This monthly status report summarizes activities related to Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. This issue highlights advances in

- Understanding of intelligence fusion issues for the region
- National building protection strategies
- Integrating emergency response training and exercises
- Teaming for biological decontamination of urban areas, communication interoperability, vulnerability assessments of critical infrastructure, and electronic personal dosimetry
- Aquatic modeling information needs to support emergency response.

**Congressional Round Table Examines Intelligence Fusion Issues**

Congressmen Dave Reichert (Eighth District, Washington) and Pete Hoekstra (Second District, Michigan) held a round table discussion in Seattle in March. Both congressmen serve on the Intelligence Subcommittee for Homeland Security and were seeking input on how the subcommittee could help the Northwest and other regions to establish more effective regional intelligence operations. PNNL hosted the meeting in its Seattle office at the request of Congressman Reichert. Representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and DHS Federal Protective Services; Seattle and Bellingham Police Departments; King County Sheriff's Department; industrial giants Boeing and Microsoft; the Washington State Patrol; and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) addressed such issues as

- Complications in sharing information because of classification levels
- Clearances for law enforcement
- State and local laws that make information easily available through Freedom of Information Act requests
- Sustainability of fusion centers and the federal role
- Technology vetting and validation
- Technology testing and evaluation in partnership with analysts and detectives
- Need for an “analyst academy” to establish a foundation for analyst training nationally.

The meeting went over the time originally allotted, with both Congressmen actively engaged in the discussion. The Seattle Police Department and King County Sheriff were particularly interested in the technology issues and stressed the need for both a technology clearinghouse and a testing and evaluation capability for the planned Northwest regional intelligence fusion center. PNNL staff shared the need to integrate systems, the importance of driving the technology to serve as a force multiplier that provides advanced data collection and analytical tools, and the opportunity to be forward thinking in considering regional intelligence on all crimes. Staff also pointed out that the presence of thousands of high-resolution cameras and new sensor systems in urban areas creates major new challenges while providing the opportunity to dramatically enhance prevention efforts.

**National Building Protection Strategy Culminates in Hands-On Training**

PNNL, in support of the General Services Administration (GSA) national building protection strategy, conducted a multifaceted chemical and biological agent threat and countermeasures analysis for GSA
buildings in Region 10 (Northwest/Arctic Region). Beginning in FY02 and continuing through FY05, this activity focused on 1) developing a set of guiding principles for protecting occupants of existing, new, or renovated buildings against chemical and biological agents and 2) providing a detailed assessment of credible threats and optional protection solutions for two GSA buildings in Richland and Seattle. Since FY05, the focus has been to develop and implement staff training and occupant awareness through educational materials. After conducting a preliminary vulnerability assessment and identifying possible mitigation measures for a specific building in each of the four Region 10 service centers, PNNL used the results to develop materials and train GSA employees and contractors in Seattle, Spokane, Portland, Anchorage, and Fairbanks to assess critical facilities in their service centers.

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IBRD Prepares to Fly

The Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) held its formal kick off meeting in Seattle on March 28, with about 80 regional participants from federal, state, and local agencies. IBRD is a joint effort sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and DHS. Regional support is strong at all levels because of the recognized similarity among the issues and approaches to restoration and recovery for a biologic event and those of any large catastrophe. With the cooperation of training and emergency exercise coordinators, a master schedule will be developed to integrate table top and full-scale response exercises. The meeting kicked off the data collection effort, which will be coupled with interviews to identify the current state of planning and capability to respond to a large-scale biological event.

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PNNL Staff Bring Expertise to Bear on Regional Homeland Security Issues

Four PNNL staff members are making the most of their experience and expertise to support regional homeland security issues, and other members of the homeland security community are taking note. The Pierce County Metro Public Safety Communications Committee requested involvement at its monthly meetings from PNNL’s Steve Stein. The committee – which comprises the chiefs of DuPont Police, Lakewood Police, Puyallup Fire, Puyallup Police, Ruston Police, Steilacoom Public Safety, Tacoma Fire, and Tacoma Police – seeks to advance public safety communications and interoperability and is seen as vital to the Pierce County area. The group chose Stein for his passion for the issues, broad perspective, and objectivity and requested that he help drive the agenda and focus of the meetings.

Through the Washington Governor’s Committee of Homeland Security, PNNL’s Steve Dische is supporting the development of the Regional Intelligence Fusion Center and providing subject matter expertise to identify and assess vulnerability of critical infrastructures. For the Regional Intelligence Fusion Center, he is advising the Intelligence Subcommittee on the core elements needed for a course for intelligence officers. He is also networking with the two other governance groups that drive intelligence sharing at the state level: the Washington Joint Analytical Center Advisory Board and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. For the vulnerability assessments, Dische draws on his ongoing involvement as a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) team member conducting such assessments on national critical infrastructures, helping infuse regional efforts with a national perspective.

PNNL’s Ann Lesperance and Dan Sisk brought the region’s expertise to bear on national issues by inviting the Seattle Fire Department to participate on an ANSI Working Group developing the next generation of standards for electronic personal dosimeters. Because of the department’s valuable experience with radiation issues, they stood in a unique position of being able to inform the working group, which includes health physicists, first responders, and manufacturers of radiation detection equipment. Fire department staff participated in a national meeting early in March and have agreed to host the next working group meeting in Seattle in mid-April.
PNNL Holds Aquatic Modeling Conference

With support from the DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), PNNL held the second in a series of conferences focused on the challenge of identifying and modeling contamination from weapons of mass destruction in aquatic environments. The first conference, held about a year ago at the PNNL Marine Sciences Lab in Sequim, Washington, focused on understanding the state of modeling for water releases of contaminants. This second conference focused on user needs. Participants in the conference largely represented water-based emergency responders such as the U.S. Coast Guard, Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Seattle Fire and Port Police, as well as industry from the Puget Sound area. The conference identified information needs and uses as well as the form in which information should be provided to be of greatest value to responders. Results of the workshop will be used to inform DHS S&T’s Maritime and Borders research and development agenda and further discussions of a National Water Modeling Center similar to what currently exists for atmospheric modeling.

The conference was designed around four potential events that involve water bodies, likely response actions, decision processes, and the information available to responders to effectively execute their jobs. Participants reached the following conclusions:

- Broadly applicable water models for response and recovery actions are generally non-existent or very limited in capability.
- Responders see their general lack of awareness of water modeling capability or appropriate ways to reach analysts a huge weakness.
- Responders strongly support the need for a national reach back capability for water modeling and expertise.
- Any national reach back for water modeling and expertise should be combined with other national modeling and reach back programs so responders have easy access.

These conclusions will be described in greater detail in an upcoming report.

Upcoming Events

May 14-15
National Visualization and Analytics Center Consortium Meeting
Redmond, Washington

Around the Region in Homeland Security is a monthly status report from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in support of the Homeland Security Regional Stretch Goal to bring together major stakeholders from across the region that have a vested interest in homeland security challenges and issues and provide a collaborative environment that addresses Northwest regional homeland security requirements, needs, and challenges. For more information on PNNL’s involvement in Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, contact Steve Stein, Regional Stretch Goal Program Manager at steve.stein@pnl.gov or 206-528-3340. For more information on how PNNL supports Homeland Security across the nation, contact Mike Mitchell, Homeland Security Sector Manager at Michael.Mitchell@pnl.gov or 509-375-6353.