UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 11-15, 2017 – South by Southwest Interactive, Austin, TX
- March 21, 2017 – Public Safety Technology Symposium, Lakewood, WA
- March 23, 2017 – DHS S&T Industry Day, Washington DC
- April 18-20, 2017 – Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, Tacoma, WA
- June 6-28, 2017 – Smart Cities Connect Conference & Expo, Austin, TX
- July 23-27 – PNWER Annual Summit, Portland, OR

CONTACT

- Want to know more? Visit us on the web at http://nwrtc.pnnl.gov
- Contact the NWRTC with questions and comments at nwrtc@pnnl.gov.

AROUND THE REGION IN HOMELAND SECURITY

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 center enables homeland security solutions for emergency responder communities and federal, state, and local stakeholders in the Northwest.

POSITION PAPER FOCUSES ON NATIONAL BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE

A new publication by the Interagency Board (IAB) proposes a model for a biothreat response capability. The position paper, "Bioterrorism Preparedness & Response: A Proposed Model for Bioterrorism Response: Initial Operations and Characterization," presents the IAB's position on an approach to develop a national bioterrorism response capability that brings together public safety jurisdictions, federal resources, processes, standards, and doctrine to support the creation of a network of locally owned, operated, and validated bioterrorism response teams.

"Over the years, there have been major investments in civil biodefense to develop various standards and strategies, but that effort has yet to yield a capability. What we have done in this document is take all of those efforts into consideration and weave them together into an actionable model that will result in a capability that is national, not federal, and can be replicated across the entire country," said David Ladd, an IAB member and project lead for the paper.

With input from the IAB, affiliated contributors from the first response community, as well as team members from PNNL including Rich Ozanich, Cindy Bruckner-Lea, and Rachel Bartholomew, the paper:

- Defines the proposed equipment, training, and capability requirements for a validated biothreat response team
- Lists structured and validated activities that should occur during the incident characterization and initial response phases of a bioterrorism response
- Recommends establishing equipment and training standards.

Ultimately the paper proposes that, by implementing this model, all stakeholders will be able to stand behind the information provided by initial response actions to assure public safety and consistently address threats or the perception of them.

Moving forward, Ladd and others who contributed to the report will continue promoting the model among relevant organizations, agencies, conferences, and events. The position paper is available on the IAB website at https://www.interagencyboard.org/.

AWARD-WINNING TOOL ANALYZES PHYSICAL, CYBER RISKS

Researchers at PNNL developed a tool that can help prevent attacks, called the Physical and Cyber Risk Analysis Tool, or PACRAT.
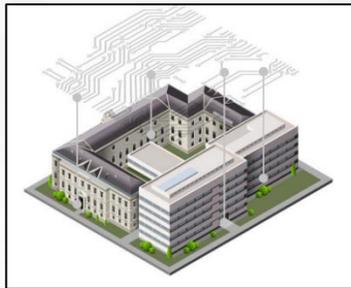
PACRAT discovers potential vulnerabilities by analyzing how cyber and physical systems affect each other, identifying vulnerabilities not found by looking at the systems independently. The software analyzes every potential pathway for a breach and discovers elements that are commonly exploited in successful attacks. PACRAT can then prioritize security upgrades based on its analysis.

The software was licensed to Albuquerque-based RhinoCorps, Ltd. Co. in March 2016, after being demonstrated to potential industry and government licensees through the DHS Transition to Practice Program. RhinoCorps is integrating the tool into a platform for federal and commercial customers to evaluate cyber and physical security risks.

PACRAT was awarded a 2017 Federal Laboratory Consortium Award, which recognizes federal laboratory teams and their industry partners for outstanding technology transfer achievements. To learn more, watch the PACRAT video on YouTube.

SAVER PROGRAM REPORTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Reports produced by the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program are now available for download on the S&T web site, as a one-stop-shop for resources to help responders make better purchasing decisions. Available at https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/saver, Assessment Reports, Market Surveys, TechNotes, and other types of SAVER reports provide unbiased comparative assessments of commercially available tools and equipment. The equipment is selected and then tested and evaluated by responders themselves in realistic operational environments.

In 2016, SAVER assessed technology resulting in 23 new reports in seven Federal Emergency Management Agency Authorized Equipment List (AEL) categories, including Ballistic-Resistant Body Armor for Women, Handheld Thermal Imagers, Personal Cooling Systems, and Throwable Robots. SAVER reports are free to download and written in plain language "Consumer Reports" style. In addition, they are searchable by AEL category to facilitate the opportunity to align grant funds to AEL equipment.

The SAVER Program is managed and executed by the DHS National Urban Security Technology Laboratory, which is responsible selecting and prioritizing program topics, developing SAVER knowledge products, coordinating with other organizations, and ensuring flexibility and responsiveness to first responder requirements.

To learn more, read the press release.