

Physical Protection Cooperation with Former Soviet Union Countries

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Abstract

This paper presents an overview of the physical protection cooperation activities between Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) and the Former Soviet Union (FSU) regarding Material Protection Control and Accounting (MPC&A) responsibilities.

Begun approximately four years ago as part of the Safe, Secure Dismantlement Program, this project is intended to stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The purpose of the program is to accelerate progress toward a goal shared by both Russia and the United States: to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation, including such threats as theft, diversion, and unauthorized possession of nuclear materials. This will be accomplished by strengthening the MPC&A systems in both countries. This new program, known as the US Department of Energy Laboratory-to-Laboratory MPC&A program, is designed to complement Government-to-Government programs sponsored by US Senators Nunn and Lugar.

US and Russian representatives exchange visits and discuss physical protection philosophies. Russian representatives have received formal training in the US process of system design and

analysis to include the design of an effective physical protection system, the determination of physical protection system objectives, the initial design of a physical protection system, the evaluation of the design, and oftentimes, a redesign or refinement of the existing system.

Some Russian organizations have philosophies very similar to those of the United States, but when they differ, the US and Russian representatives must negotiate until suitable solutions are reached. Other Russian organizations, because of their heavy reliance on guard forces, have not developed a systematic design process.

Cooperative work between US national laboratories and their Russian counterparts has thus far resulted in major physical protection enhancements at a Russian demonstration site and other advancements for Laboratory-to-Laboratory projects. Future projects may range anywhere within the Laboratory-to-Laboratory program.

Introduction

The first discussions of cooperation on Material Protection Control and Accounting (MPC&A) between the United States and the Former Soviet Union (FSU) began approximately four years ago as part of the Safe, Secure Dismantlement (SSD) Program (also known as the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program or the Nunn-Lugar Program after its sponsors in the US Senate).

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Some programs under the SSD Program are armored blankets, improved railcars, and the design of an underground storage facility. Additionally, a Government-to-Government agreement was established in 1993 to cooperate on upgrading MPC&A capabilities for key Russian sites.

At a January 1994 summit meeting in Moscow, Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin stressed the "high priority" and "great significance" of joint work on MPC&A as part of the cooperative effort by both countries to stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Other Government-to-Government interactions related to MPC&A include the programs to establish national systems of MPC&A in the other FSU countries.

In April 1994, Under Secretary of Energy Charles Curtis directed the DOE national laboratories to initiate a new program of cooperation with the Russian Federation's nuclear institutes. The purpose of the program is to accelerate progress toward a goal shared by both Russia and the United States to reduce the risks of nuclear weapons proliferation, including such threats as theft, diversion, and unauthorized possession of nuclear materials by strengthening MPC&A systems in both countries. This new program is called the Laboratory-to-Laboratory MPC&A program and is designed to complement Government-to-Government programs.

SNL is the lead organization for physical protection, and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is the lead organization for material control and accounting. SNL and LANL are assisted by the other national laboratories in conducting these programs.

The Laboratory-to-Laboratory program identifies work with a number of Russian institutes, some of which is governed by MINATOM, the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy. Other work is with independent Russian research institutes. The five original Russian organizations chosen for Laboratory-to-

Laboratory participation are: Arzamas-16, Chelyabinsk-70, Kurchatov Institute, IPPE (Obninsk), and Eleron (a MINATOM company which designs, manufactures, installs, and certifies physical protection systems). These Laboratory-to-Laboratory efforts are now being expanded to other Russian organizations.

The reliance on guards and the lack of resources for upgrading and maintenance of existing systems have created a need for major improvements in physical protection at many Russian facilities. Although guard force security has adequately protected facilities in the past, increased labor costs and reduced military support are expected to create a greater reliance on electronic systems.

Physical Protection at the Demonstration Facility

The implementation of a physical protection system at the Russian demonstration facility was planned in cooperation with site contractor personnel.

One of SNL's roles in the Laboratory-to-Laboratory MPC&A program with Russia is to provide expertise in the area of facility physical protection of nuclear materials. Facility physical protection is in itself a component of the broad outline by the Laboratory-to-Laboratory MPC&A program. The physical protection process involves determining system requirements, designing a system, evaluating the system, and then redesigning, if necessary before implementation. SNL's mission under the general MPC&A program is to apply its expertise in the following areas:

- ◆ Facility and/or site characterization, including design basis threat development work performed in conjunction with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the other national laboratories. Design basis threat development addresses the threat to a particular facility and the resultant facility protection system.

- ◆ The site characterization is followed by a complete physical protection system design, analysis, implementation, and evaluation for components of the physical protection including:
 - Perimeter barriers and sensors
 - Video assessment systems
 - Interior sensor systems
 - Information control and display systems
 - Item protection and monitoring systems
 - Communication and event response systems.

The fully functional system also includes training for the supporting activities and maintenance.

The design and analysis process is illustrated in Figure 1 for the total MPC&A process of integrating physical protection and material control and accountability. Figure 2 shows the protection portion of the process.

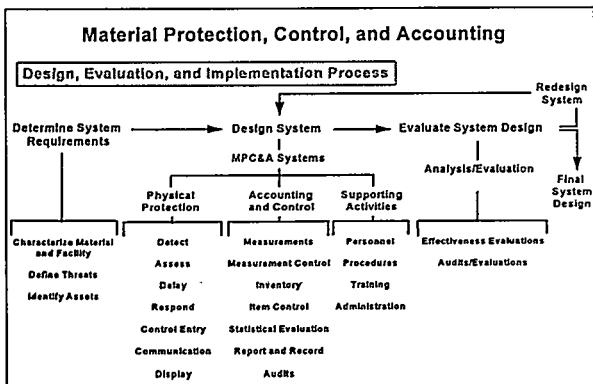


Figure 1. MPC&A Design Evaluation and Implementation Process

Russian institutes and the US DOE national laboratories, under the MPC&A programs, are sharing experience and technical expertise through “hands-on” demonstrations of capabilities. The demonstration site is a proving ground for the expansion of MPC&A activities to other institutes and sites within Russia’s nuclear infrastructure. As such, its success—and the success of similar activities at other impor-

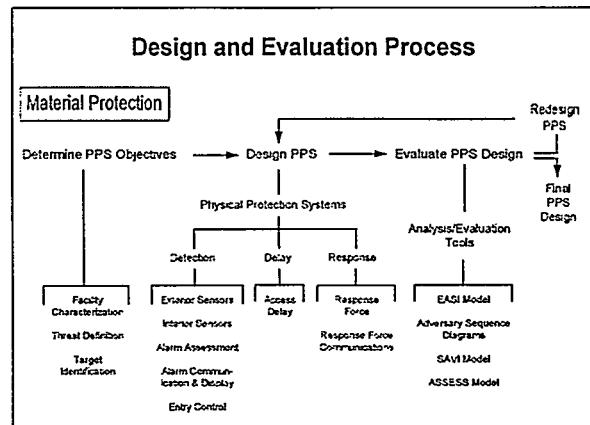


Figure 2. Material Protection Design and Evaluation Process

tant installations—will help determine the speed and effectiveness with which the Laboratory-to-Laboratory program can build and maintain the best possible assurance for the protection, control, and accountability of nuclear materials in Russia and the United States.

Recent work on a physical protection system at the demonstration facility embodied the real-life nature of the Laboratory-to-Laboratory cooperative effort. Not only has the joint US/Russian design and implementation of this physical protection system demonstrated a significant and immediate improvement in the MPC&A of these important test bed facilities, it has enhanced the confidence between US laboratories and Russian institutes.

Eloron

Eloron is a MINATOM (Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy) company. It designs, manufactures, installs, and certifies physical protection systems. The physical protection system at the demonstration site was jointly designed by site, Eloron, and Sandia personnel. The system was implemented mainly by Eloron under a site subcontract. Except for the video system which was manufactured in Germany, the system was manufactured by Eloron in Russia.

Elron's philosophy of physical protection is very similar to that of the United States, but due to the current financial climate in Russia, few systems have been implemented. Some facilities embrace other philosophies of physical protection based upon long-standing reliance on guards and operating history developed under the old Soviet Union system. The demonstration facility was installed to serve as a model for follow-on facilities at other Russian facilities.

Physical Protection Systems in Russia

Physical Protection System Implementation

The physical protection system design for the demonstration facility consists of four main components: physical barriers, entry control systems, alarm assessment systems, and interior and exterior sensors. These systems constitute the real-life capabilities implied between physical protection design (including alarm assessment) and alarm communication and display.

Exterior Detection and Assessment

The exterior detection and assessment system at many Russian sites consists of one or more single-technology sensors. In general, alarm assessment is performed by guards. The systems are poorly maintained and have considerable vegetation encroachment (Figure 3).

Interior Detection and Assessment

The interior detection and assessment system is also a single-technology system and has no closed-circuit television (CCTV) assessment. Open wiring and the lack of tamper protection and line-supervision render it susceptible to insider defeat.

Information Control and Display Systems

Many of the existing sites still rely on mechanical counter annunciators. They were manufactured before the advent of computers in annunciation systems and do not provide maps or alarm locations.

Site Preparation

Before a system such as the one at the demonstration facility can be implemented, the site must be prepared. At the demonstration facility and many other Russian facilities, this preparation includes considerable grounds cleanup. Brush, discarded objects and debris, and existing fences must be removed and trees must be trimmed. This results in a clear zone around the buildings (Figure 4) and greatly facilitates the installation of perimeter sensors and fences. The clear zone—a system design element—will maximize the effectiveness of security cameras and barrier and detection sensors. System design also entails the installation of window barriers, vehicle and personnel gates, and power supply and signal cabling to and from the building.



Figure 3. Demonstration facility prior to site improvements.



Figure 4. Demonstration facility after improvements (clear zone established).

Barriers

Site security relies in part on physical barriers, such as fences, to restrict movement around and within a facility. In conjunction with entry control systems, barriers can effectively maximize security. Barriers usually include a perimeter fence; a clear zone with sensors between the perimeter fence and the building; and sealed or otherwise secured doors, windows, and other points of potential access.

Entry Control System

Current entry control procedures at existing sites are guard-intensive and sometimes involve a badge exchange. Multiple key barriers, along with an exterior gate control system, constitute the physical aspect of entry and exit control at the demonstration facility. These key barriers are the entry control booths situated at the entrance/exit to the building and the entry control booth and access control system for special access areas. Entry control booths include "man traps" which limit access to authorized personnel only. The booths can also include a variety of components such as card readers, keypads, and a weight check for entering and exiting a booth, metal detectors, and special nuclear material (SNM) detectors.

Special Access Areas

Special access areas are equipped with motion sensors, cameras and lights, interior and exterior keypads for access control, and access card readers. Also included is an intercom for communication between personnel within the room and security personnel. A "panic" button allows personnel to alert security and/or safety personnel to a serious situation.

Sensors

Several types of sensors at the demonstration facility provide detection of unauthorized activity as well as a routine monitoring capability. Intrusion detectors, installed at points closed to access, alert security personnel should a secured door, window, or other area be compromised.

Fencing and sensors secure the clear zone surrounding the building. Interior sensors monitor the special access rooms within the building. Security personnel can determine where movement is occurring within the confines of the facility and can assess whether it is authorized movement.

All sensors—interior and exterior—are networked electronically to an alarm communication and display system where video and alarm displays alert security personnel to the nature and status of an event. Metal detectors, which emit a very loud signal when metal is passed through them, are used for building entry and exit control.

SNM radiation detectors are also part of the MPC&A system design. These detectors are also connected to the central alarm station and produce an alarm signal when fissile material is detected. Once material is detected, the personnel booth will lock automatically.

The Alarm Assessment System

Sensors designed to detect specific types of activities augment the alarm assessment system that monitors both the interior and exterior of the facility.

CCTV cameras monitor the perimeter of the facility (clear zone) as well as certain areas within the building.

Conclusion and Future Efforts

Cooperative efforts between the US laboratories and their Russian counterparts have resulted in major enhancements to physical protection at the demonstration site and advancement of other significant Laboratory-to-Laboratory projects. Many additional sites would benefit from similar improvements.

These physical protection efforts demonstrate that Russia and the United States can indeed work together to implement real systems to protect nuclear materials. During the demonstration facility implementation project, problems typical of coordinating efforts with a new partner were encountered, solved, and noted. Future projects—projects that may range anywhere within the Laboratory-to-Laboratory program—may benefit from these “lessons learned.”

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