

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

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**KEYNOTE**

**Tim Manning**

**FEMA Deputy Administrator for Protection and  
National Preparedness  
(by phone link)**

**MARY HANSON**

We have now on the line keynote speaker this morning who would have been here if at all possible, I'm sure, by phone from home, I believe. Tim Manning the deputy administrator for federal emergency agency. Six business units more than 300 people and they are charged with giving guidance programs and activities and services. Prevent, protect from respond to and recover from all hazards. Now there is a big responsibility. He also is the former New Mexico homeland security advisor. Mr. . Manning are you there?

Good morning. Can you hear me?

Very good.

You have 15 minutes or more if you'd like it.

**TIM MANNING**

Thank you very much. Good morning everybody. Thank you for the patience in putting up with me live via phone. I am in Washington, looking out the window at a very snowy capitol. I want to thank you for your dedication in getting in to Los Alamos. Technical solutions to a weather solution and continuing the conference via webcast. I am disappointed I was not able to return back to my home there in New Mexico. Technological solution to having missed the enchiladas in Santa Fe. I appreciate the opportunity to talking to you on the for. Just want to hit on a few things that where I think we see strong interface between science and technology and what is inherently an old field in disaster response and helping people when they need help the most. On behalf of our administrator Craig [ Indiscernible ] We have put renewed focus on new innovative ways here at FEMA to help responders around the country prepare, respond, and prevent -- through some of the ways that I see advances having happened and maybe what we might see in the future. Along the preparedness cycle. When we talk about preparedness, we like to think about it as a feedback loop of sorts of planning, training the plan, equipping to respond against the plan, exercising that plan and then evaluating and learning and we writing the plan. Moving on in that circular format. It's also important to think of preparedness as not an end to itself. It transcends all of the various aspects of response, recovery, prevention, protection. All the mission sets of

homeland security have an element of which you must plan, train, equip, evaluate and learn. Some of the ways we've adapted some new and innovative tools in the planning cycle, for example, is wiki, collaborative web environments. Web 2.0 and the new technology. The risk wiki that the national office of the capitol region has developed. To share tools. To share thoughts. To do collaborative risk analysis across multiple levels of government, across multiple agencies. We're no strangers to working together in complex environments and it doesn't get complex with two states the federal government, the District of Columbia and the various players in this capitol area and they've hit on a new. [ Indiscernible ] Using web media. There are a number of new web tools that are very useful, not the least of what we're using today to share and collaborate and learn from each other and find new ways to do things to help execute our jobs and do things more effectively and more efficiently. Once our planning -- we have an idea of how we want to go about doing things, then we need to start training to them. There was a time not too long ago where you could only do that training is travel across the country into one place, sit in a class room for anywhere from a day to a week well, multiple weeks and months in some cases and learn from each other. Then go out and practice it. It was really the only way you could go out and train and practice in the real world to actually do things. [ Indiscernible ] There was no way to simulate things. With advanced made at places just like you are today national lab complex, not to mention California and all of the high tech centers, we have new ways of collaborating across distance, through teleconference, through new social media as well. To create collaborative training environments. Simulation environments that help us do training. Not too long ago, it was pilots and airline industry and the military were the only ones that were able to really have their experience in simulating and action in an environment like they would see in real life. Now we see that across the domain. Everywhere from simulating inside of a hostage situation or tech teams using video simulation and responsive simulated weapons -- there's great advancements being made frequently that help us get better at our jobs. And in a safer manner. No place is more obvious than the exercise simulation world. FEMA's national exercise division hosts a facility here at FEMA headquarters the national exercise simulation center. It was created a year ago to bring modeling and simulation into the exercise domain. National lab specifically [ Indiscernible ] Where you'll be tomorrow, I understand. Created the verb where we can both simulate exercises that are being conducted anywhere across the country and put people through a simulation right here in the facility in FEMA headquarters. Run them through virtual environments, virtual towns with artificial intelligence actors. Not unlike a very high powered video game. It's great fun and really impressive advancement in the way we conduct exercises and the frequency with which we can put our incident management teams and critical personnel that might otherwise get one or two opportunities a year to run through a largely SAS material in real life can D large disaster in real life -- affected by changes in input. How will they go forward from there? Something that hits very close to home for most responders is the equipping phase. Nowhere is the work of S and T and the collaboration between all of the various elements here more obvious than how we test and evaluate new technology for response. Some great steps having been made, right there in you New Jersey such as the [ Indiscernible ] Phone used for decontamination such as biologic. [ Indiscernible ] Incidents. Transferred over to science and

technology last January is saver. System assessment for validation of emergency response. Create a consumer report for new responder technology. Does it work as advertised? How well does it work? How will it help? There are any advancements every day. Things that you wouldn't even expect or foresee the application to disaster response and homeland security. Now you wonder how we lived without them. Such as LED technology. What used to power the first calculator I had can light up an entire incident scene at the fraction of power usage of just five or ten years ago. Greatly reducing the number of generators, being able to provide the same assistance to a whole lot of other people.

Originally, as we were going through this as I planned to have been out there, I was looking forward to a question and answer session with all of you. But unfortunately due to the weather, I understand that's unfortunately not a possibility the way we have the system set up. So at the point now in the -- when I would real like to engage with all of you on what ideas you might have to build a better response system and what we can do to support you we're unfortunately not going to be able to do that. But I understand if your conference hosts will be -- questions you might have for me and pass them on we'll be more than happy to answer those and get something back just as quickly as we can to each of you individually, and then possibly to the whole group of attendees.

Mr. . Manning.

Unless -- during the course of the talks -- kind of yelling into the other end of the phone, I would be happy to stay on as long as necessary to take as many questions as possible. Otherwise, I would like to just close with again, a deep heart felt thank you for all of you who traveled to Los Alamos and san Dee yeah over the next couple of days braving the storms throughout the entire country and risking the possibility of not being able to get home when the thing is done. I'm sure secretary wheeler will be happy to point you in all the directions you'll need to contribute as you can to the local economy as they are wrapping up their budgets. Thank you all for taking the time and the commitment you all have to furthering your ability to do your jobs, your dedication to your craft and your commitment to the American people. None of us would be able to do it without the partnership and collaboration built by all of us, each of you there, I thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this morning, congratulate you on your dedication and look forward to any questions you may have. Whatever way I may answer them. Thank you and enjoy the rest of your time here.

#### **MARY HANSON**

Yes, sir. We are, in fact -- this is your moderator. I will take questions from the home and relay them to you by phone. We have a short gap here. Let me see if I can take a question from the home. Stand by Mr. . Manning.

Or from the web audience. In particular, I know the first responders in Oklahoma and Arkansas could not get here because of weather in their end. Questions in the room anybody?

Can you repeat the question again?

There was some cross talk there.

In your view of your new position what are your highest technology need from a national perspective?

**TIM MANNING**

I see. That's a great question. I think I'd see the highest technology needs remains effective communication. I use the effective modifier intentionally there. Our highest priorities for emergency management are twofold at this point. If you'll bear with me for a second. Increasing the level of individual and family preparedness around the country, for one. Resilience is a new way to talk about what we mean by that but ultimately what we're describing is increasing the ability of individuals and families to both withstand a disaster material in the first place. Simple things like having extra food and water on hand. But something -- things a little further than that like where possible having some additional savings so that if you're faced with multiple days with a power outage, you have the ability to move somewhere on your own power. To go to a hotel. That you don't need to ask for help from the government. Focus on those that need help the most. Now that's certainly not a technology problem in itself, but conveying the message to having the conversation with the public, being able to share timely and critical information so the public can make informed decisions in the most effective manner. That is a technology problem. We've had the emergency alert system, emergency broadcasting system for quite a long time but that relies on people watching over the air television and/or cable or listening to over the air radio. With advances in entertainment now with satellite television and satellite radio, not to mention things like iPods and I listen to now Pandora on my phone. I listen to Broadband radio feed on my phone and so I would miss all of those alerts. So advances in iPods being able to get the critical information across the new and novel ways people are getting their information, their entertainment, communicating whatever that may be. That's a critical need. Then on the other side of the coin to preparing individuals and families to be more resilient to be more prepared and be able to withstand emergencies and responses themselves is enhancing our ability as governments to work together collaboratively. Again, it's the effective communication piece. While we have made great strides word interoperability communications -- I types of radios cross band repeaters we have largely, in my belief, cracked at the interoperability from a technology perspective. What we lack is the governance piece and the piece that kind of brings it all together. The pin that holds the axle. While we have the ability largely should we choose to send information to whom ever we wanted, making it more discreet focusing on who -- and through some of the protocols and the ways that some of the new social media has developed, we may, in fact, have those solutions at our fingertips. We need to learn how to adopt those. Maybe it's something as simple as how we develop twitter feeds where I'm going to broadcast this information and whoever thinks they need it can sign up and track it. There may be governance notions in the way that these new collaborative tools have developed either on their own or evolved that we may be able to apply.

Thank you sir. Governance, that's not the technology. It's not a new message to us at DHS. I would like to ask you a question that took our pre-event survey. What would you like to hear about or talk about that we were not able to fit into the agenda. This is one of the items which is the New Madrid Fault and the seismic projections. We're getting ready with that in this region. I believe we have Arkansas department of management and health on the line. I'm wondering from the FEMA headquarters if you share any thoughts about where that is on your scope and what earthquake mitigation plans are in the works?

Okay. Certainly, for obviously reasons we've been largely focused on acts of terrorisms and hurricanes over the last many years but as a geologist like myself it's always earthquake season. The new Madrid zone where the possibility for catastrophic, really off the chart catastrophic disasters occurs, a place that has very large shallow earthquakes. The building codes don't match the potential acceleration probabilities. That's got to be one of our greatest risks. Through advancement of building codes and learning through large earthquakes in the past years -- and of course seeing things in more rural or less developed parts of the world that have had absolute tragedies like Haiti and the earthquake in China a number of years ago, we know largely how to use technology to help mitigate the risk of earthquakes in our cities. The difficulty is applying that. California, obviously has seen this risk for a great number of years and has very stringent and advanced building codes to take that into account. I think one of the more interesting experiences is walking around underneath the San Diego emergency operations center on their seismic isolators. Those kind of technology and those kind of governance structures and planning and zoning are really the solution to the earthquake hazards in places. But those aren't very readily available opportunities available -- deal of time to rebuild and retrofit as buildings are built or remodeled. But it is a possibility. It takes the dedication of the public to embrace it and recognize the need. It takes the commitment of the government to really spend the kind of money required against the hazard that they knew was there but remains difficult to grasp. I think a great example comes out of the. [ Indiscernible ] Earthquake, the story that I heard interest my friends in Washington of a water tank that was above a school that everybody was worried about that if an earthquake hit would become unattached and collapse on the school. They were able to hazard mitigation funds, retrofit that tank and that school. And when the earthquake hit it withstood it. I didn't hurt anybody. Mitigation is really the keystone to that problem. It's within that's difficult. We all understand the important -- it's one that's difficult. We need to spend a lot of money on something that may or may not actually happen. If we do it right we can never really show that we did the job right. If we did it right, it doesn't happen. We all understand the difficulty there. I think that's something that we all share and we need to focus our efforts on. I know we will continue to here.

The use of DOD assets or would you prefer not to touch that? That is also one of the questions that was posed to us before this event was DoD assets and how to tap into them. Wondered if you would like to give us a phrase or two or just say good-bye. Either way.

I would be happy -- again, there was a little bit of cross talk and had a little bit of difficulty hearing you. A question about DoD assets but beyond that I couldn't hear you. I'm sorry.

Care to address that very briefly or just let that pass until the next time we talk.

The department of defend assets?

How to tap into them in cases of natural disasters.

Okay. Thank you. Again, it is an amazing thing to conference in and address all of you from my very snowy office a good 2000-miles away. Those of us engaged in disaster response over the years, know we would never be able to do what we need to do, what the American public expect us to do without the great cooperation of our colleagues and friends in the Department of Defense. Their mission is and focus is warfighting and protecting the nation from external aggression. But in the building of capacity to perform that mission, they built a level of response and can bring sheer numbers to bare. Using things like advanced response equipment, sensing and detecting technology that they developed to be able to prosecute the warfighting for peaceful purposes here in disaster response, I -- there in New Mexico in my prior life, I ran with a mountain rescue team and there were many, many times in the middle of the night we borrowed a crew and a helicopter at the air force base using aerial platforms and using technology that were built by the department of defense for warfighting. We rescued climbers and hikers, Hunters and just some people with bad luck. They got turned around up in the mountains right there where you all are today. So I have the greatest respect for the resources brought to bare and the ability and capabilities from planning to mission execution to the innovative uses of technology that come out of. [ Indiscernible ] For example. The state operation center there in Santa Fe is back up power comes from hydrogen fuel cell farm that was built as a test bed. There would not be the level of response capability in the U.S. without partnership with the Department of Defense and establishment. So as you are all there today, I encourage you, challenge you all to talk to each other about what you do and new and creative ways of applying the tools you already have to new and. [ Indiscernible ] Problems. I'm sure the solutions are out there. I guess with that, I'll sign off and thank you for your time and dedication again, for traveling, for sitting in maybe snow bound where you are on the webcast or on the phone. It's been my pleasure and best of luck with the conference.