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

- Visits by Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) leadership
- Availability of a pandemic influenza preparedness training video
- Possible collaborations between research and public health
- Early registration for catastrophic incident recovery symposium.

DNDO Deputy Director Visits Area

On February 17 and 18, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Deputy Director of the DNDO, Dr. Chuck Gallaway, visited the Seattle/Tacoma area. Accompanying Dr. Gallaway throughout the visit was the Principle Deputy Assistant Director of the Product Acquisition Directorate of DNDO, Ernie Muenchau. The first day of their Seattle/Tacoma visit was spent at the Port of Tacoma where DNDO has established the Rail Test Center (RTC) to study and test technologies, conduct of operations plans, and operational impacts associated with radiation scanning devices. Tacoma is well suited for this purpose given the high percentage of cargo moved directly from ship to rail, a particularly challenging problem when integrated with radiation scanning. While at Tacoma, Dr. Gallaway and Mr. Muenchau were joined by their DNDO colleagues, Mr. Julian Hill (Assistant Director of Systems Engineering and Evaluation), Mr. Patrick Simmons (Deputy Assistant Director for Ports of Entry in the Mission Management Directorate), and Mr. Matthew Graviss (RTC Program Manager under Mr. Hill). All were able to meet with the RTC multi-stakeholder team, including DNDO, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Port of Tacoma, terminal representatives, and staff from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), who manage the RTC. Touring the port and meeting with stakeholders provided the visitors first-hand experience with the challenges and complexities faced by the RTC.
The second day of the Seattle/Tacoma visit started at the SeaTac Airport. Dr. Gallaway, Mr. Muenchau, and Mr. Simmons met with key stakeholders, including representatives from SeaTac Security, Air Cargo Operations, CBP, and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), to discuss critical aspects and impacts of future radiation cargo scanning. The visitors were then taken on a tour of the airport so that they could observe the cargo operations and have a clearer understanding of radiation scanning integration challenges.

After touring the airport, Dr. Gallaway and Mr. Muenchau were briefed on a number of regional activities including PNNL’s Northwest Regional Technology Center for Homeland Security. They completed their visit to the area with a briefing by the U.S. Coast Guard and a tour of the Joint Harbor Operations Center (JHOC). While at the JHOC, Dr. Gallaway and Mr. Munchau learned about its mission, its relationship to its regional partners, and some of the challenges and issues associated with the deployment of radiation scanning equipment in a maritime operational environment.

Dr. Gallaway expressed gratitude to everyone involved in his visit for their time and efforts in providing him with such a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Seattle/Tacoma Area and to experience, first-hand, some of the operations that hold radiation scanning challenges.

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Training Video Now Available on Preparing for Pan Flu
Public Health - Seattle and King County recently announced the release of “Business Not As Usual: Preparing for Pandemic Flu,” a 20-minute training video for businesses, government agencies, and community-based organizations.

Created to assist workplace leaders and staff in their pandemic flu planning efforts, the video describes the threat of pandemic flu and what life might look like during an outbreak. It also shows the benefits of being ready and provides practical tips for creating a plan.

A highlight of the video is the set of profiles of community leaders, who share their experiences and lessons learned in preparing. These leaders include preparation staff from

- Washington Mutual
- Food Lifeline
- Puget Sound Energy
- Harborview Medical Center
- Chinese Information and Service Center
- Seattle Fire Department.

King County Executive Ron Sims and Public Health experts also offer their knowledge and experience in disaster preparation.

The video can be viewed online at [http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pandemicflu/video](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pandemicflu/video) or ordered from the website as a free DVD, which also includes helpful planning materials.
PNNL and PHL Look for Opportunities to Collaborate

On Tuesday, January 22, Dr. Romesh Gautom, Director of the Washington State Public Health Laboratories (PHL), hosted PNNL’s Cindy Bruckner-Lea, Rachel Bartholomew, and Ann Lesperance to share areas of interest in chemical and biological research. Other PHL staff participating included Jinxin Hu, Yolanda Houze, David Boyle, Nathan Lacy, Blaine Rhodes, and Lain Knowles. Dr. Gautom and his staff explained the PHL’s focus on public health mission areas as well as the capabilities of the laboratories. PNNL staff described DHS-funded projects that may be of mutual interest, such as assay development work.

One area of particular interest was PNNL’s work in sample preparation for biodetection and norovirus assays. Current work focuses on developing a three-dimensional cell model for \textit{in vitro} culture viral growth and replication and developing norovirus assays. Future projects (pending funding) include the elucidation of norovirus infectious dose with the three-dimensional cell culture model and sample preparation from complex environments. PHL and PNNL staff will explore this area further, potentially linking the norovirus, cell culture, and sample preparation work.

PHL staff are making arrangements to visit the PNNL Richland campus to continue discussions.

Register Now for Catastrophic Incident Recovery Symposium

A day long symposium, “Catastrophic Incident Recovery: Long Term Recovery from an Anthrax Event” will be held Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Seattle. The objective of this day-long symposium is to enhance regional response and restoration capabilities to catastrophic events by understanding the challenges associated with hazards that impact entire communities including people, infrastructure, and critical systems, using an anthrax attack as an example.

The symposium will include presentations by local and national professionals, followed by a series of panels. One of the featured speakers is Dr. Gregory Martin, an infectious diseases physician with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Martin was the onsite infectious disease physician on Capital Hill during the 2001 anthrax attack. Another featured speaker, Dr. Carol North, is a psychiatric epidemiologist specializing in mental health effects of disasters and terrorism. She and her research team have studied nearly 3,000 survivors of major disasters, including the Capitol Hill anthrax attacks.

\textit{Pre-registration is required. Seated is limited so early registration is advised.} To register, go to www.ibrdonline.org. Scroll down to the bottom left-hand corner of the page (do not go to Log In) to Symposium Registration. Click on the “Catastrophic Incident Recovery Event” yellow icon, which will bring you to the registration page.

The symposium is being co-sponsored by the DHS and U.S. Department of Defense as part of the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration Project. If you have any
questions, please contact Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnl.gov (206.528.3223) or Steve Stein at steve.stein@pnl.gov (206.528.3340).

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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 18 - 20
Standardization Evaluation and Assistance Team (SEAT) Program Evaluation
Camp Murray, Washington

March 19
Catastrophic Incident Recovery Workshop
Seattle

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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.