17 January 2006

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
  - National Security Issues in the Design and Analysis of Social Network Studies
  - National Systems for Biosurveillance
- 1 co-sponsored session (with Statistical Graphics),
  - Visualization Methods in Homeland Security Applications
- 4 topic contributed sessions,
  - Statistical Issues in Biometric Authentication
  - Spectral-based Methods of Data Analysis
  - Statistical Methods in Computer Intrusion Detection
  - 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:
  - Promote collaboration between statisticians and national security practitioners
  - Introduce ASA & SDNS to national security problems
  - Reach out to non-statisticians
  - Increase ASA and SDNS membership
- Participated—section leadership and many members—in SAMSi workshop on Statistical Issues in National Defense
  - All four lead investigators are SDNS members
- Participated in ENAR 2005. Co-sponsored w/ENAR
  - Invited session: At the Crossroads of Biostatistics and Security Biometrics
- Organized two invited sessions for ENAR 2006.
  - Assessing Spatial Surveillance for Bioterrorism: Simulating Attacks
  - 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.
  - 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.