



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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For Immediate Release

CBFO Manager Receives ESGR Honor

CARLSBAD, N.M., July 8, 2013 – Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Manager Joe Franco receives the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Seven Seals Award in June at a New Mexico ESGR recognition event in Carlsbad, N.M. From left: Assistant Adjutant General for Air and Commander of the New Mexico Air National Guard Colonel Steven J. VerHelst; Joe Franco; N.M. Army National Guard Chief of Staff Colonel Timothy Paul; and Eddy County, N.M. ESGR Chairman Tony Renteria. The National ESGR seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. The Seven Seals Award, which recognizes those who significantly advance the ESGR mission, was presented to Franco for his support of the Guard and Reserve. “As a veteran and a former member of the U.S. Navy, I recognize the nation’s need for – and the important support provided by – the Guard and Reserve,” Franco said. CBFO has responsibility for WIPP and the National Transuranic (TRU) Program. WIPP, located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, N.M., is a DOE facility designed to safely isolate defense-related TRU waste from people and the environment. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation 2,150 feet below the surface. WIPP, which began waste disposal operations in 1999, has cleaned 22 sites of legacy TRU waste.