



Nevada Site Office News

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Local Fed Nominated as National Federal Employee of the Year

Deborah Monette, Assistant Manager for National Security at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Nevada Site Office is acknowledged as one of the best and brightest federal employees in this year's Service to America Medals. Monette, along with two fellow Homeland Security category nominees are recognized for their significant contribution to the nation in activities related to homeland security.

She earned the nomination for her leadership role in establishing and operating the National Center for Combating Terrorism (NCCT). The training center prepares the nation's first responders to fight against terrorism by providing integrated realistic training and exercises. In addition, NCCT provides improvements in test evaluation and engineering facilities to adapt ideas and laboratory research to solve real-world problems faced by the emergency management community. In the year following the September 11 attacks, nearly 1,300 military personnel, police officers, firefighters, medical professionals and SWAT team members were trained as first responders at the site. Kathleen Carlson, NNSA Nevada Site Office Manager and Monette's supervisor, described the center as "the graduate school in weapons of mass destruction training."

As a senior responder with more than 20 years of experience in accident response, search, and consequence management, Monette's experiences are invaluable in keeping America prepared for a nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack. However, she says the nomination is the compilation of dedicated federal and contractor employees supporting the homeland security mission. "While my name may appear on the nomination, the real recognition goes to the men and woman who make this program a success," she said.

According to the Service to America Medals program, good government requires good people, by honoring excellence in the federal workforce sends a powerful message to the American people about the importance of a strong civil service and seeks to inspire a new generation of Americans to public service. Twenty-eight finalists were chosen from hundreds of outstanding contributions from federal employees with varying degrees of experience and professional backgrounds, including business, science, national security, social services, and justices. For all award categories, the nominee must have shown a strong commitment to public service as a civil servant and demonstrated significant accomplishments within his or her particular government field. The 2003 Selection Committee charged with the task of identifying the Service to America Medals honorees are comprised of a select group of prominent national leaders. The Service to America Medals program is sponsored by the Partnership for Public Services, a non-profit organization devoted to reviving interest in government service.

Award recipients of the 2003 Service to America Medals will be announced and honored on October 15, 2003 at a tribute dinner in Washington, DC. Honorees will also be featured in the October issue of *Government Executive* and profiled in the *National Journal* and *The Atlantic Monthly*.

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