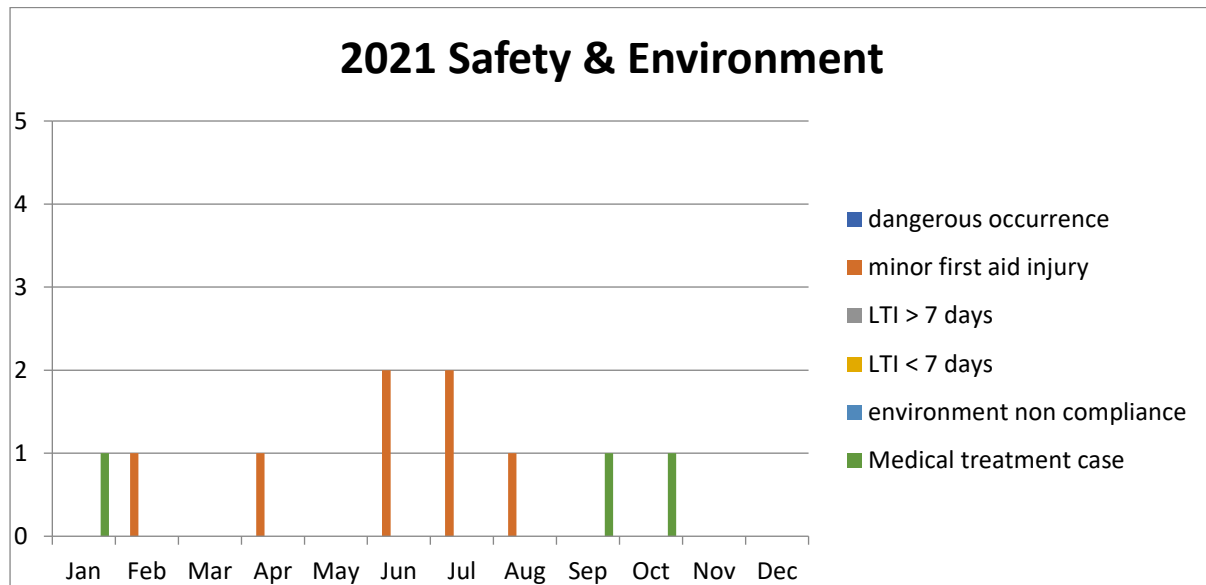


VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – January 2022**Health and Safety/COVID-19**

1 medical treatment case reported in September – MDP officer suffering chest pains unrelated to work conveyed to Caithness General Hospital.

1 medical treatment case reported in October – employee suffering chest pains unrelated to work conveyed to Caithness General Hospital.

The site continues to comply with extant UK, Scottish Government and MOD COVID-19 guidance and remains an on-site distribution hub for LFD home test kits. The current surge in COVID cases has had an impact on site personnel which is being dynamically managed, reducing site operational activity where necessary whilst maintaining safety and security requirements.

Vulcan will become fully smoke free (no vaping) from 1 August 2022 in accordance with MOD Policy.

Environment

There have been no challenges to the Approval of Arrangements (AoA) limits during this period.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

At the end of November, the annual rolling discharge (expressed as a percentage against the maximum detailed in the SEPA letter of agreement) was:

	Type	Percentage
Gaseous	Noble Gases	0%
	Other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	21.5%

	Type	Percentage
Liquid	Cobalt-60	0.06%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together	0.21%
	Tritium	0.001%
Solid	Other Radionuclides	0.000%

Shore Test Facility Programme

Following satisfactory completion of the DNSR Facility Readiness Check, the regulatory hold point on defuel was lifted and I authorised defuel to commence. Progress has been satisfactory and without any radiological or conventional safety issues encountered.

DSMP1 Pond Fuel Removal

Internal and independent external assessments of dummy fuel moves were successfully undertaken together with formal oral boards of DSMP1 team leaders and their deputies that judged their knowledge of the full fuel moves process. DNSR subsequently undertook their DSMP1 fuel moves readiness inspection and lifted their regulatory hold point, whereupon DSMP1 fuel moves were authorised to commence.

Events

Since the last meeting no events have occurred that required reporting to DNSR in accordance with their mandatory reporting criteria.

Emergency Arrangements

Exercise LONESTAR, the site's annual nuclear emergency response demonstration, was successfully undertaken on 25 November with the Vulcan Emergency Control Centre fully complemented and myself acting as the Incident Commander. The site received positive feedback from regulators and an assessment of Adequate was achieved.

The site also undertook and passed its externally assessed annual security exercise on 3 November.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

As briefed above DNSR have been to site to conduct the LONESTAR assessment and DSMP1 Fuel Moves assessment, whilst the Defence Nuclear Security Regulator were on site as part of the assessment team for the annual security exercise. SEPA will be conducting their Annual Review of Safety for Vulcan on 12 January.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

Unfortunately, since the last brief key members of staff at both MOD Abbey Wood and Vulcan have suffered absence through illness that has caused some slower progress in aspects of the decommissioning project. This has however allowed more

engagement with the NDA and also for some of the DSG's previous comments to be taken into consideration. The project as a whole should benefit from this engagement with a corresponding better result for Caithness.

Other

This is my last written brief to the DSG as I will be relieved by Cdr Ian Walker on 4 March. In spite of the COVID restrictions that have encompassed most of my time in post, it has been a pleasure to have had the opportunity to have worked in and enjoyed Caithness once again. My wife and I plan to continue to be regular visitors in future to keep in touch with our friends in the area and enjoy all that the area has to follow (particularly the sea kayaking in my case!).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Cleminson" with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

M D Cleminson
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan