

# **Chemical Biological Defense Acquisition Initiatives Forum**

## **Decontamination Sector**

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# Decon Sector Topics re: January CBDAIF Meeting

- Increase in the speed of the security clearance process
- Industry interest in conducting demonstrations at June 2008 Ft. Leonard Wood Joint CBDRN Conference
- Format of October 2007 Joint Chem Bio Decontamination and Protection Conference at Virginia Beach

# Speed of the Security Clearance Process

- “Security clearance processing has improved but is still slow in some cases.”
- “No experience.”
- “Have not noticed any change.”
- “Our experience has been pretty positive – actually got things through quicker than anticipated the beginning of last year and good response with review process at the end of the year.”

# Interest in Conducting Conference Demonstrations

- “No specific interest at this time.”
- “Of possible interest – would depend on the details and costs.”
- “I don’t think that anyone would have any interest in conducting demonstrations of anything in front of their competitors.”
- “Demonstrations help the industry to provide better, more targeted information to the warfighter.”
- “Wrong venue. Best left to Force Protection.”
- “Mixed feelings. Some are usually so staged that they are more marketing than demonstrative. On the other hand, it does drive the transition to the field so there is positive benefit there. I would rather see joint industry-DoD demonstrations, as the process of preparing for such an event can yield some fruitful results and the net results seem more realistic.”

# Format of 2007 Virginia Beach Conference

- “The conference was well organized, went well, and poster and podium presentations were fine.”
- “Combining protection and decon is not a bad idea. A separate conference focused on R&D and technology might not be a bad idea.”
- “The Virginia Beach format provided additional opportunities to expand our potential customer base.”
- “I think that the format itself is fine but while I might be missing something due to a lack of depth in the topic, it seemed like the pitches [said] little of value to a potential contractor.”
- “We found the mix to be very good. There was sufficient breadth in topics to cause a wide variety of interested parties to attend (inside and outside government). In our particular case, we have a very broad definition of our market and appreciated the opportunity to meet with folks outside the very narrow Decontamination market.”

# Conclusions

- Speed of Security Clearance
  - Improved
  - Is further improvement possible?
- Conducting Conference Demonstrations
  - Quite helpful for some
  - Concern on the part of others over disclosing proprietary processes or technologies
- 2007 Virginia Beach Conference Format
  - Combined conference was well received and beneficial
  - Should be repeated