

# THINK

## Homeland Security

**B**y now just about anyone can conjure up the nightmare scenario – a biological, chemical or radiological bomb imported to a U.S. port in an unchecked cargo container, cruise missiles fired against U.S. cities from an offshore vessel, or shoulder-fired missiles aimed at U.S. passenger jets.

When one considers the vastness of the seas, the boundlessness of the skies, and thousands of miles of exposed prairie and coastline, the problem of homeland security appears truly overwhelming.

But despite the enormity of securing the United States, there is a way to greatly reduce many threats. It all boils down to a coordinated effort, using pragmatic planning and multiple layers of security to respond to everything from terrorist threats to natural disasters and other emergencies.

By now, most everyone understands there is no guarantee of 100 percent safety. But if the nation maintains its resolve and focus on homeland security, a dramatic improvement is possible – in less than five years, according to Bruce Walker, Director of Homeland Security for Northrop Grumman Corp., McLean, Va.

Until now, protecting against each threat, whether man-made, accidental or by some natural disaster, involved using a variety of point solutions. However, it would be more effective to integrate and manage all capabilities within what Northrop Grumman refers to as a “system of systems” approach,

featuring “layers of defense.”

To illustrate, Walker compares Northrop Grumman’s approach to what most people currently do to protect their homes – implementing technology, such as fire alarms or motion detectors; adopting policies such as locking doors; and training, by teaching family members to stay low, get out of the house, and meet by the neighbor’s oak tree, for example.

Protecting homeland security requires a series of fail-safe measures that add layers of defense to aid in preparing for emergencies and protecting against threats. In response to Hurricane Katrina, for example, Integrated Deepwater Systems (IDS), a joint venture between Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin, quickly provided newly “re-engined” helicopters for use in search and rescue in the weeks following the disaster.

Northrop Grumman’s gulf coast operations include ship-building facilities in Pascagoula and Gulfport, Miss., and in New Orleans and Tallulah, La. The company showcased its recovery capabilities, returning to full operation within a month. IDS is a multi-year, multi-billion dollar program to design, update and modernize aircraft, ships and communications – enabling the Coast Guard to more quickly and efficiently deploy its fleet.

Meanwhile, in considering how to combat chemical and biological weapons, Northrop Grumman has helped implement:

- A range of devices for detection;

- Community exercises for preparedness;
- Secure networks to make sure information flows to the right people;
- Warning systems and software that measure trends in disease symptoms using hospital, school and pharmacy data; and
- Monitoring systems to track pharmaceutical inventories.

What sets Northrop Grumman apart is how the company applies its “layered defense” approach to every challenge, including inter-agency communications, first responder systems, maritime and port security, identity management, airport and air traffic security, border security, information security, and missile defense.

This may explain why the company’s homeland security revenue has soared from \$500 million in 2003, to approximately \$1 billion in 2005. And on the civilian side, Northrop Grumman delivers affordable technology solutions, understanding that training, reinvestment, forecasting and integration are more “fluid” than in the DoD.

In all areas, the military, aerospace and systems integration giant is no longer simply reacting to customer needs – instead driving resourceful solutions that enable higher levels of safety and security, both in defense and civilian government operations. Northrop Grumman has focused its R&D and creative human resources on the homeland security challenge – understanding that a fortress works much better than a wall in securing the nation.

To learn more, please visit the following website: [www.northropgrumman.com](http://www.northropgrumman.com).

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