



Around the Region in Homeland Security December 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

- Radiation detection practice on Puget Sound
- Results from the latest Visualization and Analytics Centers Consortium meeting
- Suggestions from the former Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection on extending homeland security beyond infrastructure.

Puget Sound Agencies Practice Radiation Detection

During the week of October 27, PNNL staff led a series of drills in Puget Sound to reinforce learning on radiation/nuclear detection and equipment use. The drills were conducted under the auspices of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office's (DNDO)



Puget Sound Small Vessel Preventive Rad/Nuc Detection Pilot Project. The project will develop a radiation detection architecture that reduces the risk of radiological and nuclear threats which could be illegally transported across territorial seas on recreational or small commercial vessels.

As part of the project, DNDO had procured human-portable radiation surveying equipment and coordinated with the U.S. Coast Guard Integrated Support Command Seattle to distribute it to various stakeholder agencies. The equipment comes with 3 years of maintenance support.

Emergency responders from the U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Customs and Border Protection; Ports of Everett and Seattle;



Bainbridge Island, Everett, Port Orchard, Seattle, Tacoma, and Port of Seattle Police; Seattle Fire Department; Civil Support Team; Customs and Border Protection - Air and Marine Operations; Whatcom County Sheriff's Office; and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife had previously received classroom training on the equipment. Each agency had also developed standard operating procedures (SOPs) and contributed to a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) in a maritime environment. The drills practiced and evaluated both the SOPs and CONOPS. At

various locations around Puget Sound, participants practiced detecting actual radiation sources controlled by Washington Department of Health personnel.

In addition to serving as controllers for the drills, PNNL staff also played boat operators and crew. Special thanks go to staff of the Washington State Department of Health for their support, collaboration, and cooperation in planning and execution of the drills. The drills successfully trained 127 emergency responders and helped uncover some training gaps that will be addressed in future drills.

VAC Consortium Meeting Looks Beyond Borders

The National Visualization and Analytics Center (NVAC) held its fall 2008 Consortium meeting November 12 and 13 at PNNL's Richland campus. The VAC Consortium



includes industry partners Boeing; Future Point Systems, Inc.; Microsoft Research; Metatomix; Podmilsak Group; Quantum 4D; and Tableau Software as well as the National Institute of Standards and Testing. Attendance at the consortium was evenly divided among industry, academia, and government agencies.

The meeting's theme was Visual Analytics Beyond Borders. Dieter Fellner, Director the Fraunhofer Institute of Computer Graphics, Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, gave the keynote address to a packed house, sharing ideas on applied research in visual analytics and

visual computing. Other internationally known researchers in attendance included Daniel Keim, head of the Information Visualization and Data Analysis Research Group

“Homeland security will only be achieved with local government and private sector industry involvement,” said Liscouski. Over 75% of a company’s value is now in intangible aspects like reputation and brand. DHS must be business relevant; solutions must add business value or they won’t be embraced. Community and corporate resiliency will be the new watchwords for the next Administration.

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.



Rear Admiral David Stone (retired) will present the next lecture on January 8. From January 2004 to June 2005, Stone served as Assistant Secretary for the Transportation Security Administration, where he was responsible for the security of the U.S. transportation system including mass transit, rail, highway, pipeline, maritime, and aviation. He will speak on scarcity of resources leading to global instability and critical infrastructure security.

Upcoming Events

January 8, 2009

Homeland Security Lecture Series: Rear Admiral David Stone
PNNL Richland Campus, Washington

February 23-26, 2009

DHS Science and Technology Directorate’s Stakeholders Conference West
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Washington



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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