USC Teamcore Group/US Coast Guard researchers are awarded the Daniel H. Wagner Prize for Excellence in Operations Research Practice at the INFORMS conference.

October 30, 2012 — The Daniel H. Wagner Prize, which is awarded annually at the INFORMS Conference, recognized the joint team of USC/US Coast Guard researchers for their work on the PROTECT system. This program has been deployed by the US Coast Guard in Boston and New York, to provide intelligent (game-theoretic) randomization of Coast Guard patrols to protect important targets at the ports. Part of the CREATE research effort (National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events), the winning paper is entitled “A Deployed Quantal Response Based Patrol Planning System for the US Coast Guard,” by Milind Tambe, Fernando Ordóñez, Bo An, Eric Shieh, Rong Yang (USC) and Craig Baldwin, Joseph DiRenzo, Ben Maule, Garrett Meyer (US Coast Guard). Members of the team include Milind Tambe, a Helen N. and Emmett H. Jones Professor in Engineering in the Computer Science & Industrial and Systems Engineering Departments and Fernando Ordóñez, a research faculty member in the Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

The Wagner Prize recognizes research that provides the critical link between the laboratory and the real world, as they state “quality and coherence of the analysis used in practice.” Dr. Wagner focused on strong mathematics applied to practical problems, supported by clear and intelligible writing. The Wagner Prize supports those principles by recognizing strong writing, sound analytical content, and verifiable practice successes.