



Around the Region in Homeland Security December 2007/January 2008

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

- Information sharing with Washington State military and regional response leaders
- Congressional interest in the Port of Tacoma Rail Test Center
- Results of a Public Health Workshop on biological restoration
- Advanced information analysis technologies being piloted at the Rail Test Center
- Upcoming Catastrophic Incident Recovery Workshop in Seattle
- Northwest representation on DHS laboratory steering group.

Washington Military Teams with PNNL

On November 6, Major General Timothy Lowenberg, Adjutant General for the Washington State Military, visited the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) to discuss national security and homeland security activities being conducted there. With him were Colonel Ronald Weaver (Retired), Army Colonel Ronald Kapral, Air Force Colonel Neil Currie, and Sheryl Jardine of Washington State Emergency Management.

PNNL staff shared information on work being conducted in wide area surveillance, computational and information analysis, biological detection and surveillance, chemical sensor development and response, chemical and biological forensics, radiation detection, atmospheric sciences, and holographic radar imaging. Staff also discussed the PNNL Explosives Detection Initiative, being funded through PNNL's Laboratory-Directed Research and Development. Of particular interest to the visitors was the report on ongoing regional projects and the business model that would enable PNNL to strengthen the engagement between U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Northwest states.

Based on his previous interactions with PNNL and the information shared during the visit, Lowenberg suggested that the DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) host a 1-day workshop at PNNL for emergency management leaders across the region in the spring to enhance the Northwest states' knowledge of the national labs and share information. The event, which could result in input to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's research agenda, is being planned by PNNL in coordination with General Lowenberg's and Under Secretary Cohen's offices.

Congress Shows Interest in DNDO Demonstrations in the Northwest

Congressman Mark Souder (R-IN) journeyed to Seattle/Tacoma on November 26 to meet with representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Port of Tacoma, and PNNL staff. The purpose of the meetings was to better understand the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office's (DNDO) Rail Test Center (RTC) at the Port of Tacoma and the DNDO/USCG West Coast Pilot Program for Rad/Nuc detection on small maritime vessels. Souder is the Republican Leader of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border, Maritime, and Global Counterterrorism. That subcommittee has jurisdiction over border security, port security, U.S. Coast Guard and maritime security, global counterterrorism efforts, international aspects of homeland security, counter-narcotics, trafficking and smuggling, terrorist travel and financing, and homeland defense. RTC Project Manager Barbara Reichmuth of PNNL, Bob Dilonardo of DNDO, Charles McCallam of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and Rob Collins, the Port's Director of Intermodal Services, shared information on the purpose and status of the RTC.

Deputy Commander Tina Burke of USCG Sector Seattle provided an overview of their mission functions and challenges in Puget Sound and gave the Congressman a tour of the Joint Harbor Operations Center. Steve Stein of PNNL briefed the Congressman on the DNDO West Coast Pilot Program. Souder expressed his appreciation for the information and his support for the programs.

IBRD Hosts Public Health Workshop

The Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) project hosted public health leaders on November 29 at PNNL's Seattle offices. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the issues, needs, and actions for a large-scale biological restoration and recovery effort from a public health perspective. Attendees from public health agencies at the federal, state, and local levels from around the region identified key assumptions and issues that would be associated with large-scale restoration and recovery after a biological event. The meeting was structured as a scenario discussion, laying out a potential biological event in the region. Attendees then discussed such items as the following:

- What are the public health roles and responsibilities at various levels of government?
- What are the key issues that need to be addressed?
- What is the decision making and communication process?
- What are the policies and procedures?
- What are the gaps and challenges of the existing processes?

- What are the unmet gaps and needs?
- What are the requirements for an enhanced process or system?
- What implementation issues or challenges exist?

Attendees identified five priority areas that needed work:

- Medical system impacts
- Resource capabilities and capacity
- Long-term monitoring and patient tracking
- National, state, and local policy issues
- Roles, responsibilities, and authorities at the federal, state, and local levels.

Workshop organizers are reviewing input from the meeting to define tasks, expected outcomes, activities, and estimated budget for each area. The information is being shared with IBRD program leadership to help determine how best to address these issues in the program.

Rail Test Center to Benefit from Advanced Information Analysis Technology

PNL is teaming with the DHS S&T's Command, Control and Interoperability Division and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office to pilot advanced information analysis technology at the Rail Test Center in Tacoma. The sheer volume and complexity of data that might indicate a national security risk is frequently overwhelming to human analysts. Flexible Data Fusion (FDF) allows analysts to filter, triage, and prioritize data, all without the need for software development expertise. It also adapts to emerging threats, different types of data, and new situations.

The team is currently completing an assessment to determine Privacy Act implications with an eye to piloting the system for fusing and triaging data. Additional capabilities using graphics, data editors, and triage editors for both technically sophisticated and inexperienced analysts will be added to the system before transition to the RTC in FY2009.

Catastrophe Incident Recovery Workshop Set for March

March 19, 2008, the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration project is hosting a workshop on Catastrophic Incident Recovery: Long-Term Recovery from an Anthrax Event. The objective of this day-long symposium in Seattle is to educate policy makers, emergency managers, and medical and public health officials and enhance regional response by improving understanding of anthrax as an agent of bioterrorism. Topics will focus on behavior and characteristics of anthrax; lessons learned from the Capital Hill anthrax event 5 years ago; psychological, social, and behavioral responses; and long-term implications for the economy, public health, and decision making.

Nationally known speakers and anthrax experts will provide presentations, as will panelists composed of local emergency management and public health professionals, policy makers, medical experts, and the private sector. The workshop is aimed at civic officials, public

health professionals, military personnel, and emergency managers for government and industry. If interested in attending, contact Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnl.gov.

NWRTC Deputy Director Represents Region on DHS National Laboratory Working Group



Mary Peterson, Deputy Director of the NWRTC, represents PNNL and the Northwest on the DHS S&T's National Laboratory Working Group. The working group was established to support the DHS Deputy Director of Research to identify growth opportunities in the basic research areas and ensure basic research portfolios for the six research, development, testing, and evaluation program areas within DHS S&T. The first basic research planning meetings are currently being planned.

Since joining PNNL in 1982, Peterson has held positions as a technical group manager, laboratory-level initiative manager, key client account manager, deputy product line manager, program manager, project manager, and principle investigator. She has spent the last 5 years focused on homeland security missions for several key government agencies. As Deputy Director of the NWRTC, Peterson channels her efforts into linking scientific and engineering expertise with client needs and fostering working relationships.

Upcoming Events

March 5

Sound Shake Regional Exercise, to include a full-scale demonstration of the Regional Technology Initiative (RTI) interconnected emergency operations center capability
Across the region

March 19

Catastrophic Incident Recovery Workshop
Seattle

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Operated by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy

Around the Region in Homeland Security is a monthly 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 or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Mary Peterson at mary.peterson@pnl.gov or 509-372-4655, or see the website at <http://nwrtc/pnl.gov>.