



Around the Region in Homeland Security January 2009

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, and this issue highlights

- Endorsement of the HAMMER Training Center for National Guard use
- Input from local emergency managers on a new toolset to prioritize emergency actions
- Updates on a concept for a regional partnership among states, national laboratories, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

HAMMER Endorsed for National Guard Training Center

On December 19, all eleven members of Washington State's congressional delegation and Governor Christine Gregoire sent a letter to General Craig R. McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, strongly urging him to consider designating the HAMMER Training Center at the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site in Richland, Washington, the Western Regional Training Center for the National Guard's Civil Support Teams (CSTs). CSTs assess suspected attacks by weapons of mass destruction, advise civilian responders on appropriate actions through onsite testing and expert consultation, and facilitate the arrival of additional state and federal military forces. HAMMER has provided vital training and



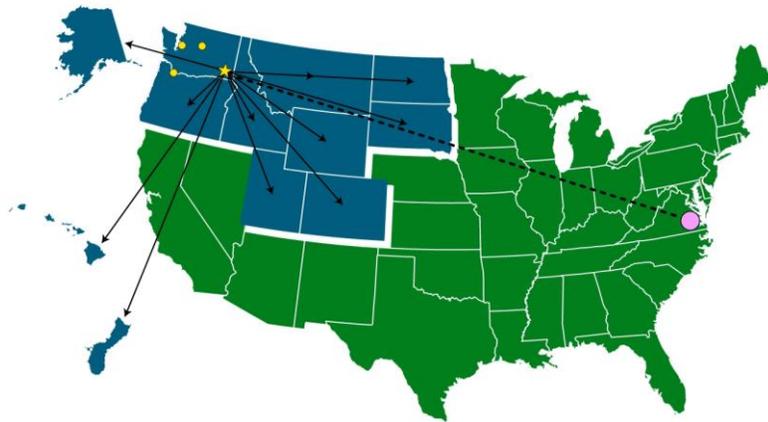
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- Present only information that decision makers actually need and focus less on details that ultimately may be less important.

While they felt the scientific underpinnings of the tool were strong, they expressed concern about the acceptability of the method to decision makers. Science-based analysis is often seen as radically different from current decision making processes, which are more discussion based. More useful for decision makers would be recommendations with transparent rankings to facilitate discussion. Accommodating both the need for analysis and the need for discussion will create a more immediately impactful and robust tool. The results will also help craft the Consequence Management Plan and guidance being developed by the IBRD program. Researchers stressed the importance of this insight, which they felt would not have been apparent had they not been actively engaged with the local emergency managers and the PNNL staff who serve as onsite coordinators for the work.

Concept for Regional Partnership Builds Momentum

Support continues to build for a regional partnership that would unite national laboratories, states, and DHS in identifying, developing, and deploying science and technologies to better secure the nation. On May 28, 2008, PNNL hosted the Regional Homeland Security Summit at the invitation of the Under Secretary for DHS S&T and the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, with the active support of Washington State Adjutant General Timothy Lowenberg. Eleven states and the Territory of Guam ended up agreeing that a partnership of the states and territory within



this region, the U.S. Department of Energy national labs (PNNL and Idaho National Lab) led by the NWRTC, and DHS was desirable and that a second meeting should be held to develop the model and implementation plan. The states further recommended that the NWRTC brief individual states to broaden the

awareness of national lab capabilities and gain further insight into the value and attributes of the intended partnership. Through such a partnership, DHS would gain effective connections with the broader emergency management community while accelerating the development of appropriate solutions and putting improved technologies into the hands of those who need them most.

Since then, the NWRTC has met with representatives from Oregon, Montana, and North Dakota. All the meetings went well, and each state affirmed interest in and commitment

to participate in the regional partnership. In each case, participants identified success factors the partnership would have to achieve to be impactful. In some cases, they also identified immediate issues where PNNL and Idaho National Lab could assist them, often by providing information or connecting them with others working on a similar issue. Additional meetings with the states are being arranged.

Support for the concept has been expressed by the Washington and Oregon congressional delegations as well as the National Governors Association. The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office has indicated support and willingness to share costs with S&T. However, S&T has not yet committed to move forward. A concept paper describing the proposed partnership is currently in the hands of the Obama-Biden Transition Team.

Upcoming Events

February 23-26, 2009

DHS Science and Technology Directorate's Stakeholders Conference West
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Washington

March 1

Unit EXEVAL by ARNorth
Camp Murray and surrounding areas, Washington



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

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