



Update...

A Word from the Chair...

EFCOG Chair, Michael Lempke
Huntington Ingalls Industries

As 2020 draws to a close, I want to thank you for your exceptional work, support and vigilance during a challenging year. More importantly, I want to remind you that the challenges of the COVID pandemic will not disappear with the turn of a calendar page and we must continue our efforts in close partnership with DOE/NNSA to successfully and safely adapt to the changing operating posture.

2021 will be another important year for EFCOG. It marks the beginning of a new Presidential Administration, a new chapter in the fight against COVID-19 and a host of new opportunities and challenges across the DOE and NNSA complex. On all three fronts, EFCOG is well-positioned to succeed.

First, we've worked hard to focus EFCOG's priorities on addressing DOE and NNSA's biggest risks—an evolution that will make us an effective partner to the incoming Biden Administration. As a reminder, we have structured our major board activities and Working Group support around four strategic priorities:

1. Safe, Secure and Effective Operations
2. Ensuring the Long-term Availability of Critical Equipment, Supplies and Infrastructure
3. Assuring that Projects are Completed on Cost and Schedule
4. Recruit, Develop and Retain the Right People to Ensure Future Mission Needs are Met

Additionally, we will continue to put a significant amount of attention in 2021 on sharing lessons learned and best practices on safely meeting mission goals amidst the COVID pandemic. This fall, we have held monthly information sharing sessions with our member companies and DOE/NNSA leadership on what we can learn from operating experiences in Canada and the U.K. as well as adjacent industries in the U.S. Those sessions have been well-attended with good discussion around a number of actionable lessons learned and we will continue holding such topical sessions monthly in the new year. Several of our ongoing initiatives—addressing long-term telework, resolving contractual challenges of COVID and safe operating and restart protocols—are precisely aimed at issues raised by our member companies and worked in partnership DOE and NNSA. We will continue to make this a significant focus of EFCOG and encourage every member company to take part in sharing lessons learned and raising issues in need of attention.

Finally, let's not forget the tremendous successes achieved across the DOE complex this year, in spite of the challenges of COVID. The Salt Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site is now up and running, allowing high-level waste operations at the site to kick into high gear, and at Oak Ridge the completion of Vision 2020 brought to close a significant D&D achievement at the East Tennessee Technology Park. 2021 will bring further opportunities for mission achievements and EFCOG is committed to continuing to enable these successes through sharing of lessons learned and partnership with DOE and NNSA.

In September, one of our long-serving Board Members, Moses Jaraysi of CH2M Plateau Remediation Company, retired and stepped down from the board. Moses has been a tireless supporter of EFCOG and a true

leader in our industry—we will miss his insights and perspective and wish him all the best in retirement. Replacing Moses is Mark Hughey of CHPRC. Welcome, Mark!

Thanks for all your hard work and best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy 2021!

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Safeguards & Security Working Group (SSWG)

Chair – H. Ray Hubbs, Jr.

Vice Chair – Michelle Stellflug

DOE Liaison – Mark Hojnacke

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsors – DJ Johnson

In FY2020, the Working Group focused on key areas to address current or emerging challenges and to deliver efficiency and effectiveness in the development of Safeguards and Security Programs. New chairs and co-chairs were appointed for the SSWG and subgroups. Each subgroup conducted multiple conference call meetings to move forward with identified initiatives.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and related restrictions, the SSWG has faced the same challenges as many have faced. All meetings have been via phone or other visual media means. Although the contacts have maintained, members have had to focus on their respective site recovery, therefore limiting the time available to consistently accomplish the FY2020 Goals. If nothing else, the SSWG has identified Best Practices that can be utilized during this continued situation or, in worst case, future situations as another pandemic.

The EFCOG Community consists of a diverse collection of production, processing, storage, cleanup and research facilities. Just as varied as the facilities within EFCOG, are the type, size, complexity and skill of the protective force (PF) organizations providing security for them. DOE Orders prescribe specific capabilities for PF and/or the law-enforcement agencies (LEA's) charged with protecting DOE personnel and interests. One of our hard-working subgroups is the Physical Protection Team. This team is working on Best Practices Guides that will address two emergent threats to DOE assets and personnel.

The frequency and devastation resulting from Active Assailant/Active Shooter incidents require security professionals to develop comprehensive response plans. The Best Practices Guide for Active Assailant/Active Shooter will promote the development of programs that go beyond the security/LEA response. The guide will also offer recommendations on civilian/worker awareness training, emergency preparedness drills, LEA interface, public information/communications, after action reviews and performance testing.

Even though over the course of the past 30 years, protests and other acts of civil disobedience at DOE Facilities have consistently decreased, recent events across the United States demonstrate the need for the federal government and its contractors to plan, equip and train for a resurgence of such occurrences. The Best Practices Guide for Civil Disobedience will recommend the equipment, tactics, training and procedures necessary for lawful and professional protection of DOE assets from acts of civil disobedience.

The SSWG has an aggressive work plan for FY2021 with all of our subgroups. Information Security will be working on a number of projects to include developing a standard Technical Surveillance and Countermeasures job qualification document, and destruction of media best practice guide. Material Control & Accountability is



working on the development of a measurement equipment matrix and a number of brochures and best practices. Programming Planning and Management will be working with the Office of Insider Threat on Local Insider Threat Working Group (LITWG) activities and communications and a best practice guide on development of the LITWG core membership.

We look forward to this new year and having the opportunity to share our accomplishments with our EFCOG community.

Training Working Group (TWG)

Chair – Shayne Eyre

Vice Chair – Amy Loevy

Secretary – Melissa Walker

DOE Liaison – Karen Boardman

EFCOG Board of Directors Sponsors – Kelly Beierschmitt & Linda Kobel

EFCOG TWG Annual Workshop Goes Virtual

The TWG held its Annual Workshop virtually for the first time December 1- 3, 2020 with pre-workshop events kicking it off on November 30th. Over 130 participants registered for this WebEx event. With detailed introductions of the working group's activities and leadership, newcomers got a sense of the annual work plan and how they can get involved in this year's projects.

Topics ranged from how to incorporate lessons learned this year as a result of the pandemic to some best practices for moving into virtual-led environments. Lots of best practices were shared on how to design training that is learner-centered, pros and cons of virtual delivery tools, and how to share resources.

“I loved the demonstrations, learning what tools are out there and how others use them is extremely valuable,” shared one participant.

Special thanks to the planning committee for all the great work done in preparation for this event, all the presenters for sharing your experiences, TWG Vice-chair Amy Loevy for being the master of ceremonies, Katrina Knight for acting as our producer and to the National Training Center for hosting this year's conference via WebEx.

Nate Martin Keynotes EFCOG Training Working Group Annual Meeting

Nate Martin, Director of DOE Office of Enterprise Assessments, was the keynote speaker at the annual TWG meeting, held virtually in December. Mr. Martin's comments highlighted the value of the overall EFCOG and support provided to the DOE. During his remarks, Mr. Martin discussed the importance of training during his career. He also discussed the value of the TWG to the completion of DOE missions in light of COVID-19, personnel changes, and the likelihood of future budget pressures. He encouraged participants to identify ways to

leverage their collaboration and partnership networks. Mr. Martin suggested that the TWG members continue to improve the sharing of common training materials and capabilities, reduce redundant training through the use of the DOE Reciprocity Program, and improve comprehensive training through the use of industry knowledge and learning technologies.

TWG shares COVID-19 Lessons Learned

This summer, the EFCOG TWG held several Lessons Learned sessions to discuss how the different sites were dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 on training and qualifications. We shared our mutual challenges, some lessons learned and best practices, and even came up with a few new ideas.

First, using new and expanded technology increased our collaboration across multiple areas, including new training approaches, enhanced opportunities for collaboration, benchmarking and sharing of training innovations. In addition, this helped us define a standardized process, recognizing the need to have multiple training and communication options in case of failure, as well as coming to a common understanding of new terminology, such as vILT, blended learning, modality, synchronous versus asynchronous learning, and technical producer.

Finally, some questions remain, such as how to address the challenges of training post-COVID. However, we are excited to see how the different sites were able to come together and create new and innovative solutions to our common challenges. As a result of our lessons learned, we will be working on developing a white paper to share across the DOE Complex that compares the different options for asynchronous and synchronous distance learning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<i>EFCOG Annual Meeting</i> <i>Other EFCOG event info is found at www.efcog.org</i>	June TBD
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