in place (hazards not properly mitigated).
[NE-ID--BEA-MFC-2017-0008]

November 1: The closure mechanism for a latch on a confinement door at the Advanced Test Reactor failed. The ATR Maintenance organization was requested to troubleshoot and repair the closure mechanism. [NE-ID--BEA-ATR-2017-0047]

November 15: A 15 inch diameter section of air ducting, weighing over 35 lbs. fell from its installed location within a Research and Education Campus facility. There was no one in the immediate vicinity when the section dislodged and there was no damage to any equipment located in the facility. [NE-ID--BEA-STC-2017-0004]

November 22: Work was performed on an overhead door at the Idaho National Laboratory Security System Laboratory building, without the proper Lockout and Tagout procedure in place. [NE-ID--BEA-STC-2017-0005]

Notable Accomplishments: **Veterans play a vital role in fulfilling INL's clean energy and national security missions:** Idaho National Laboratory is a large and diverse enterprise. The laboratory employs more than 4,200 people who are engaged in a variety of tasks that support INL's clean energy and national security missions.

These include:

- protecting the nation's critical infrastructure, dams, power grid, transportation and water systems, and making them more resilient against cyberattacks;
- extending the lives of the nation's nuclear reactor fleet and conducing the research and development necessary to enable the next generation;
- helping farmers turn agricultural waste into electricity;
- powering NASA missions to Mars and Pluto;
- expanding battery life so electric vehicles can cover more miles between charges.

At the laboratory, however, there is one human constant. You see them at office buildings in town and throughout INL's 890-square-mile desert site. They conduct experiments, administer programs, protect sensitive materials, put out fires and maintain and repair equipment. They are the many U.S. military veterans employed by INL.

"Our veterans play a vital role at Idaho National Laboratory," said INL Director Mark Peters. "Soldiers are smart, disciplined, value teamwork and possess a strong sense of patriotism. Given the importance of INL's clean energy and national security mission to our nation, veterans are an ideal fit."

Throughout the decades, thousands of soldiers have made strong contributions to the Department of Energy's Idaho site. What follows is a look at three veterans who are continuing a tradition of service that dates back to INL's beginnings:

Finding her place

Roya Gordon found herself in a difficult spot, one common to veterans as they attempt to transition from military to civilian life.

Gordon joined the U.S. Navy straight out of high school, and became an intelligence specialist, protecting the nation against enemies who operate in the shadows.

Six years in the Navy left Gordon desiring additional education and she earned a degree in international relations and a master's in global affairs with an emphasis in cybersecurity.

At that point, Gordon had to make a decision. It was time to choose a career path. And like so many veterans, she struggled. None of the jobs she tried seemed to motivate her. The passion she felt serving her nation could not be replicated in a typical 9-to-5 setting.

"It's just kind of hard to find your place," she said.

She considered reenlisting in the Navy. At that point, however, she found her way, at a national laboratory in a state about as far away – geographically and culturally – from her native Florida as possible.

Gordon joined INL's fastest-growing directorate, National and Homeland Security. She and her colleagues help protect the nation's power grids and other critical infrastructure against manmade and natural threats.

As seen in the Ukraine right before Christmas in 2015, a cyberattack against a power grid is no longer a far-fetched notion. And a successful one would have very real economic, safety and security consequences.

This is being recognized by policymakers at the federal and state levels. In 2016, Idaho legislators created a cyber lab, housed at Boise State University, to train the next generation of cyber experts. That effort will be assisted by another legislative decision, during the 2017 session, to create the Cybercore Integration Center on the INL campus in Idaho Falls.

Protecting her friends, neighbors and community is what motivates Gordon every day, not unlike when she served her countrymen in the Navy.

"I like my co-workers, managers and mission," Gordon said. "It's something that matters and is important to people, kind of like when I was in the military."

Gordon has even become accustomed to something she never experienced in Florida: those mornings when the car windshield requires scraping and you duck walk across the parking lot to avoid ending up on your back.

A young woman who came to Idaho in November with no boots or coat hit the ski slopes, attended a Utah Jazz game and journeyed through Yellowstone Park.

"This is becoming a place that I call home," she said.

Sweating the small stuff

Attention to detail is Glade Wilding's thing. Ask him how long he has worked at INL's Advanced Test Reactor and you hear: "Ten years, on Oct. 1."

Ask next about the length of his service in the U.S. Air Force and Wilding does not hesitate: "Twenty-four years, two months and 19 days," he answers.

It's a good thing that Wilding sweats the small stuff because, in his military and civilian duties, there always has been a lot on the line.

In the Air Force, Wilding attained the rank of master sergeant, and had 63 people working under him when he retired.

His crew was in charge of the electronics on aircraft, making sure pilots could depend upon such vital tools as flight control computers, radar systems, jamming equipment, and friend or foe identification systems.

After retiring from the Air Force, Wilding didn't ease into a swivel chair and cubicle. Instead he got fitted for anti-contamination clothing.

Wilding is a process operator at ATR. When scientists and engineers need something done physically with the reactor – starting up or shutting down a system, or valve testing – Wilding is one of the people they call in to complete the task.

"There is no margin for error," Wilding said. "We had no margin for error in the Air Force, either."

Wilding's work still has a military connection. The Navy is ATR's primary customer and its aircraft carriers and submarines go for two decades and longer without refueling because of testing conducted at the reactor. That saves taxpayers millions of dollars and ensures that the Navy's best and most capable are patrolling the seas and not sitting in port waiting to be refueled.

As was the case with Gordon, the transition from military to civilian life was not always easy for Wilding.

"When I came here, I was low man on the totem pole," he said. "It was an adjustment, let's put it that way."

An adjustment that has been helped by coming home. A native of nearby Mud Lake, Wilding's Air Force career took him and his family to Illinois, South Dakota, Texas, Colorado, South Korea and Germany. But when his children decided to attend Ricks College (now Brigham Young University-Idaho), Wilding came full circle.

"It's been good to be back," he said. "And I've really enjoyed my time at INL."

Protect and serve

Paul Marley has been an INL security police officer for nine years. These are the folks who secure nuclear materials at facilities on the laboratory's 890-square-mile site.

That results in lots of vehicle time, securing perimeters, talking to INL employees, making sure all is as it should be at the nation's lead nuclear research and development laboratory.

Marley's relationship with the military predates his INL employment, and continues today. The Pocatello resident has been a member of the Idaho Army National Guard for 19 years.

Volunteers of this reserve national force hold civilian jobs and are trained to defend their nation. They can be activated by the governor in response to man-made or national disasters.

"A lot of things cross over with each other," Marley said of his two jobs.

That, of course, includes weapons proficiency. Interestingly, Marley said his near decade at INL has improved his marksmanship.

“I think I got a lot better at it working at INL,” he said. “There are some of the best instructors in the world at the lab. You might not guess that, but it’s true.”

One thing Marley never worries about is getting the time off he needs to fulfill his guard duties. As a federal installation, with direct and indirect ties to the military, INL and its leadership team understand and respect this commitment.

“They’ve made it really easy on me,” Marley said. “There have been zero complaints. My bosses are fully supportive of my military commitments.”

Editor’s Note: This article originally appeared in the November/December 2017 issue of Idaho Falls Magazine on page 48.