Around The Region In Homeland Security
May 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

➢ Next-Generation Communications Inoperability Virtual Workshop
➢ Real-time Airborne Management System (RAMS)
➢ Capability Building Webinars
➢ Upcoming Events

Next-Generation Communications Inoperability Virtual Workshop

PNNL hosted a Next-Generation Communications Interoperability (NGCI) Virtual Workshop in May for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and representatives including the first response, emergency management, and communications communities. Attendees at six DHS locations, as well as those from FEMA Region 10, Sprint World Headquarters, Pierce County Emergency Management, Seattle Fire, Seattle Police and others, came together by leveraging virtual resources including Lync, LiveWall and Twitter.

The purpose of the workshop, organized by PNNL's Jon Barr, Jessica Sandusky, and Tony Bladek, was to create a community to advance the goals of NGCI which include enabling experts, partners and customers to advance conversations about next-generation communications operability. Workshop participants discussed, evaluated and prioritized potential solutions in the context of specific scenarios, and refined approaches to response within a role-play framework.

Emily Marie T. Saulsgiver, Contractor Support, DHS Science and Technology Directorate, noted that "participants were very engaged in the scenarios and offered thoughts…[on] the future role and technology needs of law enforcement and emergency management operators, the need for collaboration across mission spaces, and the role of citizen and community in next-gen preparation and response."

PNNL's team is currently compiling a recap of the workshop which will be available on the NGCI website in early June. For more information about NGCI, visit www.NGCIcommunity.org or contact Jon Barr at jonathan.barr@pnnl.gov.

Real-time Airborne Management System (RAMS)

When disasters occur, the impacts span from injuries, to infrastructure and home damage, to interruption of utilities. Rapid and defendable damage assessments allow appropriate disaster declarations to be made quickly, releasing funds to reimburse communities for recovery and restoration actions.

The Realtime Airborne Management System (RAMS) combines fixed wing mounted high resolution orthogonal and side-looking cameras for airborne imagery capture with a base station that allows for near real-time receipt and transfer of ground imagery. RAMS offers the ability to move this imagery directly to analysts and decision makers, enabling faster assessments than current methods including windshield surveys and ground based inspections.

With support from the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, PNNL developed a concept of operations (ConOps) for RAMS, anchoring the capability for use and providing operational context. State and local communities and agencies can leverage the ConOps to make informed business decisions regarding the application of RAMS in their particular sector.

For more information about RAMS, contact Jon Barr at jonathan.barr@pnnl.gov or (206) 528-3257.

Capability Building Webinars

Education and collaboration are keys to advancing capabilities and streamlining response processes. With that in mind, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate's First Responders Group launched the Capability Building Webinar Series in November 2012.

Presented by field experts, the no-cost sessions aim to arm participants with information about tools, processes and applications that could be used during an emergency situation.

Upcoming webinars include:
- Overview of Cybersecurity for Public Safety Administrators
- Creating Registries of At Risk Populations
- Overview of Grants for Information Sharing and Voice Communications

Each webinar is recorded and made available on the website. Archived sessions include:
- Maximizing Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) Tools and Features
- Innovating with Social Media to Advance Homeland Security

For more information, and to register for the First Responder Group Capacity Building Webinar Series email notification list, visit http://www.firstresponder.gov.

Upcoming Events

June 3-5, 2013
PER 202: Field Force Exercise Tactics
Salem, OR

June 10-11, 2013
Threat & Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Recovery Planning
Camp Murray, WA

June 18 -20, 2013
L363: Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Higher Education
Flathead Valley Community College
Kalispell, MT

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