



## **RNSA TSWG Workshop**

In March, the RNSA facilitated a seminar as part of the Australia-US Bilateral Discussions on counter-terrorism. The event was held at Australian Defence Force Academy where one of the RNSA nodes is hosted, and was supported by UNSW@ADFA's Defence & Security Applications Research Centre.

The seminar consisted of a series of presentations by leading academic and industry researchers and the audience consisted of staff from the US Technical Support Working Group (TSWG), and Australian State, Territory and Commonwealth counter-terrorism agencies and security organisations and group.

The workshop covered the latest advances in explosive detection and forensics, blast effects and mitigation, CBRN, infrastructure protection and surveillance.

Presentations were made by leading Australian academic and industry researchers, and were followed by panel discussions with a US subject matter specialist.

Delegates greatly enjoyed the opportunities that the workshop offered, both in education and networking. The workshop was preceded by Networking Drinks on the Tuesday night at the Officer's Mess which facilitated the development of informal contacts.

The powerpoints of the presentations are available from the RNSA Members only site. To access the members only site, [Click here](#).

To join RNSA, please follow the joining instructions at RNSA Web: [www.secureaustralia.org](http://www.secureaustralia.org)

## **Podcasts of RNSA events**

The RNSA has recently acquired new audio recording equipment to greatly enhance the services offered to members.

This audio equipment will be used to record presentations, addresses and interviews which will then be podcast online. The pod casting of these audio files will greatly spread the knowledge of RNSA around not only Australia, but the world. People in remote parts of Australia who are unable to attend our conferences will still be able to gain useful information from them but listening online.

## **RNSA Security Technology Conference – Call for Papers**

The 3rd Annual RNSA Security Technology Conference will be held on 28 September 2007 at the University of Melbourne, Melbourne. The conference will be a one day event and showcase leading technological and social science projects and related areas.

This conference aims to bring together the security communities with industry and researchers to develop mutual understanding on needs, research and outcomes, as well as building substantive contacts across areas.

The Program Chair, A/Prof Priyan Mendis, is currently accepting expression of interest (abstracts) to present in the Stream Presentations on 28 September 2007.

Your abstract needs to be received by 15 May 2007 with priority given to those who submit first. Please submit your abstracts with a proposed title to [a.gupta@civenv.unmelb.edu.au](mailto:a.gupta@civenv.unmelb.edu.au) or [rnsa@secureaustralia.org](mailto:rnsa@secureaustralia.org).

For more information about this conference, please visit the conference website: <http://www.secureaustralia.org/Activities/AnnualConference.php>

## **Review of Research and Development of Transport Security**

The RNSA has just completed a project for the Australian Government's Publicly Funded Agencies' Collaborative Counter-Terrorism (PACCT) Transport Security Working Group on transport security. The RNSA presented a document to the Working Group that listed approximately 80 research projects that are being undertaken or have recently concluded. The document also gave an estimate on the amount of money universities and industries are investing in transport security. At this stage, the document is not available to the public.

## Expression of interest for a US tour

The RNSA is gauging interest from leading Australia universities and organisations in a tour of key US government agencies, companies and universities that are either funding or are being funded to undertake research in the areas of counter-terrorism, homeland security, policing, law enforcement, intelligence and national security.

The tour may look at research collaboration and/or teaching collaboration. Specifically, potential purposes of the tour may include meeting with:

- US university staff to identify the projects and strategies they have used to win research grants, and to examine opportunities for international research collaboration
- US Department of Homeland Security personnel to discuss opportunities for Australia research institutions
- selected US military, defence and security companies to discuss opportunities for Australia research institutions
- US university staff to discuss student trends, curriculum and government funding support for the teaching of security related courses
- meet with US Department of Homeland Security staff to understand the policy objectives and program priorities of funding selected homeland security universities
- explore joint research and teaching opportunities

The RNSA would organise the tour after identifying key outcomes required by participants.

We estimate that the tour would take 10 days starting in Washington and finishing in Los Angeles. An estimate of the participation cost in the tour would be \$20,000 which would include all internal US flights, transfers, land transport, and organisational costs.

If there is interest in this tour, we would seek the support of Australian government agencies and companies to ensure we identify and access additional key Department of Homeland Security personnel and Defence/homeland security companies.

If you may be interested in this tour, please contact Outreach Manager, Athol Yates, on [rnsa@homelandsecurity.org.au](mailto:rnsa@homelandsecurity.org.au) or tel 02 6161 5143.

**Note:** RNSA is not after a firm commitment at this stage, just an indication of potential interest.