

Newsline Director's column Introducing Integrated Safeguards and Security Management

Great science and security can and must work together to effectively carry out LLNL's mission. Security issues touch upon almost every aspect of our work including proper protection of classified material, information and computer networks, proprietary and sensitive data, and export control items. Our scientific and technical vision depends upon each employee's commitment to excellence in protecting our varied vital assets.

General John Gordon, administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, said as much when calling for a blending of science and security during his recent visit here for Science Day. He was not suggesting a balance between science and security, but a blending of the two. Both issues must operate at optimum levels. Balance would imply a compromise on both sides, thus hindering both sides.

To accomplish this, General Gordon called for the implementation of an Integrated Safeguards and Security Management (ISSM) approach to security management within the complex. His goal is to effectively integrate safeguards and security into management and work practices at all levels so missions are accomplished securely.

The Office of the University President, LANL Director John Brown, and I have committed to successfully implement an ISSM system. ISSM is now a specific performance measure in the new management contract between DOE and the University. Two years have been scheduled for the ISSM development and implementation process.

Prior to announcing ISSM, General Gordon called for a six-month moratorium on the implementation of new safeguards and security policy. This will allow time to review past policies, identify improvements and determine the best approach to effectively implement ISSM.

To introduce you to ISSM, a Laboratory booklet will be distributed at the end of this month. The booklet will provide more detail on ISSM including principles and functions, drivers for implementation, and what will be asked of employees. It will include a memorandum from General Gordon to all NNSA Contractor employees explaining the importance of ISSM. Also, resources for further information will be provided such as directorate ISSM Points of Contact and Websites to help answer questions. Feedback mechanisms will be explained so employees can voice concerns and offer ideas.

My expectation is that our ISSM will integrate security into work activities in a cost effective and value-added way. It will help define expectations as needed for our work and provide better tools to aid us all in meeting those expectations.

I believe, through ISSM, the Laboratory will be able to fulfill its national security mission while protecting its information and materials. This is an expectation of our stakeholders and customers, specifically Congress, the Department of Energy and the University of California.

ISSM, like Integrated Safety Management (ISM), will operate on a series of functions specified by NNSA to ensure work is done securely. ISSM focuses on improving existing systems and expanding individual awareness. The ISSM focus is on ownership of security issues through appropriate knowledge, skills and abilities. Detailed procedures based on the five ISSM functions will not be required at the activity level.

Managers and supervisors are responsible under ISSM for ensuring employees understand institutional security expectations and that security is appropriately integrated into their work. At the same time, each of us must understand what needs to be protected and why, and where we can turn to ask questions and obtain answers when we are unsure.

I am asking for every employee's continuous support and commitment to building greater security into our scientific endeavors. This will enhance the overall effort of our national security mission and maintain the confidence of our stakeholders.