



## **Around The Region In Homeland Security November 2011**

The Northwest Regional Technology Center (NWRTC) is a virtual resource center, operated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to support regional preparedness, resiliency, response, and recovery. The NWRTC enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities; federal, state, and local agencies; and private sector stakeholders in the Northwest. This monthly newsletter summarizes activities related to homeland security in the region, and this issue highlights

- A visit by U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Under Secretary O'Toole to PNNL
- How experts are informing the Denver Regional Recovery Framework
- The new National Preparedness Goal
- A report card on the nation's capability to respond to a biological incident.

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### **DHS Under Secretary O'Toole Visits PNNL**

On October 25 and 26, 2011, the DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology (S&T) visited PNNL. Dr. Tara O'Toole spent time with scientists working on chemical, biological, and explosives detection; cyber security; and information analytics. She was able to view first hand some of the technologies that have been deployed throughout the region and had an in-depth conversation about the merits of regional engagement. This was Dr. O'Toole's first visit to the lab as Under Secretary, and she said that PNNL was well aligned to contribute to the homeland security challenges she and the department continually face. In her closeout session she stressed the desire to form a strategic partnership with PNNL.

Accompanying her were James Johnson, Director of DHS S&T's Office of National Labs, who works with the National Laboratories around the country to address the nation's homeland security challenges. Brian Kamoie, Senior Director for Preparedness Policy at the National Security Council of the White House, was also in attendance.

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### **Experts Help Vet Denver UASI Regional Recovery Framework**

On September 29 and 30, 2011, subject matter experts from across the Denver Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) convened at the Douglas County Fairgrounds to provide input on the draft all hazards Concepts of Recovery (ConRecs) for the Denver UASI Regional Recovery Framework. Experts in public health, emergency management, housing, the judicial system, waste management, and public safety from local, county, state, federal, and military agencies participated in this interactive working meeting.

The ConRecs vetted at the meeting included Economic Development, Public Messaging, Prioritization of Clean Up, Judicial, Public Health and Medical, Fatality Management, Community Services and Post Disaster Housing, Volunteer and Donation Management, Debris Management, Stabilize and Maintain Infrastructure and Public Safety, Access Control, and Re-entry.

The Regional Recovery Framework includes the three major phases of recovery, as outlined in the National Recovery Framework and the functional ConRecs. The framework does not address the response phase of the incident. Each ConRec includes a scope,

considerations, and policy related issues. The framework will be applied as part of the Mile High tabletop exercise in December.

Members of the Denver UASI Framework Writing Team guiding the content of the Denver UASI Regional Recovery Framework include Scott Field and Pat Williams [Denver Office of Emergency Management (OEM)], Carol Small (Jefferson County OEM), Fran Santagata (Douglas County OEM), Rose Lynch (Englewood OEM), Andrea Hoaglin (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment), Mike Chard [Boulder Department of Emergency Management (DEM)], Armando Argiz and Eric Mueller (Buckley Air Force Base), and Bob Wold, Lori Hodges, and Dave Hard (Colorado DEM). The work is being supported by the Wide Area Recovery and Resiliency Project, a joint effort of DHS S&T in collaboration with many other federal agencies.

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## **FEMA Issues National Preparedness Goal**

In September 2011, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued the National Preparedness Goal in a new report. The report describes security and resilience through the core capabilities that are necessary to deal with great risks, and uses an integrated, layered, and all-nation approach as its foundation. It defines success as a secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.

The full report can be found on [the FEMA website](#).

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## **WMD Center Grades Bio-Response Capabilities**

On October 12, 2011, the Bipartisan Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Terrorism Research Center

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*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@pnnl.gov](mailto:steve.stein@pnnl.gov) or 206-528-3340, Deputy Director Ryan Eddy at [ryan.eddy@pnnl.gov](mailto:ryan.eddy@pnnl.gov) or 509-372-6622, or Deputy Director Regional Programs Ann Lesperance at [ann.lesperance@pnnl.gov](mailto:ann.lesperance@pnnl.gov) or 206-528-3223, or see the website at <http://nwrwc.pnnl.gov>.

released its Bio-Response Report Card. The WMD Center is a not-for-profit research and educational organization founded in 2010 by the chair, vice chair, and executive director of the Congressional Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism.

The report card offers a strategic assessment of the nation's ability to successfully respond to biological incidents, whether bio-terrorism or a naturally occurring pandemic. Grades range from Bs for most capabilities in responding to small-scale non-contagious and contagious events to mostly Fs for responding to large-scale drug-resistant events and contagious global crises. While the report authors considered detection and diagnosis, communication, and the availability of medical countermeasures to be improving, the ability to attribute the source of a biological incident had the worse grades across all types of events, ranging from a D for a small-scale, non-contagious event to Fs for all other types.

Reviews of the grades from those on the front lines of emergency response have been mixed. For a copy of the report, see the [WMD Center's website](#).

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## **Upcoming Events**

November 29-December 1, 2011

[24<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference](#)  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

December 8, 2011

[Continuity Insights](#)  
Los Angeles, California

January 17-19, 2012

[International Disaster Conference and Expo](#)  
New Orleans, Louisiana

