

## **DIVINE STRAKE Experiment**

(Statement\* issued by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, August 1, 2006)

The Tunnel Target Defeat Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration was initiated by the Department of Defense in Fiscal Year 2003 to provide enhanced capability to predict damage to deep underground facilities. That capability is still needed and the DIVINE STRAKE experiment managed by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) is another step in the development of that capability.

On 26 May 2006, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Nevada Site Office (NSO) withdrew its revised Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the conduct of the DIVINE STRAKE experiment at the Nevada Test Site. That action was based on an NNSA/NSO decision to clarify and provide information on the impacts, if any, of background radiation and global fallout on the DIVINE STRAKE experiment.

We have stood down the experiment site and the workforce that was preparing the site for the experiment.

The NNSA and DTRA are developing a plan that would permit the conduct of the DIVINE STRAKE experiment if it is determined that the experiment can be conducted safely, is in compliance with NEPA, and there is a favorable court ruling.

The details of this plan, the sequence of actions, and schedule are to be determined. Public information sessions will be part of this plan.

The earliest point at which the DIVINE STRAKE experiment can be conducted would be at least several months into calendar year 2007.

DTRA will brief interested Congressional parties on the plan when it is final, and prior to finalizing and publicly announcing public information sessions.

\* As of August 1, 2006, this statement was not available on the web sites of DTRA, NNSA, or the Nevada Test Site. A copy is available on the Nuclear Information Project web site of the Federation of American Scientists at <http://www.nukestrat.com/us/stratcom/gs-divinestrake.htm>.