



## Around the Region in Homeland Security April 2008

The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to support regional preparedness, response, and recovery. The center enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities and federal, state, and local stakeholders in the Northwest. This monthly status report summarizes activities related to Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska.

This issue highlights

- Challenges and successes in long-term recovery from biological contamination
- Upcoming Regional Homeland Security Summit
- Collaborations between the Navy and regional research and development
- An analytics technology to aid intelligence fusion.

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### Anthrax Symposium Highlights Challenges and Successes in Long-Term Recovery

On March 19, the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) hosted a day-long symposium in Seattle to enhance regional response and restoration capabilities in a catastrophic event. The symposium sought to help attendees understand the associated challenges that impact entire communities, including people, infrastructure and critical systems, when the community is exposed to a biological agent like anthrax. The IBRD is a collaborative regional program jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to develop policies, methods, plans, and applied technologies to restore large urban areas, DoD installations, and critical infrastructures following the release of a biological agent. The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) serves as the Onsite Integrator for the IBRD, which is conducted in the Seattle Urban Area and at Fort Lewis Military Base.



The approximately 100 symposium participants included county emergency management directors; elected officials; public health professionals from county, state, and federal levels; military emergency and public health managers; private sector representatives from leading northwest companies; DHS and DoD officials; members of the DoD Northern Command; and King County Executive Ron Sims.

To increase the knowledge of anthrax as a bioterrorism agent, three nationally recognized experts shared their field experience. Dr. JD Malone (PNNL) discussed the properties of anthrax as an agent, Dr. Greg Martin (Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland) reviewed his medical supervision during the 2001 anthrax event, and Dr. Carol North (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center) examined the socio-psychological residue of an anthrax event.



*Left to right: Steve Stein (PNNL), Carl Brown (DoD), Lance Brooks (DHS), Ann Lesperance (PNNL) and Ron Sims (County Executive for King County) helped organize and facilitated local participation in the regional symposium.*

To understand the long-term impacts to sectors and communities, three panel sessions shared a range of perspectives and allowed participants to discuss potential solutions to address economic implications, impacts on public health and medical services, and the decision-making framework that would prioritize recovery efforts.

Lance Brooks, DHS Program Manager in the Science and Technology Directorate's Chem/Bio Division, thanked PNNL staff member Ann Lesperance, who organized the event. "The speakers were excellent, and the panels were engaging," Brooks said in a letter to PNNL management. "All throughout the Symposium, participants would come up to me and tell me how great this symposium was and how much they were learning."

A summary report will present the key issues identified at the symposium to inform the development of a blueprint for recovery and restoration following a biological incident.

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## States to Convene in May on Homeland Security Needs

The 2007 State Homeland Security Directors Survey, released through the National Governors Association in December, stated the clear need to strengthen federal and state relationships. In that spirit, Under Secretary for Science and Technology Jay Cohen and Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office Vayl Oxford invited state representatives to join them and Major General Timothy Lowenberg of Washington State for a Regional Summit on Homeland Security.

The 1-day summit will be held May 28 in Richland, Washington, at PNNL. Invited participants include the Adjutant Generals, State Emergency Management Directors, the State Directors of Public Health, and the State Patrol Chiefs from Alaska, Colorado,



effort is funded through the DHS Regional Information Sharing and Collaboration (RISC) program. The goal of the new technology deployments is to offer advanced analytic capabilities that can improve the ability of Fusion Center personnel to make discoveries in complex data and quickly share new information with appropriate colleagues. PNNL will be providing ongoing technical support to the Fusion Center under this program to serve as a liaison between technology developers and end users and collect and synthesize user requirements for project teams and DHS research management processes. PNNL staff will also introduce, train, and support new technology deployed at the center.

One of the PNNL technologies to be deployed under this effort is the Scalable Reasoning System (SRS), a toolkit that visually explores trends and patterns in structured incident data and unstructured text information. SRS also includes a mobile interface that runs on handheld devices such as smartphones and enables field personnel to collect and share multimedia information remotely and be notified automatically of relevant new data, giving both field and office personnel the ability to keep abreast of the location and activities of tactical teams. SRS is also being deployed at the San Diego Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS), a multi-agency law enforcement information-sharing network. Technology developed for ARJIS will inform the Seattle-area deployment, and both installation sites will benefit from mutual lessons learned.

Fusion Center staff were enthusiastic about the potential for analytic technologies to advance their capabilities and leverage recent advances in mobile platforms to bring new capabilities to the field.

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## Upcoming Events

May 2

Technology Review and Finalization Meeting , Regional Technology Integration Program Interconnected Emergency Operations Center Software  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Seattle Office

May 28

Regional Homeland Security Summit  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington

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## Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Operated by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy

*Around the Region in Homeland Security* is a monthly report from the Northwest Regional Technology Center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The goal of the NWRTC is to bring together major stakeholders from across the region that have a vested interest in homeland security issues and provide a collaborative environment that addresses Northwest regional homeland security requirements, needs, and

challenges. For more information, contact Director Steve Stein at [steve.stein@pnl.gov](mailto:steve.stein@pnl.gov) or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Mary Peterson at [mary.peterson@pnl.gov](mailto:mary.peterson@pnl.gov) or 509-372-4655, or see the website at <http://nwrtp/pnl.gov>.