FEBRUARY 2025

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

# SRNS Today

## Fishing for information

New electrofishing boat strengthens environmental monitoring efforts


**SCAN ME**
to connect with
our social media

## This month

SRTE hatch removal • Engineering events • Donation helps USC Salkehatchie Forensics

**Dennis Carr**
SRNS President and CEO

**On the cover**
Environmental Monitoring Specialists John Arena and Trey Anderson test the waters on the new-and-improved electrofishing boat.

# Welcome

to the February 2025 edition of

# SRNS Today

I'd like to take a moment to reflect on our shared achievements in upholding our commitment to nuclear deterrence, national security and environmental stewardship—key drivers of our ongoing success.

We achieved a milestone with the removal of the 42,000-pound equipment hatch at Tritium's H Area New Manufacturing Production Facility. Removing the hatch enables replacing mission-essential components in the nitrogen system, directly supporting our mission deliverables to produce tritium—a key component of the nuclear stockpile.

Also, SRPPF has completed the relocation of underground electrical utilities, marking progress towards plutonium pit production and supporting startup of the facility that will enhance our nation's nuclear deterrence and defense capabilities. In addition, the SRNS Extended Reality Team developed an augmented reality tour of the SRPPF High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center's future layout and capabilities.

The Environmental Monitoring Operations team has strengthened the Site's environmental monitoring efforts with a state-of-the-art electrofishing boat. This resource enhances our ability to protect public health and ensures that Site operations do not impact local water sources, reinforcing our environmental responsibility.

Lastly, in support of workforce development and STEM engagement, the SRNS Engineering Department hosted the 2025 Engineering Job Fair, focusing on hiring individuals with STEM backgrounds to support our critical missions.

These initiatives exemplify our collective dedication to NNSA and EM Missions.

Please enjoy this issue of SRNS Today.

Dennis Carr

Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS℠

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com

COMMON ACRONYMS
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE)
National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) • Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF)
Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) • science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)

On Jan. 30, SRTE achieved a major milestone with the successful removal of the H Area New Manufacturing (HANM) equipment hatch.

# Removal of the HANM equipment hatch

## SRTE successfully achieves critical lift in support of mission deliverables

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) recently achieved a major milestone with the successful removal of a 42,000-pound equipment hatch used as an access point for lifting oversized equipment into and out of Tritium's H Area New Manufacturing (HANM) production facility. The removal of the hatch allowed for the replacement of critical components involved in the facility's hot and cold nitrogen system that supports Tritium's mission needs and production directives.

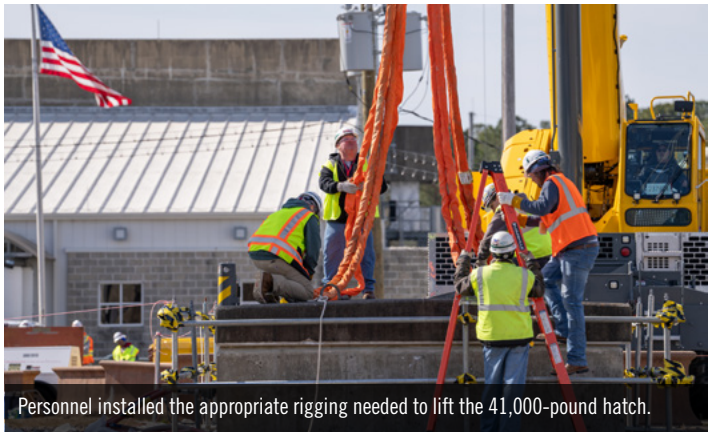
Last removed in 2001, the pull required a considerable amount of planning and coordination from various working groups across the Tritium complex. This included extensive ventilation testing in an operating nuclear facility. In addition, workers assembled a 165-ton crane on-site and then brought it into the area to remove and install the equipment in the underground facility. Replacement equipment included chillers, compressors and various other components stored at the Savannah River Site A Area and N Area, transported by rigging and construction workers.

"This was an amazing effort by everyone involved. The team performed detailed planning for over two years to prepare for this critical evolution," said Tritium Operations and CY25 Project Owner Chris Garnett. "During the lift, personnel worked around the clock to perform the pull and to return the facility to normal operational status a week ahead of schedule."

The lift was conducted in support of SRTE's Calendar Year 2025 (CY25) Outage requiring the HANM facility to undergo a major equipment recapitalization ensuring Tritium efficiently continues its mission of producing high quality tritium products. The facility is expected to exit the outage and return to normal operations in December 2025.

"Thanks to the unwavering dedication and efforts involved, we were able to successfully lift the hatch—an evolution that has not been done in 23 years," said SRTE Senior Vice President, National Nuclear Security Administration Tritium Operations and Programs J.C. Epting. "This was a critical step in meeting our milestones set for the CY25 outage. The teams did an amazing job on executing the task safely, securely and ahead of schedule."

Operated by SRNS for the NNSA, SRTE prepares the nation's only tritium supply and HANM is critical to this enduring mission.



Personnel installed the appropriate rigging needed to lift the 41,000-pound hatch.

# Electrical relocation for SRPPF prep

The SRPPF Project completed relocation of underground electrical utilities to advance site preparation for the SRPPF complex.

Achieving this milestone is another important step in the Site's ability to begin producing plutonium pits for the NNSA. The SRPPF Project involves modifying Building 226-F into a modern pit production facility to support the nation's defense, and SRNS is working to accelerate project field work to deliver completion of SRPPF by 2032.

This effort was part of a major subproject encompassing the installation of underground utilities and standup of temporary construction infrastructure across seven Construction Work Areas on the SRPPF Project site. Early completion of this work during design maturation will minimize the impacts of overlapping work activities.

Completing this milestone involved executing an electrical outage for Building 706-5F on Nov. 1 as forecasted and without incident. Concrete pours for the electrical duct bank and equipment pad adjacent to 706-5F were completed, as well as utility pole modification. The effort concluded Nov. 22 with successful tie-in and re-energization of distribution equipment for Building 706-5F.

The existing underground electrical equipment was relocated due to its placement interfering with the start of the Sandfilter mass excavation scope for the project. A change to the execution strategy accelerated the relocation activities ahead of the Sandfilter excavation.

Workers pour concrete for the equipment pad near 706-5F.

Pictured are SRNS employees Pat Lira and Josiah Valenzuela, and Savannah River National Laboratory employees John Brookshire and Thomas Heuse.

# SRS hosts DOE Packaging Certification Program course

The SRNS Packaging and Transportation (P&T) Engineering division and Savannah River National Laboratory's (SRNL) Packaging Technology group recently hosted the DOE Package Certification Program, delivering a cutting-edge course in collaboration with Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The weeklong course, "Use of Certified Type B and Fissile Packages," was held at SRS and attracted experts from the SRS and SRNL workforce as well as Argonne, Oak Ridge and Idaho national laboratories, and NNSA. Type B and fissile packages are highly engineered shipping containers certified to transport high quantities of radioactive and fissile materials.

Safe packaging and transportation of materials is critical to the success of DOE operations. The DOE Environmental Management's Office of Packing and Transportation manages the Packaging Certification Program.

SRS Transportation Safety Basis Regulatory Authority Andrew Escobar was instrumental in bringing the program to SRS. He discussed the advantages of offering this training locally, addressing key needs for waste packaging users in areas like P&T procedure development, content evaluation and hands-on exercises.

"Since May 2023, I've been in talks with Los Alamos to bring this valuable training to SRS personnel, a strategic move to help decentralize expertise and reduce travel costs," said Escobar. "This course not only advances our technical capabilities at SRS but also reinforces the Site's commitment to cost effective solutions, employee retention and collaborative progress within the greater DOE complex."

Participants learned about the legal framework for transporting radioactive materials and operations within nuclear facilities. They also learned to systematically characterize radioactive materials, select compliant packaging and develop packaging procedures.

"This opportunity would not have been possible without the various organizations at SRNS identifying a need and thinking outside the box on how to improve," said Rich Zaharek, SRNS Senior Vice President, Chief Engineer and Nuclear Safety Officer. "To meet DOE and NNSA missions, we must continue to engage and educate the next generation of our workforce."

# Augmented Reality enhances HFTOC tours

The SRNS extended reality (XR) team has developed an augmented reality (AR) tour of the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility's (SRPPF) High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center (HFTOC). Led by XR Team Lead John Hart in the Operational Technology (OT) Advanced Initiatives group and XR Program Manager Jason Britt in the Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) Emerging Technologies group, the team created an immersive experience, offering a virtual glimpse into the future layout and functionality of the HFTOC, complete with gloveboxes, specialized equipment and operational workspaces.

"The HFTOC is an integral piece to the success of SRPPF," said Patrick Schneider, Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) Director of Pit Production. "Creating the AR tour aligns with the team's commitment to enhancing planning, training and operational readiness for the facility."

The AR tour was brought to life through cutting-edge technologies and innovative processes beginning with Computer Automatic Design (CAD) drawings of the HFTOC, which served as the blueprint for creating accurate Digital Twin models of the facility. The CAD models were then imported into a software engine used to create a visually-engaging AR environment with realistic textures, lighting and spatial design.

The final AR experience was optimized for specialized goggles, allowing users to experience the HFTOC in a hands-free, immersive way, blending digital elements seamlessly into the physical world.

This tool showcases a near-realistic Digital Twin of the HFTOC, providing a clear understanding of how the facility will look and function upon completion. The AR tour enables visitors and stakeholders to visualize the placement of critical equipment and infrastructure within the HFTOC, allowing for:

- Improved Operational Planning: By experiencing the facility's layout virtually, PPOP leadership can better anticipate spatial and functional needs for optimal workflows.
- Informed Decision Making: The tour highlights design efficiencies and potential areas for improvement, enabling proactive adjustments before physical implementation.
- Enhanced Collaboration: Stakeholders can discuss plans in a shared virtual space, facilitating a unified approach to operations planning.
- Heightened Safety Focus: AR tours reduce the need for visits to physical facilities, resulting in fewer safety concerns or impacts to construction schedules.

Building on the success of the HFTOC tour, Director of PPOP Emerging Technologies Shakeel Khan said he plans to extend this technology to the Machining Training Center (MTC) and the processing facilities located in F Area.

"The AR tour is more than just a technological achievement," said Khan. "It represents a critical step toward operational excellence within SRPPF. We can now experience a virtual walkthrough of a facility designed to prepare teams for critical missions, all while ensuring efficiency and safety in operations. The XR team's AR tour of the HFTOC represents a groundbreaking step in facility visualization and planning. By enabling leaders to step into the future of SRPPF today, SRS is paving the way for operational excellence and innovation."

James Barber of the SRNS OT Center of Excellence leads a group of visitors through an augmented reality tour of the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center.

Environmental Monitoring Specialist John Arena conducts sampling.

# Smarter fishing, safer waters

**PUBLIC SAFETY HAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE A PRIMARY FOCUS** at SRS. Committed to protecting human health and reducing risks associated with operations, the Site boasts robust programs ensuring safety and compliance with federal, state and local regulations along with U.S. DOE orders.

The SRNS Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) is essential to this mission. The Environmental Compliance and Area Completion Projects' Environmental Monitoring Operations team continuously collects samples to survey the effects of Site operations on people and natural resources surrounding SRS.

Each year, the team collects approximately 420 fish from the Savannah River using electrofishing. This method utilizes an electrofishing boat that creates an electric current in the water to momentarily stun fish for sampling without harming them. Fish species collected are representative of those commonly caught and consumed by local fishers and their families. Environmental Monitoring Specialists obtain scientific collection permits—in addition to a fishing license—and ensure fish being sampled meet legal size requirements established by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

SRNS recently acquired a new state-of-the-art electrofisher from Smith-Root to strengthen sampling efforts. The new boat, equipped with current industry standard electrical equipment, offers improved safety measures and controls, allowing adaptation to changing conditions on the water.

Utilizing an onboard generator, the boat produces an electric current that is sent through steel cables on two arrays at the bow of the boat and into the water. Enhanced center console settings provide more control over electrical parameters such as waveform, frequency, duty cycle and voltage, providing the ability to fine tune the fish being targeted and reduce the overall environmental impact.

According to Environmental Monitoring Operations Lead Jesse Baxley, "The acquisition of this cutting-edge electrofishing boat provides our team with more efficient, reliable and safer means to perform our routine collections. New safety features—like the dual pedal activation—mean better control of the current, which translates to safer responses to the ever-changing conditions on the Savannah River."

Sampling locations, media, frequency and types of analysis are selected based on environmental regulations, exposure pathways, public concerns, and measurement capabilities. Collected samples are taken to the SRNS Environmental Bioassay Lab for radiological and non-radiological analysis. The results are used to assign a potential dose value and ensure the safety of the public and the environment.

Aquatic Foodstuff collection is one of several annual sampling events performed by Environmental Monitoring Operations to determine potential doses to the population from SRS operations. This includes sampling bass, panfish and catfish located along the SRS boundary, as well as mullet and shellfish (shrimp and crabs) in the coastal waters of Savannah, Georgia.

Aside from this, Environmental Monitoring Operations manages other sampling programs, collecting samples from soil, sediment, river and stream water, air, crops, dairies, drinking water, vegetation, livestock, and wildlife from the Site and the surrounding communities.

"Our work takes us all over the CSRA, interacting with outside organizations and the public to complete sample collection," said Baxley. "Analyzed results are reported to the DOE, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, downstream stakeholders and the public by means of the Annual Site Environmental Report, ensuring transparency and how the Site is protecting the public and the environment while performing essential missions."

Environmental Monitoring Specialist Trey Anderson stated, "The most rewarding part of what we do is knowing we are keeping the community safe. As someone who was born and raised in the area, the work we do is personal, and I am honored to be a part of a team who ensures the safety of the public, myself and my loved ones."


Environmental Monitoring Specialist Trey Anderson steers the new Smith-Root electrofishing boat.

SRNS Electrical Engineer Will Kellum shares his career journey with students at Glenn Hills Middle School.

# Site volunteers help 1,400 students 'Discover Engineering'

SRNS engineers recently engaged area middle school students in hands-on activities during "Discover Engineering" week, held from Feb. 3-7. Coordinated by SRNS Education Outreach Programs, 27 SRNS engineers led over 1,400 students through 56 interactive activities. Since the program's inception in 2008, SRS volunteers have dedicated thousands of hours to share STEM experiences with more than 30,000 students.

"This is a major opportunity to expose students to the world of engineering," said Taylor Rice, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. "Our partnerships with local schools continue to spark interest in crucial scientific and technical careers, supporting a growing and viable workforce at SRS."

SRNS Electrical Engineer Will Kellum led students at Glenn Hills Middle School in Augusta, Georgia, through an electromagnetism activity involving DIY compasses. "The students were really engaged," said Kellum. "They displayed phenomenal teamwork. Learning to try again when they don't get the desired result is what engineering is all about. Many discoveries are made through scientific mistakes; this was a key message of today's activity."

Kellum continued, "The kids you interact with are the future. Inspiring them to pursue higher education and think critically at a young age will benefit them, no matter what career path they choose."

Sixth-grader Chance Ellison said, "I was amazed by the compass I made because even if you removed the needle and put it back on, it still pointed north. I'm very thankful for my teacher for giving us this opportunity to have a guest speaker from SRNS visit our classroom."

In conjunction with National Engineers Week, the demonstrations are part of DiscoverE, celebrating the contributions of engineers worldwide. SRNS volunteers covered engineering degrees, average salaries, recommended courses, extracurricular activities and ways students can plan for early success.

Glenn Hills Science Instructor Tama Clarke said, "Our students often lack exposure to higher-level opportunities and careers that are available close to home. The job opportunities and education are here. They don't have to leave the CSRA to have an amazing, well-paid job."

## Engineering Job Fair brings opportunities to CSRA

The SRNS Engineering department recently held their 2025 Engineering Job Fair on Thursday, Feb. 13 at the North Augusta Community Center. The fair was held to bring in fresh talent and ideas to the company as it carries out missions of national nuclear security and environmental stewardship at SRS. The STEM-focused event saw over 120 attendees and seven job offers made during on-site interviews.

"At this event we're primarily targeting experienced engineers in the local community with diverse opportunities available to them," said Ken Burrows, Director of Engineering Technical Services.

The Software Engineering organization drew attention at the career fair where the lead for the Engineering Improvements and Special Projects, Marlon Hudson, spoke to many potential applicants.

"We've had a lot of individuals come by," Marlon Hudson, the Engineering Improvements and Special Projects lead said. "With software engineering, since it's always evolving, we want to ensure that we remain competitive in the industry and abreast of the new technologies."

The SRNS Senior Vice President, Chief Engineer and Nuclear Safety Officer Rich Zaharek said one job discipline the team is looking for is Design Authority Engineers.

"We've had our highest attrition in that area," said Zaharek. "Instead of waiting for people to leave, we're looking to get ahead of the game as we anticipate the attrition that's coming."

One applicant from Aiken felt the benefits of the SRNS community event personally, using the career fair to see what works for him as a professional.

"I have a pretty flexible degree; I like working with data in Excel. That's what I've been telling people at the tables today," Jared Demass said. "I know the Site's a good place to work just from my own experiences from working at the lab and a few internships."

Travis Pittman, of SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs, guides Arizona State University students Caleb Hatch, Michal Palacz and Tanner Russell through a tour of the Machining Training Center at SRS.

# ASU partnership supports pit mission

Three Arizona State University (ASU) students recently visited the Site to present their student Capstone project research.

SRS, along with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), will supply plutonium pits, a critical weapon component needed for modernization of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile to achieve nuclear deterrence. SRNS and LANL are partnering with ASU and other universities to identify student Capstone programs that will support the two-site production mission.

The ASU eProject (Engineering Project) program brings together students and industry partners to create new solutions to real-world problems. Through this program, industry partners engage with students in a mutually beneficial technical relationship. ASU worked with LANL to identify potential research projects, which will could benefit both sites in advancing the pit production mission. Once a specific Capstone project was chosen, SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) Mission Development was offered an opportunity to sponsor the project.

"In an increasingly dynamic global security environment, both LANL and SRS must improve responsiveness to the nation's pit and other plutonium product requirements," said Bob Putnam, Director of LANL's Associate Directorate for Weapons Production Technical Applications Office. "The ability to quickly change machine tool fixtures with high repeatability will reduce labor cost, reduce scrap costs associated with incorrect machine setup and ultimately allow us to better respond to quickly evolving national security priorities."

SRNS Senior Manufacturing Design Engineer Thomas Lee serves as an industry mentor for the ASU Capstone team's project for the fall and the spring semesters. "These three students have put in a lot of quality effort and have made great progress toward a system we are considering integrating into our Machining Training Center [MTC] for validation and development," said Lee.

Before presenting their current research, the students participated in a Site driving tour, received an overview of SRPPF and toured the MTC—a facility used by SRNS PPOP for teaching critical skills and developing competency in various machining tool operations for training in an unclassified, non-nuclear setting.

Michal Palacz, a senior manufacturing design major at ASU, said he was drawn to this particular Capstone project—a Quick Change Vacuum Chuck—due to the opportunity to work in a hands-on setting rather than a more research-based one. "I wanted to be hands-on and able to say, 'I made this,'" he remarked. Palacz said he enjoyed getting to know more about SRS and the work being completed at the Site. "It was helpful to learn more about the technology here at SRS, especially in the MTC."

"The day's events went better than I could have ever expected, and the team was excited about the interest in their project, as well as learning more about what we do at SRS," said Lee. "We are looking forward to their continued progress."

# New WIN Assessments boost job opportunities

SRNS is pleased to announce the integration of WIN Learning (WIN) Academic Skills Assessments as part of the basic entry skills requirements for select non-exempt careers. This marks a significant milestone for SRNS, enhancing the company's partnerships with South Carolina school districts and ensuring job seekers develop the foundational skills and competencies necessary for future careers at the SRS.

WIN Learning connects courseware and assessments to O*NET, a database of job attributes by the U.S. Department of Labor. Since 1996, WIN Academic Skills Assessments measure potential candidates' skills in three critical areas: Work Ready Math, Work Ready Reading and Work Ready Data. These assessments will serve as an additional submission option for South Carolina residents, complementing the already established ACT WorkKeys assessments.

"The inclusion of WIN Learning provides SRNS with an excellent opportunity to better identify potential candidates for employment," said Sean Alford, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Administration Officer. "Additionally, it offers high school students in South Carolina, who already take WIN assessments, an additional pathway. Graduates will be familiar with the scores required for employment and can identify areas for improvement. By aligning WIN with our employment opportunities, we create a mutually beneficial scenario for both job seekers and students."

Participants who pass the courseware earn a digital e-badge and certificate of cSompletion to share with employers. All lessons support the U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Development Performance Measures and the U.S. Department of Education standards.

Kate Olin, Director of Accountability and Assessment, Aiken County Public School District, shared the school district's enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "This partnership with SRNS and the incorporation of the WIN Assessments demonstrate a strong commitment to preparing our students for the workforce. The alignment of the WIN assessment, in which all high school juniors in South Carolina participate, builds immediate connections to one of the largest employers in the CSRA and provides students with a clear pathway to careers at SRS."

The adoption of WIN Assessments will impact the entry requirements for several key non-exempt seniority units, including Electrical and Instrumentation Mechanic, Maintenance Mechanic, Production Operator and Radiological Protection Inspector. These assessment levels were determined by SRS subject matter experts and an authorized WIN Job Analyst.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry Francis Burns speaks to the SRNS Education Outreach Program during a tour of the new USC Salkehatchie Forensic Science Laboratory.

# Donation helps fund USC Salkehatchie Forensic Science Laboratory

SRNS recently donated $50,000 to the University of South Carolina (USC) Salkehatchie to help fund the establishment of the first-ever Forensic Science Laboratory at the Allendale campus. The laboratory's opening celebration and donor recognition ceremony was held at the USC Salkehatchie Atrium Center with attendees participating in laboratory tours and demonstrations.

Christopher DeWolf, Senior Director of Development at USC Palmetto College, emphasized that forensic chemistry is a new addition to the criminal justice curriculum at USC Salkehatchie. "This equipment will empower our students to master techniques in DNA, drug and fingerprint analysis, as well as crime scene documentation and toxicology," he said.

In 2022, SRNS provided an initial donation of $25,000, which was used to acquire instructional equipment, such as a Gas Chromatograph-Mass Spectrometer for drug and arson analysis, as well as Polymerase Chain Reaction and Capillary Electrophoresis systems for DNA analysis. Recently, SRNS increased the total award to $50,000 to ensure the lab received a matching $150,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Community Development Initiative Program. In total, the university secured $300,000 to fully equip the laboratory and get the program off the ground.

DeWolf continued, "SRNS provided the initial donation, and when we needed additional support to reach our goal, they made a second significant contribution that turned this vision into reality."

Francis Burns, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, noted, "These instruments will play a key role not just in forensic sciences but across various STEM fields, including biology, chemistry, engineering and geology. It will be instrumental in fostering the career growth of students, law enforcement and lawyers; and will bolster the capacity for research and education among our STEM faculty."

Kim Mitchell, SRNS Education Outreach Lead, highlighted the importance of the donation, stating, "This funding is part of SRNS' broader commitment to support and promote STEM-based education and will advance criminal justice education in the Lowcountry. We hope to inspire the next generation of scientists and professionals who will drive innovation and progress in our communities."

**Greg White**

**AT SRNS:** Director, Weapons Quality Assurance and Nuclear Enterprise Assurance for Pit Production Operations and Programs

# THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Gregory White II is the Director, Weapons Quality Assurance and Nuclear Enterprise Assurance for Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) at SRNS. He collaborates with internal and external stakeholders to ensure that PPOP complies with NNSA federal requirements. His role involves keeping our nation's nuclear stockpile safe and reliable by preventing risks, ensuring quality, and leading teams throughout the product realization lifecycle phases of a nuclear weapon system.

Although new to SRNS, having begun his tenure at the end of January 2025, White is no stranger to the Nuclear Security Enterprise. He spent over a decade at Sandia National Laboratories, where he was initially involved in research and development before getting "bit by the nuclear deterrence bug" and transitioning to weapons programs. White holds a doctorate degree from Clemson University and a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech.

A self-described "Air Force brat," White describes himself as patriotic. "I really support the nuclear deterrence mission; I believe in it. That was one of the driving factors of me coming to SRS. This pit production scope is critical to national security."

White says his favorite part of working at SRNS is "the people" and how welcoming everyone has been. He remarked that while SRNS employees could choose to work in a variety of other locations or fields, they are here because they want to make a difference.

White and his family, including his wife of 16 years and five children, are searching for a place to settle in the area, although he says Aiken is currently the front runner. In their free time, the family enjoys hiking, biking and being actively engaged in their faith community. A third-degree black belt in Taekwondo, White also enjoys sparring with his sons.

# New campaign launched for psychological safety

Nearly 130 employees from Business Services participated in the kickoff event of the year-long Psychological Safety Campaign, dedicated to fostering a healthier work environment, as part of the SRNS ongoing commitment to create a more supportive and effective workforce.

The event featured discussions led by Cheryl Cummings, SRNS Employee Wellness Services Manager; Staci Peters, SRNS Senior Vice President of Business Services; and Jay Johnson, SRNS Deputy Senior Vice President of Business Services. Business Services managers were invited to attend.

"This campaign aims to build a healthy workplace culture where employees feel safe to speak up and their opinions are valued," said Peters. "By prioritizing psychological safety, we aim to enhance creativity, improve employee well-being and job satisfaction, increase productivity, and strengthen our culture of trust."

Each session emphasizes a workplace where individuals are comfortable being themselves without fear of embarrassment, rejection or punishment.

"We want our employees to feel safe to ask questions, admit mistakes or express ideas without fear," said Cummings. "Managers will: explore various scenarios related to self-awareness, recognize when someone may not feel psychologically safe and address everyday habits that impact psychological safety."

SRNS Information Technology Group Manager Gail Martin shared that her team feels safe to present new ideas, which has led to improvements in their daily tasks.

Brittany Alston, SRNS Business Services Human Capital Business Analyst, stressed that this initiative is not a "check the box" item but a progressive effort within the organization.

"The benefit of this campaign is self-development; you can never learn too much. When we stop learning, we stop growing," explained Alston. "Recognizing when employees are not at their best is crucial. Our focus has always been mission-critical, but it is also important to invest that energy into our employees who make our missions happen."

# FEATURE FRIDAY

The following employees were highlighted as part of the SRNS Feature Friday series on social media.

**James Therrell**
Mission Planning Manager for Environmental Management Operations

**Greg White**
Director, Weapons Quality Assurance and Nuclear Enterprise Assurance

**SCAN ME**
to connect with our social media

# SRNS

**Developing innovative approaches to deliver on our environmental commitments and nuclear materials challenges**

**Supplying products and services necessary to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent**

**Securing nuclear materials to prevent unwanted proliferation**

**Transforming nuclear materials into assets and stable wasteforms**

Savannah River
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS℠