Working Together:
Research & Development Partnerships in Homeland Security

Dr. Rafal Kicinger, CIP Program Post Doctoral Fellow
Department of Civil, Environmental, and Infrastructure Engineering, GMU

From April 26 to April 28, 2005, the Department of Homeland Security hosted its inaugural research and development conference in Boston, MA, which attracted more than 900 researchers and policy makers from the US and abroad. The focus of the conference was on state-of-the-art methods, models, and tools to anticipate, prevent, respond to, and recover from high-consequence chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosives and cyber terrorist threats. The technical sessions were divided into four major topic areas:

- Awareness
- Countermeasures: biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear explosives
- Threat and vulnerability assessment
- Critical infrastructure protection and cyber security

The technical sessions were accompanied by four poster sessions organized around the same topic areas. Research on homeland security by George Mason University and James Madison University was presented during six poster presentations on critical infrastructure protection.

One of the distinguishing features of this conference was its interdisciplinary character. A broad range of problems addressed by homeland security research brought together researchers representing almost the entire spectrum of scientific disciplines. The technical sessions provided an excellent overview of the state-of-the-art in homeland security related research from different perspectives.

The conference provided exceptional opportunities for meeting researchers working in different fields on similar problems and the dissemination of scientific ideas. It also encouraged establishment of partnerships among scientists and engineers from government, national laboratories, universities, and private sector firms. ❖

Dr. Tomasz Arciszewski, George Mason University, presents his work during the poster session on critical infrastructure protection.

Dr. Sanjay Jain, National Institute of Standards and Technology, presents his research on "Integrated Modeling and Simulation for Multiple Phases of Emergency Response."

More information about the conference can be found at http://www.homelandsecurityresearchconference.org.

Beginning on Page 5, you can find abstracts of research presented at the Boston conference by CIP Program researchers.