

Report on the RNSA supported visit to US Department of Defence's Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and National Defence University of Athol Yates

20 December 2008

Summary

RNSA supported Athol Yates to attend a

1. a conference on 27 and 28 October 2008 called Homeland Defence Technology in Colorado Springs
2. workshop run by the US Department of Defence's Northern Command (NORTHCOM) in Colorado Springs from 29 and 30 October 2008
3. briefing at the National Defence University in Washington on 6 November 2008

The purpose of the activities was to identify opportunities for collaboration between Australian researchers/industry and Colorado Springs based defence industry, NORTHCOM and National Defence University. In addition, the concept of developing an international Centre of Excellence in Homeland Defence was further discussed.

The outcome was development of contacts which can allow collaboration to be explored. In particular,

- The US Colorado Homeland Defence Alliance would welcome Australian involvement in next years conference and exhibition
- The National Defence University would welcome visiting scholars to work at their university for a period of time (unpaid)

Reason for the support

The travel was supported by the RNSA because it contributed to the RNSA mission statement of *facilitating a knowledge-sharing network for research organisations, government and the private sector.*

Outcomes

By being involved in the activities, Athol Yates was able to highlight Australian researchers and capabilities in areas relevant to homeland defence which included:

- Cyberspace Security
- Pandemic Influenza
- Special Security Events
- Information Sharing
- Disaster Relief Challenges and Best Practices

In addition, agreement was reached to produce a book of edited papers on worldwide trends in homeland defence.