



Around The Region In Homeland Security October 2010

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

- The Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) capstone event
- The use of Common Operating and Response Environment (CORE) software in training drills
- A new report on social media for emergency response and recovery
- The NWRTC's nomination for the 2010 Christopher Columbus Foundation Homeland Security Award.

IBRD Capstone Focuses on Recovery

In September, the IBRD Program culminated in a 3-day capstone event. The Seattle event drew more than 250 attendees from military, federal, state, and local agencies as well as the private sector; more than 300 people also watched via simultaneous webcast.

Keynote speakers included Alice Hill, Senior Counselor to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano; Andrew Webber, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs; and

Timothy Manning, Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“IBRD is a wonderful example of collaboration among partner agencies,” said Hill in her keynote speech. “Perhaps most impressive has been the IBRD engagement with the private sector. We cannot hope to effectively respond to a catastrophic event without our private sector partners.”

For the last 3 years, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and DHS have collaborated with the Seattle Urban Area Security Initiative to conduct the IBRD Program. The program provided coordinated, system-level approaches for the recovery and restoration of urban areas, military installations, and critical infrastructure following the aerosol release of a biological agent.



Ryan Madden (DTRA), Chris Russell (DHS), and Lance Brooks (DHS) applaud the work of Heather Kelly (King County Office of Emergency Management), Jody Woodcock (Pierce County Department of Emergency Management), Grant Tietje (City of Seattle, Office of Emergency Management), and Mark Williamson and Jim Sheline (Joint Base Lewis-McChord), who, with Rebecca Clark (City of Bellevue, Emergency Preparedness) guided development of a first-of-a-kind regional recovery framework for a biological event.

Northwest Agencies Benefit from Software in Recent Drills

Northwest agencies involved in the West Coast Small Maritime Vessel Preventative Rad/Nuc Detection Pilot, sponsored by the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, recently had an opportunity to use the Common Operating and Response Environment (CORE) software in on-the-water drills. Developed by PNNL, CORE is a suite of tools that facilitates situational awareness and work process flows.

The agencies used CORE to collect and share information as they worked through their standard operating procedures for rad/nuc detection on Puget Sound. CORE provides a mechanism for field to send required information and isotope spectra simultaneously to operations centers for analysis. CORE provides situational awareness up the chain while minimizing processing time by field officers. The suite integrates data in a variety of formats from custom-built databases to commercially available tools.

“CORE has been a key find for the Pilot,” said Project Manager Bill Peterson. “CORE eases the burden on the field officer by quickly providing situational awareness in a maritime rad/nuc event to multiple agencies and operations centers.”

CORE is available under license agreement to federal, state, local and tribal agencies at no cost. For more information on CORE, contact [Gariann Gelston](mailto:Gariann.Gelston@pnl.gov) at 509-372-6060 or see the [CORE webpage](#).

New Report Details Strategies for Social Media in Emergencies

A March 10, 2010, workshop showcased ways social media technologies can be used to support emergency

management and public safety operations. The workshop, sponsored by DHS and DTRA, highlighted the current state of social networking, demonstrated some of the more commonly used technologies, shared case studies on tool use in a variety of jurisdictions, and provided insights as to how these tools can serve as a conduit for two-way communication between the public and private sectors to address regional response and recovery issues and decision making.

A report on the workshop is now available [on the NWRTC website](#). *Social Networking for Emergency Management and Public Safety* summarizes information presented by the keynote speakers and panelists and lays out conclusions on where the tools are today and their potential role in emergency response planning and implementation now and in the future.

NWRTC Is a Finalist for Homeland Security Award

PNNL’s NWRTC was a finalist in the 2010 Christopher Columbus Foundation Homeland Security Award for its efforts to support regional response and resiliency.

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, an independent federal government agency, gives four Homeland Security Awards to American individuals or companies making measurable and constructive contributions to basic or advanced research. The awards encourage innovation in threat detection, prevention, and response.

Upcoming Events

November 10
Presentation Proposals Due for Partners in
Emergency Preparedness Conference ([see web](#))
Tacoma, Washington (April 2011)

Around the Region in Homeland Security is a monthly report from PNNL’s Northwest Regional Technology Center for Homeland Security. For more information, contact Director Steve Stein at steve.stein@pnl.gov or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Ryan Eddy at ryan.eddy@pnl.gov or 509-372-6622, or Deputy Director Regional Programs Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnl.gov or 206-528-3223, or see the website at <http://nwrtpc.pnl.gov>.



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