

**2010 Homeland Security S&T Summit  
South Central Region  
LIVE INTERACTIVE WEBCAST  
2/09/2010 FROM LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY**

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**Opening & Welcome**

**Tony Russell Regional Administrator, FEMA Region VI**

**MARY HANSON**

Now we will go to opening remarks from Tony Russell who is the regional administrator from the region six which is where we are. He was appointed to this position to months ago, last December only. And his response to for all FISMA operational decisions and policies implementation within these five states. He previously served as the federal coordinating officer at sea over the my region eight. Between 2003 and nine and 2009 it also assumed the role of acting director of the FEMA the TIA Sena recovery office, Katrina and Ike with the office's deficit including banners and Lawrence. Here's a man who knows from whence it comes, Mr. Russell, thank you for coming up from Texas.

**TONY RUSSELL**

Some of you may know I'm from New Mexico from Albuquerque. Then as Mary said before, last year I spent in Louisiana and New Orleans. So after the Super Bowl we say who that. That means there's a long story but it means the Saints one the Super Bowl and if I was not here today I would be in New Orleans for the big party. The big parade going down Canal Street. I would prefer to be here with you then to be there in New Orleans. [Laughter]. But I think this is a very important conference to me. I have been doing disaster recovery it response for many, many years. I did a recovery effort here and hats when you had the mudslides two or three years ago now. I also did the snowstorm you had over in the entire state. I always think to myself how can I do my job better. Is there a way for me to leverage technology, to leverage some of the things that all of you are doing now to be able to be a more effective partner for my States. I have five states. And again as Mary said, we are the most active region in FEMA. As I speak, I have nine open disasters now. Also within that 9 I have three of the largest disasters in American history. Katrina, Rita, ILEC, all of that with a we had to contend with and if I can use some how technology better to do my job better, then that's what I want to do. So I'm going to be an active listener. I will be talking to a lot of you face-to-face to see some of the things that you are doing. Maybe I can use, maybe I can leverage because my whole goal is always to help people. Any way, shape or form. And I also know that I can never do it alone. I'm not smart enough. I'm not a very smart person but I don't know people who are stucco and that and lost almost so people are still here. It's the highest I.Q. of anywhere in the nation, is that to? I see a lot

of nuts and the room. Or there may be some debate on the Web cast. But I've heard that this dash people in the world so that's why I'm here and I look forward to speaking with you and to get to you that much better. Thank you and let's have a good conference. Thank you.

[Applaud].