

Around the Region in Homeland Security March 2009

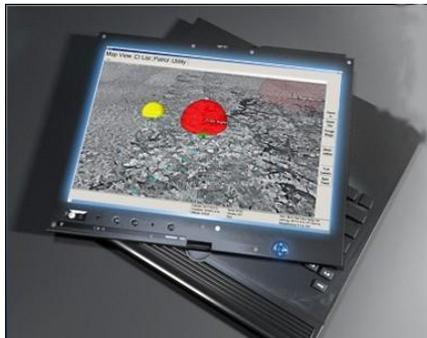
The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to support regional preparedness, response, and recovery. The center enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities and federal, state,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

- A demonstration of new information technologies for emergency responders
- A new name and focus for the Regional Technology Initiative
- An upcoming conference in emergency preparedness.

Northwest Emergency Response Stakeholders View New Technologies

On February 18, leaders from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Command, Control, and Interoperability Division journeyed to Seattle to host a demonstration for northwest stakeholders. The division uses a practitioner-driven approach to create and deploy information resources to enable seamless and secure interactions among homeland security stakeholders.

Division Director David Boyd showcased the latest DHS-funded technologies in information sharing, visual analytics, and communications. One of those technologies is the Critical



Infrastructure Inspection Management System (CIIMS), a low-cost intelligence-based information collection tool that allows airborne inspection of critical infrastructure and key resources. Data from the inspection are returned to a



central location for intelligence analysis. The tool, which was developed by Johns Hopkins University Applied

Physics Laboratory, is currently being developed through a partnership with the Maryland State Police and was recently deployed to support the Academy Awards.

Two other technologies that were demonstrated were the Fused Analytic Desktop Environment (FADE) and the Law Enforcement Information Framework (LEIF), both



(funded by DHS S&T) developed by PNNL. FADE enables analysts to bring data from a myriad of sources into an analysis environment and organize it in unique and meaningful ways, thereby increasing situational awareness and the opportunity to detect terrorist or other criminal activity. LEIF is part of a new generation of “lightweight” analytic components that scale across use contexts – from hand-held devices to desktop to collaborative setting

–that enable analysts to rapidly detect patterns, trends, events, and entities of interest in streaming incident data.

The RealEyes technology was also demonstrated. RealEyes is a prototype software system that allows first responders and law enforcement officials equipped with Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) to send and receive live video and geospatial coordinates, view video from fixed or mobile cameras, and receive data (video, photos and text) from a field command post using basic cellular technology.

In the area of improved communications, one of the technologies demonstrated was the Multi-band Radio, which seeks to solve the problem of radio interoperability among first responders. Thales Communications, Inc., developed the prototype, which is capable of operating in the primary public safety bands, public broadcasting, and, when authorized, the Department of Defense bands and two federal government bands. This capability represents a significant step for allowing interoperability among federal, local, tribal, regional, and state agencies.

Dr. Boyd also shared the status of another communications tool, Voice Over Internet, which also seeks to improve interoperability by overcoming the compatibility gaps among various Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) radio systems. The Voice Over Internet project is assisting in the development of VoIP specifications in partnership with the Public Safety VoIP Working Group, comprised of emergency responders, industry representatives, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Office of Law Enforcement Standards. Each VoIP specification will identify the standards and settings necessary for VoIP-based devices to connect with one another—reducing costs for system design and installation.

State and local stakeholders who attended included staff and leadership from emergency management agencies such as Bellingham Air and Marine Operations, Everett Emergency Management, King County Emergency Management, Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, and Seattle Emergency Management; law enforcement agencies such as the Lynnwood Police Department, Pierce County Sheriff’s Department, Seattle Police Department, Washington State Patrol, and Whatcom County Sheriff’s Department; Ports of Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma;

