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TRU Solutions News

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For Immediate Release

WIPP Mine Rescue Team Wins “Overall Contest” at Nationals

CARLSBAD, N.M., July 22, 2004 – WIPP’s Silver mine rescue team won the “Overall Contest” distinction at the 2004 Metal and Nonmetal National Mine Rescue Contest. Sponsored every two years by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), the national contest took place in Reno, Nevada, July 13 - 15.

To win the “Overall Contest” award, teams had to finish high in multiple categories. WIPP Silver did that by finishing second in the team Field competition, while individual team members Curtis Sanders took second in the Benchman competition and Team Captain Greg Sensibaugh finished fifth nationally in the gas contest. These combined scores totaled more than each of the rest of the 29 team (over 800 participants) field.

The contest, consisting of both team and individual events is evaluated by MSHA experts. The field event is a team competition requiring teams to accurately identify and respond to a simulated mine rescue. The individual events are intended to test each team’s specialist in fresh air, first aid and multi-gas identification.

Teams begin with the same number of points. Points are then deducted for mistakes made in each competition. WIPP Silver finished the competition with the most overall points.

WIPP’s Blue mine rescue team also performed well in the national contest. “Both teams practice and train very hard throughout the year and we are fortunate to have them at WIPP,” said Buddy Webb, WIPP emergency response coordinator.

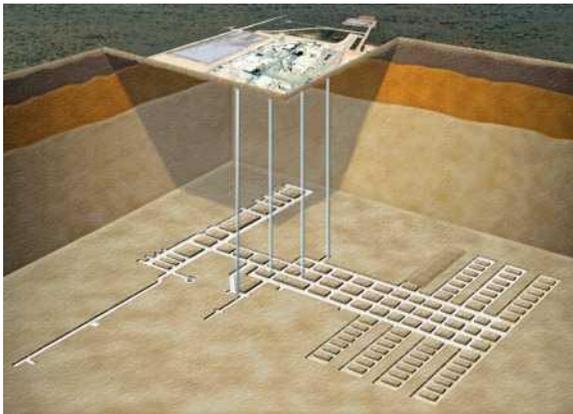
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“These individuals have full-time jobs on the project. Being part of the mine rescue team goes above and beyond their job functions.”

WIPP’s Silver team members are: Team Captain Greg Sensibaugh, David Ripley, Mike Proctor, Andy Cooper, Jamey Smith, Curtis Sanders, Buddy Webb and Deena Cantrell.

WIPP’s Blue team members are: Team Captain Gary Kessler, Joel Howard, Dave Sjomeling, Ben Zimmerly, Edgar Keyser, Joe Baca, Nadine Kuhn and Jim Pearce.

“I couldn’t be more proud of all our employees on both WIPP Silver and WIPP Blue teams. Congratulations to each of them. I know all Washington TRU Solutions employees are equally proud of them,” said Steve Warren, president and general manager of Washington TRU Solutions LLC. “Their enthusiasm and hard work reinforces the fact that safety is the number one priority at WIPP.”



WIPP is the nation’s solution for cleaning up defense-generated transuranic waste located at DOE sites across the country. Operational since March 1999, WIPP has received over 2,800 waste shipments; safely disposing more than 21,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste in the repository located nearly one-half mile underground.