



## Around the Region in Homeland Security October 2007

The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to support regional preparedness, response, and recovery. The center enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities and federal, state, and local stakeholders in the Northwest. This monthly status report summarizes activities related to Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska.

This issue highlights

- Planning for the Small Maritime Craft Rad/Nuc Detection Pilot Project
- Under Secretary Cohen's visit to the Northwest
- Regional input to the Integrated Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear, and Explosives Detection Program
- Northwest Warning and Alert Response Network plans for an ideal system
- Upcoming DHS conferences of interest to the region.

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### Small Maritime Craft Pilot Gets Underway

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), working with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), has established a pilot program in Washington State and California that will develop and enhance maritime preventive radiological and nuclear detection capabilities. The West Coast Maritime Pilot is part of a national program that partners with ports across the Nation to develop regional plans for reducing the risk of radiological and nuclear threats being illicitly transported on small vessels. On September 27, a subcommittee attached to the Area Maritime Security Committee and staff from the DNDO met to begin planning the Small Maritime Craft Radiation/Nuclear Detection Pilot Project. The subcommittee, chaired by Steve Stein, is composed of members that represent key public safety and harbor operations and will lead regional efforts supporting this DNDO pilot program. Tasks include developing the mission need statement; designing the system architecture; drafting the Conduct of Operations (CONOPS); planning equipment deployment, the integration of logistics systems, and training; implementing; testing and evaluating; modifying the CONOPS; and transferring the knowledge and capability elsewhere.

Participants at the meeting agreed that the approach should be threat based to provide a layered defense that detects and allows interdiction away from metropolitan areas. One of the near-term efforts should be to define the current layers of defense and security. Potential vectors include bringing a device or materials in to attack a metropolitan area or to allow transfer to a land vehicle to transport the device for attack elsewhere.

The work will likely involve multiple, complementary small craft initiatives. Participants also agreed that metrics should consider the level of detection and effectiveness that can be reasonably expected. The pilot program needs to define the requirements in terms of staffing, cost, upkeep, and training to allow constructive discussions of approaches to sustainability. The group plans to meet again October 16 and November 27 to continue the planning process and begin discussing technology capabilities and applications.

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### **Under Secretary Cohen Shares Vision with Northwest Stakeholders**

DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology Jay Cohen visited PNNL on September 13, 2007, to share his vision and gain input from Northwest stakeholders. Cohen was accompanied by James Johnson, Director of the Office of National Laboratories, and Scott Pugh, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary. The newly appointed Pacific Northwest Site Office Manager for the U.S. Department of Energy, Mike Weiss, was joined the Under Secretary.

The NWRTC facilitated participation by area first responders to help them gain an appreciation of PNNL’s capabilities and discuss issues with the Under Secretary. Participants, including Chief Jim Pryor of the Seattle Police Department, Homeland Security Bureau; John Erickson, Washington State Department of Health, Emergency Preparedness and Response; and Bill Schrier, Chief Technology Officer and Director of the Seattle Department of Information Technology, traveled to Richland to meet with Cohen, spending time with him throughout the day. This type of engagement allowed regional participants to share with the Under Secretary their most critical issues and interest in collaboration.

Participants also toured several buildings in Hanford’s 300 Area, where DHS work is being conducted. The group also discussed PNNL work in bio forensics, biological/chemical detection, atmospheric sciences, testing and calibration, standoff detection, threat anticipation, explosives detection, tunnel resiliency, wide area surveillance, and radiation monitoring. The community then joined first responders to hear Cohen share his vision for the development of science and technology relevant to securing the nation, as part of the PNNL Laboratory Director’s Lecture Series. The meeting appeared to successfully communicate the Under Secretary’s priorities as well as enhance the perception of PNNL held by regional guests and partners.

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### **ICBRNE Program Kicks Off in Region**

The Integrated CBRNE Program is supported by the Chem/Bio Division of DHS’s Science and Technology Directorate and focuses on integrating chemical, biological, radiation, nuclear, and explosives sensor systems and supporting capabilities region-wide to ensure

appropriate and timely sharing of information with public safety and emergency response organizations to improve overall response capability. Five cities are being evaluated as candidates for a full-scale pilot effort to leave a fully integrated operational capability behind: New York, Chicago, Boston, Seattle, and Los Angeles. The first phase of the program will assess technical capabilities and policies regarding information sharing as well as regional willingness to select a pilot location. Phase 2 of the project is to implement a fully integrated pilot system in on or two of the selected cities.

PNNL staff are working with staff at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) to gather the necessary input. ANL is leading the assessment phase for Chicago, New York, and Boston. PNNL is leading the effort for Seattle and Los Angeles. Knowing that the regional responders in Seattle are already contributing to seven other homeland security projects, PNNL staff suggested that the ICBRNE team might make faster progress by using the Center's findings in similar projects, thus minimizing the time required for the responders to provide input. Targeted meetings with regional leaders are being conducted to ensure a completely accurate picture for Seattle. Contacts are also being made in Los Angeles to begin the process there.

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## **NWWARN Identifies Ideal System to Alert Region**

The Northwest Warning and Alert Response Network (NWWARN) is a public/private partnership with a goal to share situational information in real time and provide the ability to share two-way vital, protected and actionable information to protect our regional/national infrastructures, communities, and the public. This partnership is designed to serve the governments and citizens of the Northwest states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon. PNNL agreed to join the NWWARN governance committee and participated in our first planning meeting on September 11, 2007.

NWWARN will re-establish the trusted network with vetted membership that was demonstrated and operated successfully in the region for several years but shut down when DHS ceased funding in support of the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). Regional pressure to restart NWWARN came after infrastructure owners and operators in the region became concerned the HSIN was just too big and too anonymous to serve regional interests effectively. Restart of NWWARN is funded by local municipalities and industry.

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## **NWRTC to Support Key DHS Conferences**

DHS recently requested support from the NWRTC to help plan two key conferences in 2008. Joe Kielman of the DHS Science and Technology Directorate requested assistance to support a conference on consequence management in February 2008. Consequence management includes physical modeling, social modeling, and risk assessment that helps in understanding large, significant events. The three-day conference will characterize the state-of-the-art of consequence modeling, help participants to understand its impacts and applications for DHS, and create a research agenda that addresses technological gaps

between what exists today and what DHS requires for the future. The focus of the conference will be on technology, especially modeling technology.

The conference is expected to draw from 60 to 100 attendees, including consequence modeling experts; DHS staff particularly specially from the Infrastructure/Geophysical and Command, Control, and Interoperability Divisions; researchers and technologists from government, industry, and universities; and users and potential users of consequence modeling technologies. PNNL will combine results of all sessions into an overall conference report. Kielman and the NWRTC staff will continuing planning efforts in the next few months, including brainstorming sessions and key speakers.

The NWRTC has also been invited to present a 1-hour session at the 2008 DHS Stakeholders Conference. The session will highlight the Center’s model for effectively communicating state and local responder priority needs to S&T. The goal of the conference is to align S&T activities with first responder needs. The 4-day event will be held January 14-17 at the Los Angeles Convention Center, with nearly 2,000 attendees expected. The Center will also help inform stakeholders about the conference.

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## Upcoming Events

October 29 – November 3

Washington State Annual Bioterrorism Exercise (WASABE) IX  
Spokane and Washington State Homeland Security Region 9

November 8

DHS S&T RTI Demonstration on the Interconnected EOC  
Seattle

November 27

Rad/Nuc Detection Subcommittee Meeting on DNDO Small Maritime Craft Detection Pilot  
Seattle

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## Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Operated by Battelle for the  
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*Around the Region in Homeland Security* is a monthly status report from the Northwest Regional Technology Center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The goal of the NWRTC is to bring together major stakeholders from across the region that have a vested interest in homeland security issues and provide a collaborative

environment that addresses Northwest regional homeland security requirements, needs, and challenges. For more information, contact Director Steve Stein at [steve.stein@pnl.gov](mailto:steve.stein@pnl.gov) or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Mary Peterson at [mary.peterson@pnl.gov](mailto:mary.peterson@pnl.gov) or 509-372-4655, or see the website at <http://nwrtp/pnl.gov>.