SDNS ASA Section Report

The following is data for the Section on Statistics in Defense and National Security:

# of Meetings Held: One—section business meeting at the JSM meetings-- minutes were posted to our web-site
One—section officers planning phone conference

Meeting Dates: August 9
March 25

# of Meeting Participants: 20+ for our business meeting
Our six section officers for the planning phone conference

Major issues and discussed and/or accomplishments
- Participated in 2005 JSM. Sponsored:
  - 2 invited sessions
    o National Security Issues in the Design and Analysis of Social Network Studies
    o National Systems for Biosurveillance
  - 1 co-sponsored session (with Statistical Graphics),
    o Visualization Methods in Homeland Security Applications
  - 4 topic contributed sessions,
    o Statistical Issues in Biometric Authentication
    o Spectral-based Methods of Data Analysis
    o Statistical Methods in Computer Intrusion Detection
    o Innovations in Prospective Anomaly Detection for Biosurveillance
  - and 2 introductory overview lectures.
- Awarded Strategic Initiative grant to conduct First Annual Conference on Quantitative Methods and Statistical Applications in Defense and National Security.
  - Conference to be held 15-16 February 2006. Keynote speaker is former Secretary of Defense William Perry.
- Goals:
  o Promote collaboration between statisticians and national security practitioners
  o Introduce ASA & SDNS to national security problems
  o Reach out to non-statisticians
  o Increase ASA and SDNS membership
- Participated—section leadership and many members—in SAMSi workshop on Statistical Issues in National Defense
  o All four lead investigators are SDNS members
- Participated in ENAR 2005. Co-sponsored w/ENAR
  o Invited session: At the Crossroads of Biostatistics and Security Biometrics
- Organized two invited sessions for ENAR 2006.
  o Assessing Spatial Surveillance for Bioterrorism: Simulating Attacks
  o Statistical Models in Microparticle Remediation/ Decontamination
- Presented Highlights of SDNS section to the ASA Board in December.

Highlights
- Participation and interest in section strong: section membership increased from about 200 at the beginning of the calendar year to about 250 at the end of the year.
- Contract signed with Springer to publish monograph on statistical issues in counter-terrorism.
  o Collection of fifteen papers on current problems and statistical approaches to issues in counter-terrorism. Topics include
    ▪ Game theory
    ▪ Biometric authentication
    ▪ Syndromic surveillance
    ▪ Modeling
- Continuing need for statistician involvement in defense and national security issues.
Concerns: None.
Other Comments: It was worth the effort to become a section—all the officers look forward to continuing to build on our initial, good start.