



Around The Region In Homeland Security May 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

- Northwest emergency management and homeland security agencies represented on the new federal Preparedness Task Force
- A state and local stakeholder working group meeting on radiation and nuclear detection in Seattle
- An opportunity to view a demonstration of a new surveillance technology
- Progress on the Virtual USA pilot.

Northwest Gives Its Best to Preparedness Task Force

In early April, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the formation of the local, state, tribal, and federal Preparedness Task Force. The task force will identify preparedness policies, guidelines, and grant programs that should be updated and recommend to the Secretary improvements to the nation’s collective capabilities for preparing for disasters. Recommendations are expected by September 2010.

The 35 members include experts from state, city, county, and tribal emergency management and homeland security agencies. Northwest members include the following:

- Charles H. Ada II, Administrator, Guam Office of Civil Defense
- Robert DesRosier, Director, Blackfeet Nation Homeland Security Program and Emergency Services Program, Montana
- Patricia Dukes, Chief of Emergency Medical Services, City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii

- Dwight E. Henninger, Town of Vail Chief of Police, Colorado
- Jeffrey D. Johnson, Fire Chief/Administrator, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Oregon
- Hans Kallam, Director, Colorado Division of Emergency Management
- John Madden, Director, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Mary Selecky, Secretary, Washington State Department of Health
- A.D. Vickery, Assistant Chief of Risk Management, Seattle Fire Department.

State and Local Stakeholder Working Group Meets in Seattle

The week of May 3, the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) held a meeting of its State and Local Stakeholder Working Group in Seattle. The group, which is made up representatives from 25 states and territories, meets quarterly to discuss preventative radiation and nuclear detection plans and practices. The meetings serve to inform participants on activities within DNDO and the rad/nuc detection

community, and allow DNDO to obtain feedback on its programs and initiatives.

At the Seattle meeting, group members were briefed on the Puget Sound rad/nuc detection maritime pilot, rad/nuc detection in support of the 2010 Winter Olympics, and other DNDO-related activities. The working group's insights help DNDO integrate nuclear detection capabilities around the nation. For more information, contact [Ryan Eddy](#).

Demonstration Highlights New Surveillance Technology

Northwest agencies have the opportunity to observe a demonstration of a new video surveillance security technology being tested at Boston Logan International Airport. The state-of-the-art Imaging System for Immersive Surveillance or ISIS provides high-resolution, 360-degree camera coverage and video analytics software to support operator awareness. These high-tech advancements address challenges faced by current-generation security systems.

The system provides over 100 Megapixels per second of coverage from a single sensor location, an amount never previously available to security officials for wide-area, persistent surveillance. ISIS can be configured to automatically monitor exclusion zones or restricted areas where people aren't normally present. It will also be used to detect erratic behavior or suspicious items.

The ISIS technology was developed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory. The Massachusetts Port Authority is hosting the pilot at Logan Airport through the Wide Area Surveillance Project, managed by PNNL for the DHS Science and Technology Directorate.

Demonstration attendees would be briefed on the

development of the technology and the possible applications, followed by a real-time demonstration of ISIS functionality and capabilities. A successful demonstration could pave the way for system use in other public venues and urban areas. If interested in attending a demonstration or receiving more information, contact [Steve Stein](#).

Virtual USA Moving Forward

Three more states have developed requirements for the Virtual USA technology. Virtual USA is a platform that allows organizations to more seamlessly interact during emergencies. Five western states (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington) are participating in a Northwest pilot of the technology. Pilots are also planned in the Northeast and Southwest.

In mid-April, Idaho provided its requirements for implementing the technology. In early May, Oregon and Washington gave their perspectives on the technology's potential place in their current practices. Montana had already provided requirements in March. The Alaska requirements-gathering workshop is scheduled for this summer.

Virtual USA has been named a Flagship Initiative by the White House as part of the [Open Government Initiative](#).

Upcoming Events

June 2 & 3
Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration 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://nwrhc.pnl.gov>.

