



Around the Region in Homeland Security October 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, and this issue highlights

- Standoff detection technologies being piloted in the region
- New homeland security lecture series
- Cyber security assessment at the Oregon State data center
- New Department of Homeland Security strategic plan.

Standoff Detection Technologies Being Piloted in Kennewick

From September 26 to November 9, 2008, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is sponsoring a test of standoff explosives detection systems at the Toyota Center in Kennewick, Washington. For six Tri-City Americans hockey games, a team of experts from PNNL will test infrared cameras and a millimeter wave radar probe, which can be used to detect concealed objects such as suicide bomber vests. The work is being conducted as part of the DHS Science and Technology Directorate's Standoff Technology Integration and Demonstration Program.

Standoff technologies can be deployed at a distance. The hope is that technologies can be deployed away from the entrance to a large venue like a coliseum, preventing the public from entering a potential blast zone. The tests explore how commercial off-the-shelf and maturing technologies could detect explosive devices. The current focus is person-borne improvised explosive devices. The work could provide additional security for special events like political conventions and major sporting events.

Experts will use the technologies to characterize the flow of people approaching the venue to better understand how the technologies perform under high patron flows where dense crowds can challenge sensor performance. Feedback from the tests will be used to improve the technologies and fit them for use within more comprehensive security programs.

The PNNL team will field test technologies to detect concealed objects such as suicide vests. High-powered imaging processing software will analyze surveillance camera images and look for anomalies such as abandoned bags, formation of groups, people loitering and more. Other surveillance cameras will be used to document the flow of people into the facility and to facilitate the interdiction process if the sensors detect a concealed object.

On September 16, DHS staff led a press conference and VIP event at the Toyota Center for the work. The work was featured in the *Tri-City Herald*, and National Geographic is writing a story as well. The pilot was originally going to be conducted at the U.S. Open, but when event organizers were unable to manage logistics, the project team worked with the city of Kennewick to place the pilot at the Toyota Center. City officials welcomed the opportunity to learn more about the technologies and provide input for improvement.

Homeland Security Lecture Series Kicks Off

Friday, October 3, Ambassador Cresencio Arcos kicked off the Homeland Security Lecture Series at the PNNL Richland campus. Arcos was Assistant Secretary and Director of International Affairs for DHS from 2003 to 2006. He retired with the rank of Ambassador from the U.S. Department of State after a 25-year career. He has an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University's Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.



Arcos talked about the post-9-11 scramble to determine the U.S. direction for preventing future attacks on the homeland. One of the elements originally overlooked in the creation of DHS was the need for international partnerships. DHS has since found that such partnerships are vital to detect, prevent, respond, and recover from events of mass effect.

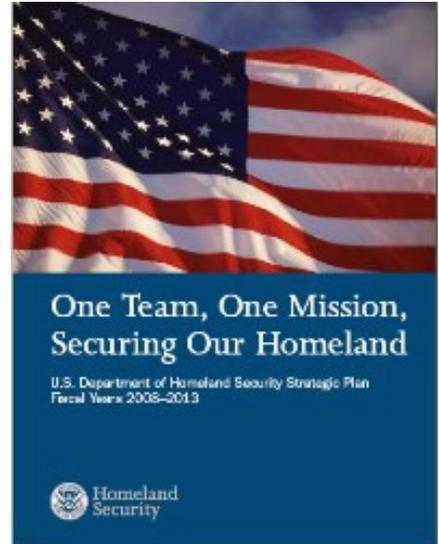
The Homeland Security Lecture Series features internationally known homeland security leaders sharing insights on policies, practices, challenges, and opportunities. The lectures are held in the Battelle Auditorium in Richland and are open to the public.



In November, Robert Liscouski will continue the series. Liscouski was appointed the first Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection for DHS and held the position until 2005. He led the development and implementation of the nation's first efforts to protect critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks and natural disasters. He's held leadership positions in industry, particularly in the area of advanced analytic software tools. He holds an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

The plan's themes mark a shift in emphasis from previous strategic plans to focus on priorities. Chertoff said the changed reflects success in accomplishing previous goals and the changing global environment. The plan affirms the all hazards approach, emphasizes countering weapons of mass destruction, and focuses on intelligence and information sharing. The plan also calls for increased partnerships and outreach effectiveness.

"The nation continues to face serious challenges," said Chertoff in the memo that accompanied the plan's announcement to DHS staff. "But by executing the plan, we will continue to work together to prevent, detect, protect against, mitigate, and respond to any threats and to adapt as those challenges evolve and change."



The plan is available online at <http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/strategicplan/>.

Upcoming Events

November 13, 2008

Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration Program's Community Resilience Workshop focused on critical infrastructure
Seattle



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

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