



Around The Region In Homeland Security June 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

- How the Small Maritime Craft Pilot is teaming with federal, state, and local agencies on radiation/nuclear detection drills
- Development of a regional continuity of government plan for a catastrophic event
- Results of the Maritime and Port Security Summit in Seattle.

Federal, State, and Local Agencies Team With Small Maritime Craft Pilot for Rad/Nuc Detection Drills

On May 5-8, 2009, a total of 71 maritime law enforcement and first responders from 17 organizations participated in drills on Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca to practice screening small maritime craft

for radiation and nuclear materials and conducting reach back operations. The training drills were part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office's (DNDO) Small Maritime Craft West Coast Preventative Rad/Nuc Detection Pilot Project, managed by PNNL. The 3-year program will develop a radiation detection architecture that reduces the risk of radiological and nuclear threats that could be illegally transported across territorial seas on recreational or small commercial vessels (vessels less than 300 gross tons).

The purpose of the drills was to train agency staff on using rad/nuc detection equipment, develop and validate policies and procedures, and practice and maintain skills in a maritime environment. Scenarios followed the process of a typical mission—activities progressed from boarding a vessel for a general safety



inspection, to screening and identifying nuclear materials, classifying those materials, and reaching out to coordinate with other agencies concerning radiation detection equipment results. Activities took place within three of the four zones shown in the figure above. In particular, drills were carried out at John Wayne Marina in Sequim on the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Zone 2), Shilshole Marina in Seattle and the Port of Everett Marina (Zone 3), and the U.S. Coast Guard Pier in Bellingham (Zone 4).

This is the third series of initial training and drills conducted in the Puget Sound for the pilot. To date 1,051 personnel have been trained on the use of personal radiation detectors and 169 personnel on advanced radio-isotope identification devices for the small vessel preventive rad/nuc detection activities. Over 300 personnel have participated in the on-the-water drills. All participants have found the drills challenging and informative. Participant feedback and lessons learned will be used to further improve the maritime preventive rad/nuc detection process.

Agencies participating in the May drills included the U.S. Coast Guard [Sector Seattle (Vessel Boarding and Security Team, Joint Harbor Operations Center, Station Seattle, Auxiliary) and Group Port Angeles (Station Bellingham, Auxiliary)]; Customs and Border Protection (Seattle, Everett, Bellingham, and Air and Marine Operations Bellingham); Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Health, and Washington State Patrol; and Port of Everett security, Skagit County Sheriff's Office, Tacoma Police Department, and Whatcom County Sheriff's Office. Training and exercises will continue throughout the pilot until September 2010.



RCPP Developing Regional Continuity of Government Plan

The Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Program (RCPP) is developing a contingency plan to ensure continuity of regional government during a natural, accidental, or intentional disaster. This concept of operations will support jurisdictions most affected by a catastrophe.

“During a catastrophic event,” said Lise Northey, strategic advisor to the Seattle Office of Emergency Management and RCPP Planning Manager, “local jurisdictions may be unable to carry out their statutory functions because of loss of facilities, personnel, and communications. The contingency plan will define a concept of operations for how local, regional, and state governments will assist and supplement a local jurisdiction if that jurisdiction is partially or completely unable to perform its statutory duties.”

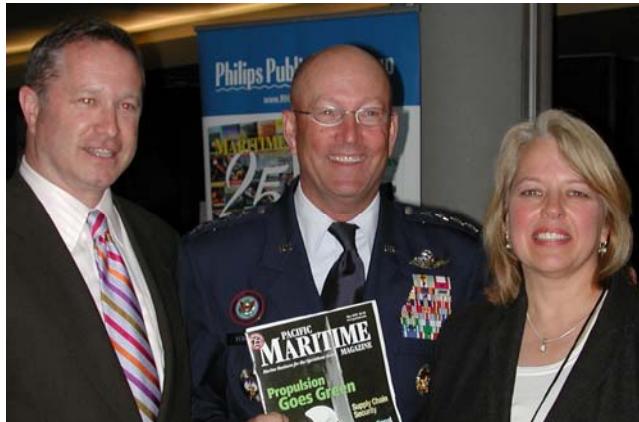
The RCPP is staffed by representatives from state, local, and Tribal governments; the Metropolitan Medical Response System; the Citizen Corps; and the private sector. The team reports to the Seattle Urban Area Security Initiative Working Group. To ensure coordination between the RCPP and the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD), the contingency plan is being supported by PNNL in concert with the RCPP staff. The IBRD is jointly sponsored by DHS and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in the Seattle

region to determine protocols needed to respond effectively to aerosol attack of a biological agent in an urban area and military bases.

Staff from the city of Seattle, King and Kitsap Counties, and PNNL met in early May to plan the scope of the effort and identify members of a steering committee. Steering committee members include staff from the cities and counties who represent law enforcement, emergency management, fire, and public health. Eight teams focusing on specific areas will be meeting over the next few weeks to continue work. The draft plan is due August 2010.

Seattle Maritime and Port Security Summit Addresses Key Issues in Resiliency

Over 150 representatives from federal, state, and local government; industry; and academia came together May 28 and 29, 2009, in Seattle for the Maritime and Port Security Summit. Peter Philips, Publisher of *Pacific Maritime Magazine*, which hosted the summit, welcomed attendees and moderated a roundtable discussion of elected officials from the Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma, King County Council, and state legislature. Slade Gorton, Former U.S. Senator and member of the 911 Commission, provided the opening address, and Congressman Dave Reichert (7th District) provided the luncheon address on the first day.



General Victor Renuart, one of the key conference speakers, shared experiences with Peter Philips, Publisher of *Pacific Maritime Magazine*, and PNNL's Ann Lesperance, who moderated the session on operational resiliency.

Another key speaker was General Victor E. Renuart, Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. General Renuart shared how his two commands defend the nation, with a focus on interagency teamwork and maritime security initiatives. He emphasized the importance of integrating efforts to develop a common picture of the maritime domain. He saw the use of small vessels as potential conveyances for weapons of mass effect. He also discussed the priority for underwater mapping for ports such as Seattle and Tacoma that are used for both civilian and military purposes. Renuart has been a member of the U.S. Air Force for over 30 years, with command assignments in the U.S. and overseas. In 2006 he was selected as the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, Washington, D.C.

Other panel discussions included

- Staff from the University of Washington addressing the conceptual framework for maritime security and regional resilience
- Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the U.S. Army sharing their strategic jurisdictional integration for effective threat response and economic resiliency authority

- Panelists from APM Terminals, BNSF, Puget Sound Pilots, Roadlink, and Alaska Air Cargo providing insights on how they handle operational security and resiliency.

The director of Emergency Management and Security at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and his chief scientist also described how they manage risk at one of the largest ports in America. Leaders of the U.S. Coast Guard, Seattle Fire Department, Washington State Department of Transportation, and the local union also walked through a case study on response and resiliency. Admiral John Currier of the USCG provided the closing comments.

The summit was held in conjunction with the second annual University of Washington Conference on Safety and Security Education and Research (SASER). Presented by *Pacific Maritime Magazine*, the summit was also hosted by the ports of Seattle and Tacoma, the Pacific Rim Visualization and Analytics Center (PARVAC), the Institute for National Security Research and Education at the University of Washington, Securitas, and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Upcoming Events

July 14

DND Small Maritime Vessel Tabletop Exercise for Invited Agency Leaders
Seattle

July 31 – August 9

Test and Demonstration of New Multiband Radios (developed by Thales with support from DHS S&T)
Emergency Response Organizations Along the Washington/Canada border at Blaine

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 Deputy Director Regional Programs Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnl.gov or 206-528-3223, or see the website at <http://nwrtc.pnl.gov>.

