

Information Technology Day focuses on homeland security

On April 15, many people across the Mid-Columbia region had two tasks on their mind: send in their federal income tax return and attend Lockheed Martin's Third Annual Information Technology Day.

Held at the Pasco Red Lion Hotel, IT Day drew more than 600 people ranging from IT professionals and students to business, political and community leaders. Thirty local companies participated as exhibitors during the day-long event, sharing information about their products and services in areas such as hardware and software, telecommunications, systems integration, advanced technology, training, education and career opportunities.

Keynote presenter Congressman Doc Hastings kicked off the morning sessions by addressing the complex challenges facing federal, state and local government agencies and officials as they respond to the homeland security issues following the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Hastings noted the unique capabilities of the Tri-Cities, especially the Volpentest HAMMER Training Center, in assisting the region and country with critical first-responder training.

A panel discussion featuring industry and regional experts in homeland security followed, with panelists Ned Wogman, director of Homeland Security for Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, who presented a research and development perspective; Fluor Hanford's Karen McGinnis, director of the HAMMER/Hanford Training Center, who presented a training perspective; Ken Arness, chief executive officer of Chameleon Technology, who presented a secure infrastructure perspective; and Chip Schleider, program director for Homeland Security for Lockheed Martin Corporation, who presented a systems-integration perspective.

Major General Timothy Lowenberg, Washington State Adjutant General and homeland security advisor to Governor Gary Locke, addressed the luncheon audience. He is in charge of 8,000 National Guard troops, and he interfaces on a biweekly basis with U.S. Department of Homeland Security director Tom Ridge. The State of Washington is playing a key role in helping the nation prepare to defend against possible future attacks.

Technical sessions featuring speakers from Microsoft, Cisco, Lockheed Martin, Macromedia, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and others rounded out the afternoon.

Information Technology Day is sponsored by Lockheed Martin Information Technology with the following supporting sponsors: Tri-City Industrial Development Council, Tri-City Herald, Columbia Basin College, Washington State University Tri-Cities, and the Washington Software Alliance.

"IT Day is a great way to give back to the community as well as hear from the community," said Frank Armijo, program director for Lockheed Martin Information Technology's West Coast Hub. "IT Day 2003 showed that IT is playing a major role in homeland security, helping track down terrorists, supporting our troops in the Middle East and affecting the Hanford cleanup mission and economic diversification. We look forward to sponsoring the event again next year." ■



Major General Timothy Lowenberg, Washington State Adjutant General and Homeland Security Advisor to Governor Gary Locke, was the keynote luncheon speaker for Lockheed Martin's Third Annual IT Day. Lowenberg's presentation addressed the various Homeland Security issues he, along with our state and national leaders, are focused on solving.