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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Honoring Their Service: SRNS Hosts Veterans Day Reception

AIKEN, S.C. (Nov. 9, 2016) – On Nov. 11, veterans across the country will be honored with parades, 21-gun salutes and other traditions to pause and acknowledge their willingness to serve. For some it may have been in a relatively straightforward environment, but for others it was arduous, demanding and over a long period of time—in all those cases they served. And with that commitment was a level of risk and sacrifice.

In honor of Veterans Day, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) paid tribute to the hundreds of veteran employees within the company during a reception at the Savannah River Site.

One SRNS employee veteran Star Burdell works in HB Line Radiological Control (RadCon) and served in the U.S. Army in field artillery from 1981-1987. When she was deployed during the Cold War, women were not allowed to be on the front lines. To her, the best thing about her experience in the military was living outside the United States because it put things into perspective.

“Sometimes people may not realize how great we have it here and take for granted that it could all be taken away at any time,” Burdell said. “For me, Veterans Day is a time for reflection. I think of all the people who lost their lives in Pearl Harbor and 9/11, and I also think about soldiers returning from Afghanistan and Iraq who have lost limbs or are struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder.”

“My family is from this area, and I’m proud of what the site has accomplished to make our country safer with cleaning up legacy materials and making sure it doesn’t get into the wrong hands,” Burdell added. “The work we do is helping protect the future for my family and future generations.”



Savannah River Nuclear Solutions President and CEO Stuart MacVean (left) addresses employees during a veteran reception at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, S.C., on Nov. 8.

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SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dave Eyer served in the U.S. Navy for 29 years before pursuing a career in the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons complex. Eyer recognizes the unique skillset veterans can bring to the workforce.

"The military by design has a young demographic, so you actually have people taking on very substantial responsibilities much earlier in their career than you would necessarily see in industry," said Eyer. "When you're in the military, you're also faced with the need to solve problems under substantial pressure—whether it's time constraints or operational demands—in a dynamic environment, which makes veterans highly adaptable. So if you enter the civilian workforce, you have a wealth of transferable skills in problem solving and leading teams."

During the past year, SRNS has targeted recruiting for veterans at career fairs throughout the Central Savannah River Area, specifically Congressman Joe Wilson's veterans fair, Fort Gordon's job fair and Augusta Warrior Project's community career fair.

As result, 11 percent of full-service employee hires were veterans in 2016, exceeding the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs' goal of seven percent.

Overall, 10 percent of the SRNS workforce are veterans, and the company has veterans represented in all job categories. The top three professional groups are "Operations/Technical Specialists I" with 69, "Program and Planning Services" with 36 and "Training and Total Quality" with 29 veterans. The non-exempt job with the highest number of veterans in their group is "Production Operators" with 34.

"The military focuses on team building, and you learn how to work with others from diverse backgrounds and experiences," added Eyer. "One of the things I miss greatly is the intimate experience of your team's personalities, even little things like people's taste in music. I remember walking around the submarine and listening to all the different kinds of music I normally wouldn't come across on my own. I don't get that experience anymore, and in that environment it was almost a daily thing."

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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SRNS-2016-510