Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Operated by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy

# *//*//*Around the Region in Homeland Security***
# August 2007

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

- Launching the Northwest Regional Technology Center for homeland security
- Leveraging Alaska capabilities and needs to support wider homeland security programs
- Gaining input from first responders and industry on responder credentialing
- Partnering with the region for radiological/nuclear detection at ports
- Supporting homeland security exercises.

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## Northwest Regional Technology Center Launched

In July, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) launched the Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC), a virtual center supporting regional preparedness, response, and recovery by enabling homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities and federal, state, and local stakeholders in the Northwest. Establishing the center marks a significant accomplishment toward achievement of the contract stretch goal established in coordination with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The objective of the goal is to assist the DHS and its NW regional stakeholders (emergency responders, public safety and health agencies, and jurisdiction authorities) with defining, prioritizing, and acquiring the technical and scientific resources needed to protect the region and the nation. The Northwest region includes Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, Montana, and Hawaii.

Building on the existing project base in the Northwest, the center will serve as a vehicle to continue to increase PNNL's regional impact through activities that include coordinating and leading technology demonstrations, workshops, forums, and projects in collaboration with regional stakeholders. The center will broaden its participation base as it matures into the Northwest region's communication and information hub for homeland security solutions, policies, and procedures. Center Director Steve Stein will be joined by Deputy Director Mary Peterson. The NWRTC is reachable toll-free at 888-DHS-NWRTC (888-347-6983) or via email at nwrtc@pnl.gov.

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## Homeland Security Goes North to Alaska

With the assistance of Tom Burgess, Federal Protective Services Officer for Alaska, PNNL's Homeland Security Director Mike Mitchell and Steve Stein met with several organizations and officials to discuss PNNL's homeland security work and opportunities for future collaboration through the NWRTC to support homeland security needs. The reception was very positive, suggesting that this introductory trip will be the first of many. Mitchell and Stein met with

- Billy Andrews, Chief Security Officer, British Petroleum (BP), who shared security needs for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. PNNL will be working further with BP to discuss requirements and needs.
- Pat Lander (President and Chief Executive Officer), Dale Nash (Chief Operations Officer), and Martha Schoenthal (Vice President for Business Operations) of the state-owned, contractor-operated Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation, who were interested in using their rocket launch site as

a test bed for unmanned aerial vehicles. PNNL is working to connect them with industry and federal government partners.

- Jim Egan, State Director for Senator Ted Stevens, who felt there was significant value in coordinating needs assessments in the Northwest states and having PNNL serve as the link to communicate the results to the DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T).
- Jerry Brossia, Director of the Joint Pipeline Office, Bureau of Land Management, who indicated a need for pipeline security during the winter, when weather prevents human interaction. PNNL is checking on whether satellite surveillance could help and will relay suggestions back to him.
- Daniel Frerich, Director and Chief Special Agent for the Alaska Railroad Corporation, who was interested in having the railroad serve as a test bed. PNNL is sharing the information with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) and DHS S&T.
- John Madden, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Alaska, who was supportive of interstate collaboration and the design of the NWRTC. PNNL will remain in contact.

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## Fire Fighters and Industry Provide Input to RTI Credentialing Project

In a series of meetings the end of July, regional fire fighters, emergency managers, law enforcement, hospitals and medical providers, and industry provided input to the Regional Technology Initiative (RTI) Credentialing Project. The Seattle Urban Area's objective for the work is to develop a fully functional authenticated credentialing system including hardware, software, procedures, and protocols. The first step was to gain input on functional and operational requirements for the information system associated with credentialing as well as regional recommendations for what information, in addition to a picture, should be on the badge.

Representatives from the Bellevue, Seattle, Tacoma, Port of Seattle, Bainbridge Island, and King County fire departments met with the DHS contractor SRA as well as PNNL staff to identify the types of information first responders want captured as part of a credentialing system. Participants wanted to see a picture, name, organization, skill set (which Emergency Support Function), and time in/time out on the badge. Issues included which agency was responsible for entering, validating, and securing the information in the system; the need for Civilian Emergency Response Teams to have credentials; the differing titles among response personnel; the value of adding the credential to existing cards rather than creating a new one; various technology recommendations; and the need for background checks.

Representatives from the Port of Seattle, Laborer's International Union of North America, and King County also met with the DHS contractor and PNNL staff to identify the types of information the broader emergency management community want captured as part of a credentialing system. Participants agreed with the previous group's recommendation for the badge but added blood type and other pertinent medical information. They also suggested a simple color system for access control to more sensitive areas. They felt that background checks were not needed for laborers or contractors at the scene. They also discussed the need to record when a credential has been revoked, the important of tracking in/out times for billing and liability purposes, and the need to be able to create a credential onsite. Participants felt that a card should be simple, able to be visually inspected, provide lists of qualifications or specialties, and up to date.

Overall, the meetings provided excellent information on the credentialing needs, usage, functional and operational requirements, and concerns. The results will allow development of an initial credentialing concept that addresses the broad range of emergency management needs. This draft concept will be shared with regional stakeholders for refining.

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general maintenance to janitorial services as well as state and local responders and emergency management. Beacon Capital Partners is one of the only companies worldwide who provide this type of collaborative training for staff. The table top included scenarios such as elevator entrapment, avian flu, and terrorist attack; participants determined gaps in roles, responsibilities, and actions needed to keep the business operating. They also offered to allow responders to use their buildings for other exercises such as earthquake and fire response.

A number of PNNL staff also supported the Regional Response 2007 (RR07) Full Field Exercise in July. RR07 is part of a multi-year homeland security exercise series sponsored by the Joint Force Headquarters of the Washington Military Department (including the Washington Air and Army National Guard and the Washington Emergency Management Division). The exercises focus on interagency coordination and support and include reporting through city and county operations centers to the State Emergency Operations Center and deployment of federal and state resources. This year's exercise included scenarios related to chemical, biological, radiological, and high-yield explosives. PNNL staff were members of the planning group and helped direct and coordinate the event. Other staff served as reviewers. Results of the event are expected to guide regional planning and preparedness efforts.

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