



Around The Region In Homeland Security March 2013

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

- Puget Sound Regional Blue Force Tracking Initiative
- Communities of Practice
- FEMA Seeks Applicants for National Advisory Council
- Upcoming Events

Puget Sound Regional Blue Force Tracking Initiative

The Puget Sound Regional Blue Force Tracking (BFTS) Initiative, sponsored by the Seattle Police Department, is an effort to enhance Port Security within the Puget Sound Area Maritime Security Committee Area of Responsibility.

As part of the Initiative, the Training and Drill program was developed to enable federal, state, and local first responder vessels to be regionally optimized when underway on operational missions, improve interagency coordination, enhance maritime domain awareness, and support future training and exercises in the region. The program includes many facets, including:

- Installation of 25 encrypted automatic identification system (EAIS) units on vessels belonging to 15 first responder agencies across the Puget Sound region
- A memorandum of agreement (MoA) for each agency to sign as an appendix to the overarching agreement between the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Seattle Police Department (SPD) regarding the usage

of the equipment, the encryption key process, and security thereof

- A concept of operations (CONOPS) developed with input from USCG, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other government agencies
- Classroom-style training to cover the usage of the EAIS equipment, the MoA appendix, the CONOPS, lessons learned from the east coast project, and operational considerations.

The drill portion of the program will be a two-day operation on the water event to gain familiarization with the equipment and establish interoperability across the region. The first day will serve as a rehearsal for the Training Staff and Drill Controllers, and the second day will be the actual Training and Drill day for all participating agencies to attend.

The Blue Force Tracker Training and Drill event will be on March 20, 2013, at the Port of Everett North Visitor's dock. For more information, contact Jolene Luck, Program Manager (SPD), at (206) 684-3399 or e-mail Jolene.Luck@seattle.gov.

Communities of Practice

[First Responder Communities of Practice](#) is a professional social networking platform created by the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate. The purpose of the Community is to support networking, collaboration and communication amongst the nation's first responders, emergency response professionals, government employees, and others supporting homeland security efforts. This community of members focuses on emergency preparedness, response, recovery and other homeland security issues. Community members can collaborate via a variety of platforms around their areas of interest including blogs, wikis, real-time chat and discussion groups.

For more information, contact
FR.Communities@hq.dhs.gov.



FEMA Seeks Applicants for National Advisory Council

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is requesting individuals who are interested in serving on the National Advisory Council (NAC) to apply for appointment. The NAC is an advisory committee established to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of federal preparedness, protection,

response, recovery, and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

The NAC consists of up to 35 members, all of whom are experts and leaders in their respective fields. The members of the NAC are appointed by the FEMA Administrator and are composed of federal, state, tribal, local, and private-sector leaders and subject matter experts in law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, hospital, public works, emergency management, state and local governments, public health, emergency response, standard settings and accrediting organizations, representatives of individuals with disabilities, infrastructure protection, cyber security, communications, and homeland security communities.

Appointments are for three-year terms to June 15, 2016, unless otherwise noted. The Administrator may also appoint additional candidates to serve as a FEMA Administrator Selection for three-year terms.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 8, 2013, 5:00 p.m. EST. For more information:
<http://www.fema.gov/national-advisory-council>.

Upcoming Events

April 2 – 4, 2013

[Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference](#)
Tacoma, WA

April 16, 2013 (Also April 18-19)

PER-300 – [Social Media for Natural Disaster Response and Recovery](#)
Roseburg, OR

May 7, 2013

[Seattle Emergency Management Summit](#)
Seattle, WA

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@pnnl.gov or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Ryan Eddy at ryan.eddy@pnnl.gov or 509-372-6622, or Deputy Director Regional Programs Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnnl.gov or 206-528-3223, or see the website at <http://nwrtec.pnnl.gov>.
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