



TRANSCRIPT FROM WEBCAST 3/22/2011

DESCRIPTION: Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), DHS
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This had been great. So now, we've seen quite a bit. We talked to a lot of people today and we've seen how the standards of being leveraged at the local level. What I wanna do now is take us up to the federal level. And here, what the federal government is doing to try to do this integration of information across multiple agencies. Taped in Washington, D.C. was an interview with Robert Dilonardo. He is the Chief Information Officer from the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office at the Department of Homeland Security. We go to the videotape?

>> Hello, my name is Bill Kalin. I'm the Director of Homeland Security Operations for Safe Environment Engineering. And we're here today with Mr. Bob Dilonardo who is the Chief Information Officer for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office at the Department of Homeland Security. We're gonna cover a little bit about this program and its relationship to the Integrated Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive program run out of DHS Science and Technology by Teresa Lustig in the Chemical and Biological division. How are you doing today, Bob?

>> Doing very well. Thank you very much for the opportunity to be here.

>> Thank you, we appreciate your time.

>> This is I think a very important effort and I'm glad to be able--I've been participating on some level and I think actually it was very significant for us last year. I think the, you



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know, it was very successful effort. And for that reason, it's another excellent I think example of collaboration and what can happen with collaboration. So again, thank you for the opportunity.

>> Great. Well, thank you again. Can you give us a little bit of background about the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office or DNDO and its mission and purpose?

>> Sure, well, you know, I mean obviously I think a lot of people are very familiar with the idea that the threat of nuclear terrorism is very, very serious to our nation. And the domestic nuclear detection office was set up pretty much in response to that threat to be able for the government, to enable the government to do something about it. In 2005, HSPD 14 and NSPD 43 pretty much set up the Nuclear Detection Office and what its mission is, and it was codified later in the SAFE Port Act of 2006. And you know, there's a number of things that we do, but clearly a very important focus is to detect and report on the threat of nuclear terrorism, fight--transmission of illicit carrying or transporting, importing nuclear materials. So it's a concentration on the technology associated with the detection capability.

>> Okay, great. Can you tell us a little bit about how the DNDO mission supports the ICBRNE project that's going on in Los Angeles right now?

>> Well, ICBRNE is a very important project from my perspective, especially coming from the IT world. I mean it's about information sharing. It's about automated information sharing even more importantly. And as a result of that, you know, the collaboration that we have with Teresa Lustig last year was very, very important. And very important to what at least I'm trying to do within DNDO with respect to what IT can do for the nuclear detection problem, the terrorist issue. So obviously, we support it and it has helped us quite a bit. And I think the idea, I think very simple, I'll give you 2 examples. I mean if we can have automated information sharing, we wanna be able to adjudicate alarms more quickly. Nuisance alarms we call them are a big problem. It's very difficult. You have--the detectors will go off and very, very effectively be able to detect the problem of substances but they're not all substances are actual problems. For instance, bananas or kitty litter will give off a signal and we obviously don't have an issue with that. So the detection problem is very difficult and we need to be able to quickly adjudicate alarms in those cases. So, the commerce can flow or the people can go about their business. And



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also, as you well know, the maintenance of overall situational awareness, that's also very important to us. Again, automated information sharing I think is a key element and that we're truly enabling that.

>> Well, with that said, I know you're working with the National Information Exchange Model on the CRBN, CBRNE, IEPDs, the Information Exchange Packet Data. You're also working with Denis Gusty on the emergency data exchange language piece. So can you give a brief overview of how those components fit into your overall vision for interoperability and the information sharing pieces you've been describing?

>> Yes, absolutely. I mean you know, obviously, we have to agree on a common language, right? Everybody understands in order to communicate, we need to understand the same language. And it's the same thing with computers. I don't think it's any different. We have to have a common language and the National Information Exchange Model is something that I support it, and DNDOS support as result of that-- what has been accomplished there right from the very beginning.

>> So, what ICBRNE was able to do was actually get some implementation and our work with the project last year brought the Chembio experience to us and also I think enabled us to see how it can actually implement, be implemented successfully. So, we're gonna build on that in what we're doing this year.

>> Excellent, now I--I understand you're also looking for additional ways to validate some of the vendors and how they implement some of their standards for routing and things like that, can you tell us how the vendors could get involved in some of the things you're looking at with the sensor information for their data sharing capabilities?

>> Well, vendors are extremely important to what they bring to the table for the government obviously. There is a lot of expertise out there. Well, I should say there is-- you know, it's a very small community though too. But the--there is very important expertise what I should say, and not a lot of it. Now, being able to double leverage--and this is one of the lessons in collaboration with the government, right, be able to also leverage the skill sets and the expertise that was brought to the table to execute in the



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ICBRNE project is something that we're now able to benefit from as well. So, I don't know if that answers the question. But clearly, you know, what the vendor community and the expertise that brought to the table to be able to solve this problem of automated information sharing is absolutely key.

>> So, you're really looking for that public-private partnership relationship.

>> Absolutely.

>> That--that can support--

>> Across government. In terms of collaboration this again, this is an excellent example of how collaboration can be much more effective or so much stronger together than we are alone in terms of our agencies and also to bring the private sector and expertise into--so we don't we reinvent things too, which is another problem sometimes that exist in the government and silos. And something that we, you know, this is a very good example of not doing. And it's [inaudible] to say we don't have time to do it. The first time let alone do it over again, right?

[Simultaneous Talking]

>> Exactly. Absolutely.

>> Can you tell us a little about your Joint Analysis Center and the role that plays in on the information sharing piece in your analysis and adjudication?



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>> The Joint Analysis Center, the JAC at DNDO, you know, DNDO is not an operational component but it has a very important operational support aspect to its mission and that's what I think the Joint Analysis Center comes in. You basically have a group of analysts and watch officers who are helping to maintain situational awareness nationwide on what the rad/nuke threat is. There's an--of course a number of things that they do but clearly, you know, it's interesting that you bring that up because the automated information sharing that we're actually--that we're seeking to perfect here and implement in on a large scale, clearly, clearly the JAC would be the operational folks that would benefit from that. They help support alarm adjudication out in the field when alarms are difficult to [inaudible]. There's a reach back capability to get to the scientists that can actually make the calls. The quicker you do, you're able to adjudicate an alarm, you find out whether an the alarm is real, something we have to respond to. Or again, it's just the bananas, granite or kitty litter, whatever. You know, obviously time is extremely important because if you're dealing with a real incident, the quicker you need to get the information to the right folks for interdiction to take place. So, alarm adjudication is an example, but overall threat and situational awareness of what the rad/nuke picture is, the--the whole operating picture. So, that's another function that they perform and then obviously in terms of the information sharing, the point is what we wanna do is get to them information as soon as we can.

>> Now, can you briefly explain the role that the Emergency Data Exchange Language plays in some of your interoperability components as well?

>> Absolutely. It might seem trivial to a layperson the idea of, you know, systems talking to systems, but it's anything but. We cannot have point to point communications. We have to have a sophisticated and meaningful architecture in the center that truly enables the vision of getting information quickly where it needs to go because there's so much information. You need the right information and it has to be distributed appropriately. Well--I mean clearly EDXL excels in that particular arena and so we--alright, you know, obviously a strong proponent of it. You know, that's the--at the envelope, right? You gotta get the envelope. The payload is there is the mean message and the data that we--that we need to get to the important decision maker. But the envelope is very important in carrying that information through the router system or what we employ to get the delivery done.

>> That's great. Is there anything else you'd like to add? Otherwise, I'd like to thank you for your time and your participation today, Bob.



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>> No, other than again thank you very much for the opportunity. We have a pilot--let me say a pilot is probably not the right word, a prototype or demonstration coming up in July that's gonna benefit from this, the work that you guys have already done. We're going to a number of partners, the relationships for instance that was established in Los Angeles will be revisited. We're going out there soon to build on what was done and we're looking forward in exchanging information regarding cargo rad/nuke screening of cargo information among some key federal partners such as CBP and ourselves and Los Angeles. Maybe New York as well, New York City area and a number of other potential players, but we'll see. But in July you never gonna probably at least have 3 partners and maybe look forward to taking this the next step.

>> Well, that's great. We're looking forward to helping in that area in participation. And if there's anything else we can do, please let us know.

>> Absolutely.

>> Thank you.

>> And we will be talking.

>> Alright.