Pacific Northwest
National Laboratory
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*//*//*Around the Region in Homeland Security*\\*\\*
July 2007

This monthly status report summarizes activities related to Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska.  This issue highlights advances in

- Interoperable communications across the region
- IBRD Program outreach to leadership and public information officers
- Sharing homeland security information with students.

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## Region Provides Leadership to Interoperable Communications Project

On May 31, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) coordinated a meeting with regional emergency response agencies and the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWAR) on the Regional Technology Initiative (RTI) Interoperable Communications Project.  The project assesses systems throughout the region to lay out the present state of reliable, redundant, and persistent communications systems usable for public safety, public works, and other responders in the region and address both the current state and known gaps to provide a blueprint for a technology migration plan that will identify needed investments in communications systems to produce the desired fully interoperable communications network.

Participants reviewed project outcomes to optimize the value to the Seattle Urban Area, validated SPAWAR's current understanding of systems across the region, and provided input on the vision and blueprint for the project.  Based on regional input, SPAWAR is well on the way to completing the deliverable for July:  the blue print for interoperable communications and the technology migration plan.

The project is being guided by a leadership committee comprising representatives from key regional agencies, including PNNL.  The Puget Sound Interoperability Executive Committee (PS-IEC) is being formed to:

- Maintain and update the regional blueprint for interoperable communications developed under the RTI
- Serve as the official Seattle Urban Area interoperable communications planning group and work with the State IEC to develop the statewide interoperable communications plan
- Recommend a governing body or governance model that can then build or implement interoperable communications networks based on the plan and as authorized by stakeholders
- Actively coordinate with other stakeholders for interoperable communications in the region, specifically county fire and police chiefs associations, emergency managers, information technology support staff, and county communications agencies (King County Regional Communications Board, Snohomish Emergency Radio System board, and Pierce County Metropolitan Public Safety Communications Steering Committee).

The PS-IEC planning group met June 8, 22, and July 6 to develop its charter and begin implementing its objectives.

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## PNNL's Stein Named to IBRD Technology Working Group

PNNL's Steve Stein and three members of the regional response community (Susan May, State Office of Health; Jim Henriksen, Seattle/King County Public Health; and Lt. Ed Peterson, Seattle Fire Department) were invited to be members of the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) Technology Working Group, the principal body responsible for identifying and recommending to IBRD Program leaders technologies, systems, procedures, and methods to restore an urban area after a biological release. The Technology Working Group will focus its efforts on remediation and cleanup technologies but may address consequence management capability shortfalls and procedural issues associated with restoration if deemed appropriate by IBRD Program leadership. Membership will include Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security technology development and acquisition representatives as well as representatives from the federal agencies (Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) involved with the program that have applicable expertise in the technology focus areas. The working group plans to hold its kick-off meeting in July.

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## IBRD Reaches Out to PIOs

The IBRD Program is also reaching out to public information officers (PIOs) in the region. PIOs will be on the front lines communicating with the public in an emergency. PIO support is also necessary to share program information to interested news media. The goals of the PIO working group are to agree on how media inquiries for the project will be handled and, more importantly, to gain input from PIOs for the IBRD key deliverable, the Consequence Management Plan for the area for a biological release.

PNNL hosted a meeting of regional PIOs on June 14 to establish the PIO working group and begin networking among PIOs. Representative from DHS and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) shared the proposed protocols and approach for public information and listened to the comments from participants. The group also identified issues and concerns to address in the short term and agreed on a path forward. The DHS and DTRA representatives will take the lead from the federal perspective. Jody Woodcock, Program Manager for the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, will serve as the regional point of contact between the other PIOs and the federal staff.

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## DHS S&T Office of National Labs Leadership Briefed on Regional Stretch Goal

Steve Stein and Mike Mitchell briefed James Johnson, Director of the S&T Office of National Laboratories, Cynthia Christian of his staff, and Lance Mamiya of the U.S. Department of Energy Pacific Northwest Site Office in late June on the status of PNNL's Northwest Regional Stretch Goal. Stein and Mitchell provided an overview of the cumulative status of the goal, forecast performance for fiscal year end, and responded to questions. Specific areas of the goal, such as becoming recognized as a regional partner, developing relationships with regional stakeholders, engaging the regional academic community, conducting regional workshops, and bringing national homeland security leadership to the region, have all been met or exceeded. The Northwest Homeland Security Center for Science and Technology is on track for a successful implementation by September. This virtual center is organized around state and federal advisory groups that include key stakeholders in homeland security. The response to PNNL's progress was very positive. Discussions focused primarily on how DHS S&T would formally evaluate and judge PNNL's progress.

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## Homeland Security in the Schools

At the recommendation of Matt Clark, Director of University Programs, DHS S&T, and Kathy Prendergast, DHS Public Liaison Officer, PNNL's Ann Lesperance and Heidi Mahy shared information on the threat and preparations for a possible flu pandemic and bioterrorism with students at Northstar Junior High School in Kirkland, Washington, east of Seattle. The class spent the semester learning about the history of infectious diseases, and their teacher, Bob Herold, wanted to conclude the course with these two topics. Herold praised both speakers as outstanding and said that their presentation became the highlight of the course. He noted that while some of his students may pursue careers in science or security, all will be better informed citizens who will appreciate the work being done to protect public health and safety.

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## Upcoming Events

July 16
Domestic Nuclear Detection Office discussion of conduct of operations for radiation/nuclear detection and deterrence with local, state, and federal responders
Seattle

July 23-27
Evergreen Sentry 2007 Full Field Exercise
Northwest Region

August
Northwest Homeland Security Science and Technology Center launch
Seattle

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*Around the Region in Homeland Security* is a monthly status report from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in support of the Homeland Security Regional Stretch Goal to bring together major stakeholders from across the region that have a vested interest in homeland security challenges and issues and provide a collaborative environment that addresses Northwest regional homeland security requirements, needs, and challenges. For more information on PNNL's involvement in Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, contact Steve Stein, Regional Stretch Goal Program Manager at steve.stein@pnl.gov or 206-528-3340. For more information on how PNNL supports Homeland Security across the nation, contact Mike Mitchell, Homeland Security Sector Manager at Michael.Mitchell@pnl.gov or 509-375-6353.