

## **J. Eric Dietz**

J. Eric Dietz, Ph.D., is the first executive director of Indiana's Department of Homeland Security, which combines the state's emergency management and homeland security efforts. He comes to the position from Purdue University where he served as the associate director of the e-EnterpriseCenter at Purdue's DiscoveryPark.

Dietz was managing director of the Purdue Homeland Security Institute from May 2004 to February 2005 and was involved in the establishment of a cooperative research and development agreement with the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane, Indiana University, the Counter-Terrorism and Security Council and Purdue to develop technology, tactics and training for military and first responders. He also developed a weapons of mass destruction exercise proposal that will be conducted at Purdue later this year.

He recently retired from the U.S. Army after a 22-year career. While in the military, he oversaw a number of technology-oriented projects, including development of detection programs for weapons of mass destruction, military power sources, chemical demilitarization and decision-making software.

An Indiana native, Dietz earned his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering and Masters of Science from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University.

The four divisions within the Department of Homeland Security are the Division of Planning and Assessment, responsible for federal grants; the Division of Preparedness and Training, which includes the former Public Safety Training Institute; the Division of Emergency Response and Recovery which incorporates the former State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA); and the Division of Fire and Building Safety, which includes the newly combined role of state fire marshal and state building commissioner.

Among other responsibilities, Dietz is responsible for developing a single strategic plan for responding to homeland security emergencies, overseeing the application and disbursement of federal homeland security funds, acting as the single emergency operations coordinator during a terrorist or homeland security attack and serving as the director of the Counter Terrorism and Security Council, which is chaired by Indiana's Lieutenant Governor.