



Around The Region In Homeland Security March 2010

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 newsletter summarizes activities related to homeland security in the Pacific Northwest, and this issue highlights

- Military interest in partnering with state and local agencies for emergency response planning
- Lessons from the private sector on enhancing security for buildings
- Northwest participation in helping set the agenda for research in infrastructure protection
- A new report on financial support to the private sector in recovering from bioterrorism events.

Military Partnering with State and Local Agencies

In January, PNNL staff met with General Gene Renuart, Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) and his leadership team in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to begin a dialogue on potential partnerships. One of the goals of the meeting was to gain a better understanding of how NORAD and USNORTHCOM interact with homeland security organizations and support civil authorities.

USNORTHCOM's civil support mission includes domestic disaster relief operations such as fires, hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes and managing the consequences of a terrorist event employing a weapon of mass destruction. The command provides assistance to a Primary Federal Agency when tasked by the Secretary of Defense.

In providing civil support, USNORTHCOM generally conducts operations through its standing Joint Task Forces. Under the National Response Framework,

state governors can request federal assistance through the President, who is responsible for appointing a

Primary Federal Agency. The Primary Federal Agency can then make a request to the Secretary of Defense for capabilities unique to the Department of Defense; this request results in a directive to USNORTHCOM to provide support. In most cases, support will be limited, localized, and specific. As soon as Department of Defense support is no longer required, USNORTHCOM redeploys its capabilities, leaving the Primary Federal Agency and on-scene experts to continue support to the state governor as required.

Based on the meeting in January, USNORTHCOM will share plans and topics for drills and training where the military, state, and local agencies can partner to practice roles in emergencies with the NWRTC. The command also offered its expertise to emergency response planning across the region. Broadening the awareness of USNORTHCOM's capabilities, at the working level, and supporting efforts to incorporate the command into state emergency response planning and exercises, may be of great benefit the region. See the [USNORTHCOM website](#) to learn more about the command.

Private Sector Firms Identify Lessons to Improve Security

In January, the NWRTC briefed the Real Estate Roundtable Homeland Security Task Force on Northwest regional activities related to homeland security. Financial management representatives, building owners and managers, and other private sector groups attended the meeting to discuss tools and practices being used to help identify and manage homeland security risks to critical infrastructure.

The private sector companies were interested in guidance on how to plan and conduct table top exercises. They also discussed recent lessons learned to improve security, such as having all material and supplies delivered through the building manager and performing annual background checks on all security staff. In addition, they stressed that homeland security information provided to building managers needs to address tenants and building owners as well, as their practices and policies directly impact security.

National Institute of Building Sciences Providing Input to DHS Research Agenda

The National Institute of Building Sciences is helping to develop a research agenda for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate's Infrastructure and Geophysical Division. A research agenda helps guide DHS investments in science and technology in coming years. A committee of experts, including NWRTC Director Steve Stein, met in February and March to begin drafting the agenda.

The Infrastructure and Geophysical Division improves and increases the nation's preparedness for

and response to accidental, intentional, and natural disasters through superior situational awareness, emergency response capabilities, and critical infrastructure protection. The research agenda will set the stage for innovative research in the next 5 to 10 years.

Report Lays Out Private Sector Financial Support After an Anthrax Bioterrorism Incident

When faced with a potential bioterrorism incident involving the wide-area release of anthrax, a primary concern of the private sector is the availability of financial support for restoration and long-term recovery of businesses and their physical assets. The report, *Financial Support for the Private Sector After an Anthrax Bioterrorism Incident*, now available on [the NWRTC website](#), briefly summarizes two primary mechanisms for providing financial support following a catastrophic event – the Stafford Act and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act – and describes how they would apply to the private sector in an anthrax terrorism incident. The report was sponsored by the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) project, a joint project between DHS and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Upcoming Events

April 6-7

[Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference](#)
Tacoma

June 2-4

IBRD project tabletop exercise on regional response and recovery plans
Seattle

June 21-24

[4th Annual UASI Conference](#)
New Orleans

Around the Region in Homeland Security is a monthly report from PNNL's Northwest Regional Technology Center for Homeland Security. For more information, contact Director Steve Stein at steve.stein@pnl.gov or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Ryan Eddy at ryan.eddy@pnl.gov or 509-372-6622, or Deputy Director Regional Programs Ann Lesperance at ann.lesperance@pnl.gov or 206-528-3223, or see the website at <http://nwrtp.pnl.gov>.



Pacific Northwest
NATIONAL LABORATORY
Proudly Operated by **Battelle** Since 1965