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## TSM Researcher Speaks to Security Specialists about MSU's Role in Homeland Security Research

Kentucky Electronic Crimes Task Force (KECTF), hosted a quarterly meeting of Kentucky-ProTECT at Jefferson, IN on Thursday March 5, 2009. Among the speakers was Mark Garland, Researcher for the Center for Telecommunications System Management (TSM), who replaced President and CEO of National Institute for Hometown Security (NIHS), Ewell Balltrip at this event. Garland spoke on behalf of the NIHS and discussed his research with the Man-Portable Interoperable Tactical Operations Center (MITOC) communications unit; which was deployed during the recent ice storm in Western Kentucky. This project was one of the many grant projects MSU has received from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Garland also discussed details about our past, present, and future research into critical infrastructure protection, with a strong information technology flavor. "I really focused on the development, field testing, and commercialization of MITOC as well as the effects of cyber security on rapidly deployable communication systems," Garland explained.

Garland discussed his role in the event, "One of the main reasons that I was asked to fill in as a speaker was due to the strength of our TSM program, which is also where our DHS research program is housed."

Others that spoke at the quarterly meeting included of the U.S. Secret Service, and SCADA Security. Sam Varnado, Chief Technical Officer for the NIHS, and retired Director of the

Information Operations Center, Sandia National Laboratories, also spoke on Cyber Security and Cyber threats.

Murray State's involvement in this type of organization allows students the opportunity to have exposure to real world experience on a national level and a step forward in establishing a career in security. Murray State continues to receive grant projects through the DHS, and are sometimes working on 3 to 4 projects at a time. The support from the DHS and NIHS continues to add to the uniqueness of the Program of Distinction in TSM at MSU by showcasing the faculty, staff and students work at a state and national level.

For more information contact Mark Garland at (270) 809-3987 or visit Center for Telecommunications System Management (CTSM) at:

www.murraystate.edu/tsm/ctsm.

You can also check out the MITOC blog to learn more about this unique project at:

www.murraystatemet1.blogspot.com