United States Northern Command

PANEL 2 – INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Bear McConnell
Director, Interagency Coordination
Who we are....what we do

- North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD)
- United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM)

NORAD (bi-command)
- Aerospace Warning
- Aerospace Control
- Maritime Warning

USNORTHCOM
- Homeland Defense
- Civil Support
USNORTHCOM anticipates and conducts Homeland Defense and Civil Support operations within the assigned area of responsibility to defend, protect, and secure the United States and its interests.
Operational Challenges

• Ongoing existence, use, and construction of cross-border tunnels represent persistent and growing threats to the homeland.

• Asymmetric enemies demonstrate ever-evolving abilities to construct tunnels to gain access and transport illegal drugs, people, and, potentially, weapons of mass destruction into the continental United States.

• 110 cross-border tunnels found since 1990
• 24 discoveries by LEAs in CY 2008
• Increase in tunnel construction is likely a result of increased CBP presence and effectiveness against traditional mobility corridors into the homeland.
Counter-Tunnel Operations

• N-NC seeks to solidify strategic, operational and tactical level partnerships with the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies.

• Many HLD/HLS vulnerabilities require interagency interaction, collaboration, shared energy and resources.

• The U.S./Mexico tunnel problem presents an opportunity to create an exemplary working model of interaction between N-NC, DoD, DHS, and DOJ with eventual expansion internationally to Mexican and Canadian authorities.
Tunnel Detection Stakeholders

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- BORDER PATROL
- CBP
- ICE
- DEA
- ATF
- US ATTY OFFICE
- STATE LEAs

**MILITARY**
- OSD /AS&C
- US NORTHCOM
- JTF-NORTH
- US CENTCOM
- USFK
- USACE-ERDC
- OSD/JGRE
- NUWC
- TSWG

**INDUSTRY & ACADEMIA**
- FLIR
- Lockheed Martin
- Stolar Research Corp
- BBN Technologies
- AT&T
- Foster Miller
- QinetiQ
- Georgia Tech
- SMU
- CSM
- KGS

**OTHER**
- DHS – S&T
- DIA
- USGS
- CBP LABS
- NATIONAL LABS
• Advocate for cooperative technologies effort
• Leverage intersection of military and HLS capability need
• Identify test platform location to validate technologies (a dedicated site)
• Advocate for long-term preventative solutions.
• Synthesis of interagency requirements, capabilities and technology development
• Wed technology efforts with increased training, intelligence gathering and synthesis capabilities
“...this strategy supports the collective interagency effort to end the construction and use of tunnels and subterranean passageways for the purpose of smuggling illegal drugs into the United States. ...terrorists have the potential to use ...tunnels -- to move illegal contraband, personnel, and money across borders, it is essential that tunnels be viewed as a unique and growing threat to the homeland.”

“The interagency will continue to synchronize its collective efforts to:

1) conduct research and development, which leads to better tunnel detection capabilities;

2) improve the collection and sharing of tunnel related information and intelligence, both within the U.S. interagency community and between U.S. authorities and their Mexican counterparts; and

3) establish and execute joint initiatives with Mexico directed at ending the construction and use of tunnels under the Southwest border.
When You Need a Friend, It’s Too Late to Make One!