

Safety Achievement Earns Sandia Lab AEC Honors



Sandia Corporation LAB NEWS

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SPECIAL SAFETY ISSUE

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AEC Safety Award of Honor Presented To Accident-Free Livermore Laboratory

The Atomic Energy Commission has conferred its Award of Honor on Livermore Laboratory for passing the 3,000,000 man-hour mark with an exceptional safety record. Sandia's Livermore facility has not had a disabling injury or lost-time accident since it commenced operations in 1955.

R. E. Poole, vice president, Livermore Laboratory accepted the award from Dwight Ink, assistant general manager of the AEC. The presentation took place in Albuquerque this week.

Both the AEC and the National Safety Council give award certificates for noteworthy safety achievements. Both give an "Award of Merit" for successfully completing 1,000,000 man-hours without a disabling injury, and an "Award of Honor" for completing 3,000,000 man-hours.

Receives Both Awards

Livermore Laboratory has now received both awards from each group. The National Safety Council Award of Honor was received earlier this year for a safety record of 3,101,421 man-hours from September 1955 to May 5, 1960.

Rigid requirements are laid down in both award plans for recognizing good industrial safety records, and the achievement of an award is not easily won.

Originally, the safety program at Livermore Laboratory was supervised by Sandia Laboratory, but gradually the responsibilities were taken over by Livermore personnel. Since February 1958 Livermore Laboratory has operated its own safety program. In general, both laboratories follow the same policy and procedures, but each makes its own innovations to meet the needs of differing environments and different state regulations.

Stands at Top

In 1958 and 1959 Livermore Laboratory stood at the top of the monthly disabling injury list sent out by the AEC. The list compares industries engaged in similar work.

Another fact pointing up Livermore Laboratory's good record is that the non-disabling injury rate for Livermore Laboratory, figured on a 1,000 employee basis, is lower than the state of California's disabling injury rate using the same 1,000 employee basis.

In reviewing the safety record, R. E. Poole, Livermore Laboratory vice president, commented, "I am impressed with the good experience we have had. Livermore employees and the safety organization are to be highly commended for their achievement."

Cautioning against overconfidence, Mr. Poole added, "There is a continuing need for each employee to have proper and adequate safety instruction, that safety meetings be held, and that all reasonable action be taken to foster and promote a strong interest in safety."

Honors for Livermore Laboratory . . .



AEC AWARD OF HONOR was presented to Livermore Laboratory last week for the outstanding employee safety record of 3,066,505 man-hours without a disabling injury. The record was set during the period from Feb. 18, 1956, through May 1, 1960, during which Livermore Laboratory

had not had a disabling injury or lost-time accident. Shown above accepting the award at a special ceremony last Monday is R. E. Poole, vice president, Livermore Laboratory, left, from Dwight A. Ink, assistant general manager of the Atomic Energy Commission from Washington, D.C.

Honors for Sandia Laboratory . . .



SANDIA'S SAFETY ACCOMPLISHMENT of setting a new all-time, nation-wide, AEC contractor record of 12,822,170 employee-hours worked without a disabling injury was honored with the

presentation of the large trophy shown above. J. P. Molnar, Sandia Corporation president, left, accepts the award for Sandia Laboratory from Mr. Ink, assistant general manager, AEC.

Special Trophy Presented For Setting Record

"I want to personally thank you all and commend you on this accomplishment."

With these words to several thousand assembled Sandia Laboratory employees, J. P. Molnar, Sandia Corporation president, accepted a large trophy honoring Sandia Laboratory's new all-time, nation-wide AEC-contractor record for employee-hours worked without a disabling injury.

The trophy was presented by Dwight A. Ink, assistant general manager of the Atomic Energy Commission, Monday, July 11. It honored Sandia's record of 12,722,170 man-hours worked without a disabling injury as of July 1. The old record of 11,175,000 man-hours worked without a disabling injury by General Electric, Lockland, Ohio, was surpassed by Sandia on May 20.

Employees of the Laboratory gathered at 11:30 a.m. to attend the open-air ceremonies held adjacent to Sandia's administration building.

Mr. Ink also presented a special AEC safety award to Robert E. Poole, vice president, Livermore Laboratory. This award is in recognition of over four years of accident-free operation achieved by the 1000 Sandia employees at Livermore Laboratory. No injuries have been sustained by Livermore since the laboratory was opened in 1956.

Special Presentation

Following the AEC presentations, President Molnar presented a special parchment scroll to A. Burton Metzger, manager of Sandia's Safety Engineering Department 3210. The scroll depicts safety practices initiated by Mr. Metzger, and congratulated him on the achievement of the AEC safety record.

Platform guests during the ceremonies included Mr. Ink, D. F. Hayes, chief of the fire and safety protection branch, AEC; K. F. Hertford, manager, Albuquerque Operations Office, AEC; C. C. Campbell, area manager, Sandia Area Office, AEC; G. H. Dugger, director of health and safety, Albuquerque Operations Office, AEC; E. L. Brawley, chief, safety branch, Albuquerque Operations Office, AEC.

Maj. Gen. H. C. Donnelly, commander, Field Command, Defense Atomic Support Agency, Sandia Base; Colonel Harry Balish, commanding officer, Sandia Base; Maj. Gen. C. M. McCorkle, commanding officer, Kirtland Air Force Base; Colonel B. F. Witsell, commanding officer, Manzano Air Force Base.

President Molnar, S. P. Schwartz, vice president and general manager, Sandia Corporation; R. E. Poole, vice president, Livermore Laboratory; Mr. Metzger, J. E. Baylor, supervisor, Safety Engineering Division 3211; and the three union and council representatives at Sandia, E. J. Peterson, Metal Trades Council; R. L. Gunn, Local 251, OEIU; and J. C. Ivey, Albuquerque Guards' Union.

Special guest at the ceremony was Mrs. A. B. Metzger.

Other Awards

During the last nine years, Sandia Corporation has received three other AEC Awards of Honor, two AEC Awards of Merit, and nine Awards of Honor from the National Safety Council for outstanding safety performance. In 1950, Sandia was at the bottom of the Disabling Injury Experience list of AEC contractors. The safety record steadily improved and for the past 11 months, Sandia Laboratory has held first place on the list.

The Safety and Health program of Sandia Laboratory comprises activities of the Safety Engineering Department 3210, the Plant Engineering Department 4540, and the Medical Organization 3300.

Editorial Comment

Whose Record Is This, Anyway?

Sandia Corporation's safety records in the AEC complex are achievements worthy of note—thus this special issue of the **Lab News**.

There has been discussion as to who is responsible for establishing the records and kudos have been handed in a number of directions. To clear the air, the **Lab News** discussed this question with the manager of Sandia's Safety Engineering Department, A. Burton Metzger.

This publication was leaning in the direction of placing the laurels of accomplishment on the safety organizations for it was they who imbued Sandia employees with this consciousness of safety which helped make the records possible. For more than 10 years the safety organizations have carried messages to employees and it appears to us that these messages were well received and put to good use. We thought we had the parties responsible for Sandia's records.

But Mr. Metzger put us straight.

"Credit for earning these awards," he told us, "rests directly with all Sandia Corporation employees." He pointed out that 24 persons in the safety organizations did their part, but the some 8000 other employees of Sandia were just as responsible.

"All of us helped achieve the records," he said, "and any one of us could have broken them." Mr. Metzger (most everyone knows him as Burt) declined the honor and passed it on to the "deserving" persons, as he put it.

Burt, did, however, philosophize about the happy occasion, and we pass his feelings on to you:

New records, trophies and commendations are always welcome and are gratefully received, he commented. But the big reward enjoyed in such safety accomplishments as Sandia has comes with the realization of the suffering, pain, heartbreak, and disappointment that did not occur.

"A lot of people have been a lot happier because we have worked safely," he happily reports.

So, to all Sandia employees Mr. Metzger gives credit.

And to our friend Burt we extend our gratitude for a decade of service in safety.

Sandia's A. B. Metzger Is National Authority on Industrial Safety

Most Sandia Laboratory employees know A. B. "Burt" Metzger personally.

As Sandia's Safety Engineering manager he gets around. During his 10 years at Sandia he has visited, studied and reported on almost every corner and crevice of the Laboratory, its test sites and remote areas. In doing so Burt has become acquainted with many people.

"People are my business," he says, "and their safety is the most important part of this business."

In these days of great emphasis on the art of communication, Burt has become a well-known communicator through the use of the spoken word. He is a great after-dinner speaker and he speaks with authority. In fact, Burt is so in demand as a speaker that he frequently talks when no food is served at all. On an empty stomach or on a full stomach the audience loves him.

Burt has a million stories, and in the vein of the true storyteller, many of his funniest tales are told on himself. But with the wit purveyed by this Sandia sage goes much wisdom based on study, research and experimentation seasoned with many years of experience in the science of safety.

Burt can perform the near impossible feat of holding an audience in the palm of his hand for an hour while talking on the effects of electric shock on the human body. He is nationally recognized for his work with Dr. W. B. Kouwenhoven of Johns Hopkins University.

The U. S. Department of Labor has awarded him a citation. He is an early advocate of the mouth to mouth method of artificial respiration and at times fought the battle for adoption of this method with scant help.

Burt earned a Bachelor's degree at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N. Y., and did some graduate work at the University of Maryland and served as a professor of engineering there.

He was the first Western Electric Company employee to receive the American Red Cross Service Medal for First Aid and Life Saving. He held a number of assignments at Western Electric before coming to Sandia in 1950 as a safety consultant.

Honors and recognition earned by Burt are filed away so that



Mr. Metzger

most are unknown by his fellow workers. But the knowledge which brought these awards to him is ever at his command.

Safety is his second love (first love is his wife Marilyn). Next in line of his interests is the engineering profession. He is a member of Tau Beta Pi, national engineering honorary fraternity. He is the first honorary member of Sigma Phi Delta, international engineering fraternity, and is a member of Iota Lambda Sigma, professional education honor fraternity. He has served as an officer of the National Safety Council, New Mexico Council of Technical and Scientific Societies and New Mexico Society of Professional Engineers.

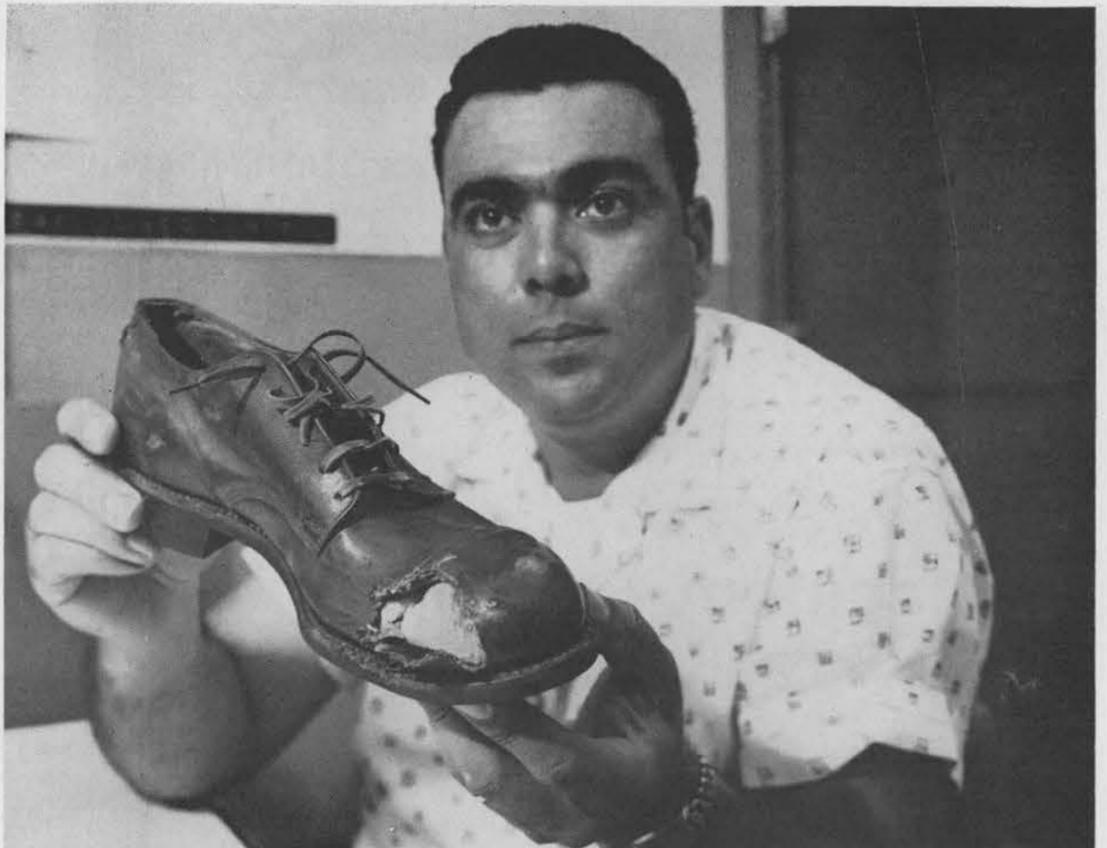
"I don't classify myself as a joiner," Burt remarks, "but I like to think of myself as a doer."

And Burt does.

Since coming to Albuquerque Burt has been described as one of Sandia's most peripatetic and ubiquitous employees.

"I probably qualify," Burt reported to the **Lab News**, "but safety engineering has never been known as a desk job. I can't treat it as one."

The New Mexico Society of Professional Engineers presented their top award in 1958 to Burt with these words which well describe his long career: "... untiring efforts in behalf of the engineering profession and unselfish service to his fellow engineers."



1/4 TON OF METAL dropped onto this safety shoe when a test box slipped as it was being transferred from a hoist to a dolly at Livermore Laboratory. John Rogers (8121-1), who was wearing the shoe, was unhurt. John now wears safety shoes wherever he goes — even walking or dancing.

Livermore Safety Organization Promotes Respect for Hazards

"Whether you are driving a car or operating a lathe," says Gil Rhodes (8212-4), supervisor of the Safety and Medical Section at Livermore Laboratory, "we'd like you to do it safely."

Gil makes similar remarks often to new engineers in an effort to point up the cooperative attitude of members of his section in carrying out their safety program.

"We don't want to hinder procedures," says Gil, "but we try to stress the importance of observing proper safety practices."

Besides the industrial, fire, and high explosive safety categories, Gil and his 10 member crew are also responsible for radioactive material control, the medical clinic, health services, industrial hygiene, laboratory sanitation, and health physics.

As part of the laboratory safety program continuous checks and tests are performed to insure proper ventilation, working conditions, and protection of plant equipment and personnel.

Much Equipment Used

A wide variety of test and safety equipment is used for safety precautions and accident prevention. These include devices which can sample a breath of air for chemical elements, detect traces of radioactive particles, or determine the flammability of a material. Protective gear and clothing such as safety shoes, belts, gloves, and goggles are kept in ample supply.

In case of an emergency at the Livermore Laboratory an instant alert can be made by telephone. When a caller dials emergency control—the phone operators, medical, safety, and security — answer the phone simultaneously. The emergency number is pasted in red on every telephone in the laboratory.

Some protective services, such as fire extinguishers, are on a contract basis, although the safety section trains laboratory personnel in the use of safety equipment. This training includes emergency respiratory equipment, which was recently installed in key positions throughout laboratory buildings.

Unique Program

A unique "personalized" safety program, featuring individual safety reminders plus posters, will get underway shortly.

Each month new safety posters will appear on outdoor display cases in front of the laboratory,

along with the current figures on days and man-hours worked without a disabling injury. About the same time a safety message, highlighted by a small picture of that month's poster, will be sent to every employee.

This program is part of a continuing effort to create safety-consciousness among employees.

"We want employees to know we're concerned not only with their safety on the job," says Gil, "but also at home and on vacation. We would like them

to be safety-conscious wherever they are."

Some time ago a valve accidentally exploded on a sulphuric acid container and a few drops sprayed into the eyes of an unwary employee standing eight feet away. He was rushed to a nearby safety shower, his eyes were flushed with water, and his sight was saved.

"If there had been no shower, if there had been hesitation in deciding what to do, that man might be blind today," Gil said.



FLYING PIECES of a dummy component pounded these dents into the 1/4-inch steel protective plate surrounding the Livermore Laboratory centrifuge. Jack Workman (8121-1), centrifuge operator, examines the plate. The accident happened when the adhesive bond holding the component onto the centrifuge arm failed as the whirling arm reached a speed of 450 revolutions per minute.

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Safety Engineering 3210 Keeps Constant Vigilance

Sandia Laboratory's outstanding safety record is an achievement of each employee who contributed his own accident-free record to the total effort.

Much credit for the safety awareness of each employee goes to the constant vigilance and careful ground work laid by personnel of the Safety Engineering Department 3210.

Everything from high heels to high explosives come under the department's surveillance.

Sandia's safety philosophy is outlined in SCI 2001 which says "Supervisors are responsible for the safety of their employees. Their responsibility includes the promotion of safety consciousness among employees, instructing employees in safe working practices, and setting the proper example. Supervisors should follow through on instructions to ensure that they are carried out, and initiate and follow through on action to correct unsafe conditions which are normally corrected as part of operating procedures."

Another part of the SCI outlines the duties of 3210. It is pointed out that it is the department's responsibility to carry out the Corporation's objectives in safety as well as to assist supervisors in their safety responsibilities.

"The SCI also gives us the task of safety education," says J. E.

Baylor, who is in charge of the Safety Engineering Division. "We also have to establish safe operating procedures for tests involving explosives and other hazards."

This is a lot of ground to cover.

As a result safety engineers work with almost every Sandia organization analyzing work operations, evaluating hazards and formulating step-by-step procedures for accomplishing the job. This is particularly true for the testing operations conducted by Sandia and much of the experimental laboratory electronic and mechanical development work.

Safety engineers have regular assignments in Area III, Coyote Test Field and other remote test areas including Sandia's test ranges at Salton Sea, Calif., and Tonopah, Nev.

Sandia's safety program is audited annually by Western Electric Company and Bell Telephone Laboratories safety representatives.

Through the years, the comments have been favorable.

From the audit of March 1960 a portion read, "Sandia's operations require a unique approach to accident prevention and safety control measures. The success of the program may be evaluated by comparing results with other AEC contractors performing similar work and by a review of Sandia's record . . .

"There have been no fatal accidents at Sandia. Frequency and



SAFETY CONFERENCE in A. B. Metzger's office is held to discuss safety aspects and plant layout for a new testing program. From left are H. H. Pastorius, Plant Engineering department manager 4540; J. J. Miller, supervisor of Test Project Division I 5251; Mr. Metzger, manager of Safety

Engineering Department 3210; R. G. Elsbrock, supervisor of Industrial Hygiene Chemistry Section 3361-1; D. L. Rost, supervisor of Safety Engineering Section 3211-1; H. R. Vaughn, supervisor of Fundamental Aerodynamics Section 5141-1; and J. E. Baylor, Safety Engineering Division 3211.



SAFETY ENGINEER O. W. Graham, center, talks with Art Yontz (1312), left, and F. A. Goss, supervisor of Explosives Development Division 1312, about a series of tests to be conducted on plane wave explosive devices. They are standing inside a firing chamber.

severity rates compare very favorably with other AEC contractors. The competence of the personnel, the close liaison between the safety organization and all other units together with the authority and responsibility assigned to the Safety Engineering Department have produced very satisfactory results."

Another comment from the audit of April 1958 reads: "There is close cooperation between the safety and technical groups achieved through prompt and effective response to problems of safety arising from new and unique applications involving risks of varying degrees."

"An essential factor in this relationship is the willingness of technical organizations to seek this assistance. New fields of development have presented an increasing pattern of potential hazards which have been controlled by strict safety engineering."

All of this has been accomplished through the efforts of 13 Safety Engineering employees. Headed by A. B. Metzger, department manager, and J. E. Baylor, supervisor of Safety Engineering Division, department personnel include D. L. Rost, supervisor of Safety Engineering Section, and safety engineers E. F. Armbrust, V. W. Christy, D. S. Cone, Elio Cultreri, S. S. Devault, O. W. Graham, M. W. Tippy and P. E. Wallace.

Marge Smith is department statistician who keeps Sandia's accident records. W. C. McCrory operates Sandia's safety store for distribution of special safety equipment.

Secretaries in the organization include Wynona Durham and Marie Bowers.

On the Job Is The Safest Place

Deaths per 100,000 workers per year in a recent year occurred at the rate of 49 off the job to 22 on the job, a ratio of 2 to 1. Disabling injuries per 1,000 workers occurred at the rate of about 40 off the job to 30 on the job, a ratio of 4 to 3.

No job is so important and no service is so urgent that you cannot take time to perform your work safely.



IN STATIC-FREE AREA located in Bldg. 809, safety engineer Verne Christy (3211), left, talks with Mel Ortega (1222), center, and Duane Stenberg about a fabrication problem in soldering wires to a connecting device for a small explosive switch. Ortega conducts the operation in the static-free area. Note the ground wire attached to his wrist, a safety precaution to prevent static.



SMALL EXPLOSIVES test area in Area III is scene of a routine safety check as Paul H. Adams, supervisor of Area III Laboratory Division 1615, left, and Parker Wallis, safety engineer of 3211, right, confer with L. A. Hitchcock (1615-1) after a test.

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
ALBUQUERQUE OPERATIONS OFFICE
P. O. BOX 5400
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

IN REPLY REFER TO:

JUL 7 1960

Mr. J. P. Molnar
President
Sandia Corporation
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Molnar:

Please accept and extend to the employees of the Sandia Laboratory my sincere congratulations for having broken on May 20, 1960, the best all-time no-injury record in the atomic energy program, and for continuing to improve upon your own new record. The former record of 11,175,509 and the second best record of 9.4 million man-hours have stood unequalled for three and one-half and six years respectively as evidence that such goals are not easily attainable. Such records of safety performance reflect a high level of management-supervision-employee teamwork seldom achieved in world industry.

While the record itself is something of which every Sandia Laboratory employee can be justly proud, its by-products are more important. I refer to the injuries and accompanying miseries and losses that didn't occur and the satisfaction to be derived by the employees and their families from this assurance that the breadwinner has a safe environment in which to work.

I am most appreciative of the efforts behind this very real contribution to safety in the weapons program and wish the employees of the Laboratory every success in their efforts to reach their new goals of safety achievement.

Sincerely yours,
K. V. Sherford
K. V. Sherford
Manager



Employees at Sandia Laboratory Gathered for Presentation of the AEC's Awards Monday, July 11



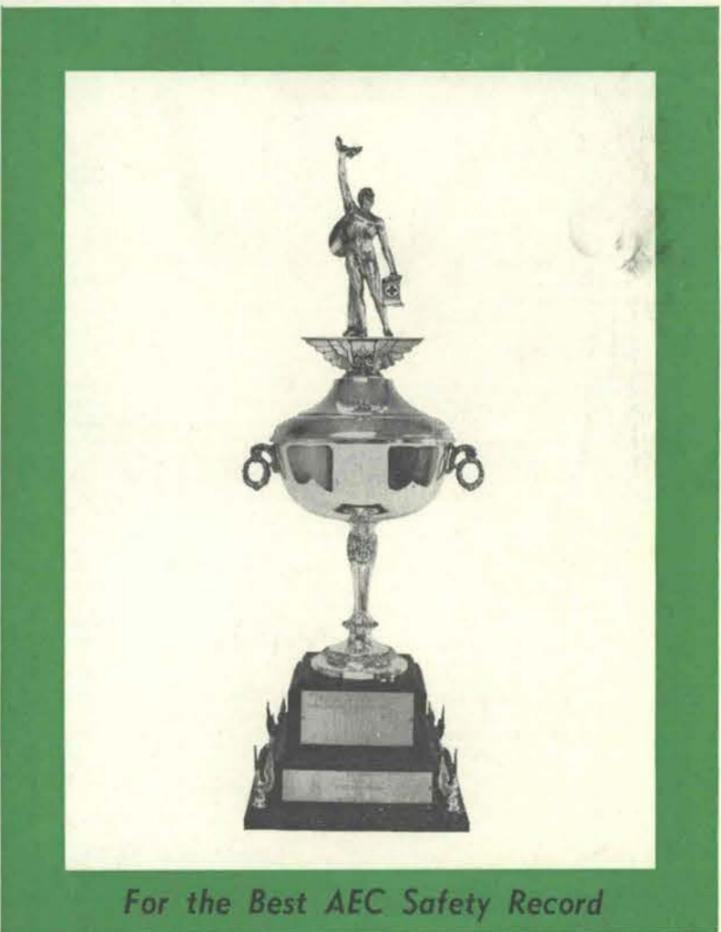
Officials Participating in Awards Program

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SPECIAL SCROLL honoring A. B. Metzger, Sandia's Safety Engineering Manager, was presented during ceremonies Monday. The scroll reads: "Under your guidance and through your constant dedication to the promotion of safety, Sandia achieved an all-time AEC record of accident-free operations. For your contribution to our personal welfare, we express our heartfelt gratitude. Your fellow employees of Sandia Laboratory." J. P. Molnar, Corporation president, left, made the presentation as Mrs. Metzger, special guest at the ceremony, looks on.



For the Best AEC Safety Record