

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

---

**PANEL: "The Role of S&T in Natural Disasters"**

**DISCUSSION (Open Mic)**

- - **David Martin, Texas Task Force 1**
- - **Michael Dunaway, DHS S&T**
- - **John Hoyt, DHS S&T**
- - **Mike Smith, DHS S&T**
- 

**MARY HANSON**

So from David Martin, the need for redundancy and how of GPS is elemental. It Michael Dunaway with the parables and John, are you still on the space? About Virtual USA which is getting a lot of attention and Mike Smith here basically on a middleware off the shelf answer to everybody's problems. So for those of you still in the room especially, does any of this answer your making concerns and if not, what else do we need to know or try?

Jill Hruby?

**SPEAKERS NOT ALL IDENTIFIED**

I had a question for you about the backup for redundant communications systems. I heard that the settlement worked really well for your region but not for another region. Has anything else worked well for what ideas do you have about redundancy because satellites -- have any systems that have been fielding in an emergency situation, what has worked? Beside satellites.

A couple of things. I want to point out, I forgot to mention that Cliff is with me from Texas Task Force 1 and he is the person that we go to in terms of looking at response technology so he can answer the technical questions that I cannot. I can tell you this. They found themselves in Galveston when satellite did not work so they had to improvise and adapt and overcome. Since that time we have looked at some other alternatives. One of the things that we have done is we have started taking masks so that we can put up a repeater in an area and expand that Lins somewhat. And another thing that we looked at were airborne repeaters. We were kind of interested at Galveston and Cliff can speak to this more than I can with there was a number of agencies trying to use the satellite communications technology that had difficulty some how the Secret Service had no problem at all. We really do not know what was going on there but it did not work for us in that than you. It worked perfectly in other areas and very important in the early hours that FEMA and the state emergency management could constantly be in communication with this matter where we were understanding what we encountered and getting back good Intel on whether we had adequate resources and things like that. And once we were in theater that we have the capability. We were overwhelmed when we first got there. It is kind of hard to describe but people poured into the parking lots, each one of them with a story that you need to come with us right now, there is someone about to die if he did not come with us. So we immediately dispersed rescue teams but once they are out there we do not know where they are. And we're getting more and held by the minute of other situations

occurring. Communications is critical of the good news is that we had enough tools in the toolbox and they worked. We were able always to establish some level of interoperability where we could communicate with federal, state, and local agencies.

While we're waiting for the next question let me remind you that this video will be available SPD on demand including backups slides in many of which might have to rush through there or you can go to this website [www.uicds.us](http://www.uicds.us) for all you can probably stand on the subject. Okay. We have got a Web question coming in. By the way those of you that the starting to drop off to not forget to join us at 9:00, Milton time -- Mountain Time.

Question: what is clean CD we have in place in the face of sniper attack possibilities (Mark).

Do you want to read it once more?

What resilience do we have in place using the Web in the face of sniper attack possibilities -- cyber attack possibilities.

This is jaundice to let you know it is difficult to hear the questions but cyber attack by the Web has to be considered. Part of our branch is Doug who runs the Center for Security program. He is working at cyber security and has to be ubiquitous to be truly secure. It is eight concerts and can we protect it totally? The answer is no.

Anybody who is watching the news probably knows that and that is probably all we can save now.

This is everyone's favorite subjects -- the need for lunch good okay. We have one more coming. Please speak up any of you guys from Oklahoma and Arkansas in particular I hope you are out there.

Hi, I am from an analysis background in this question is actually for David. You said you would rather be fighting a fire than deal with technology. I can understand that. But you did show in your presentation and example of an analysis tool that you used during a real-life disaster. I think Hurricane Ike. I was wondering, are there more needs that you have that you can think of off the top of your head. Not necessarily I want Tool X and a follow-on question, are the analysis tools available or developed also can they be made easier to use that someone like you could just say, okay, I can click a button or three buttons and I got what I want.

Good question. The answer is yes, there are some tools that we need now. Some ways in which we can better utilize the data that is available to us. An example of that would be hurricane right. We sent out all of those folks with GPS which has the ability to generate electronic breadcrumbs that will document the date and time stamp exactly where you were. So if it ever comes into question, have we ever searched this area? Yeah, we can show where we were. The problem is it proves to be able become for some in terms of putting that David to use or bringing it into a database -- putting that data to use or bringing it into a database with mapping technology. It is not easy enough right L.P. we were gathering that data but we were not utilizing it to it's full potential. Future needs, I know that work is being done. I know that Clinton is involved in this. And, in fact, I think that Sandia is working on its. Intel is everything and rescue response. What areas have been affected? Where do we need to go first? I know there is some emerging technologies that

will provide the ability to gather that data while the storm is still raging. We can see movement of people, movement of storm surge. That type of search who would be invaluable. To make our tactical action plan, it would be invaluable.

David will host a topic lunch, by the way.

Have the current state of the project is that we have mapped 640,000 phone calls between August and December 2005 in that Texas region. What is being done right now is to map those phone calls by GIS location and cell phones are a little bit more difficult for what they can do is a time relationship analysis during that five month period and basically how it unfolded. That is historical because we have this information and we are analyzing it right now what we will be able to do if we can make a template that is coming back can take this information in real time and tie that in through the internet or phone system or whatever it may be and we can actually collect the data automatically and analyze it we can actually see a disaster unfold in real time. That is exactly the kind of spatial awareness that David is referring to. While we have to be will to do is standardize the collection procedures and access procedures and insure that we have a land line and sell for communications of that you can get that information out to a central node and actually be able to watch a disaster unfold based on information coming from a population as they are transmitting.

I know that we have a few representatives in the room. If you want, grab the Mike now or we can talk about it over lunch.

One more question.

Last call for a web question soaking it in -- so get it into us.

I work as Sandia and part of the suite that we provide is predictive tools. I have heard some people say they do not know what might be happening, they want to know what is happening. In the private world, yes but do you think some of the tools could be used to your advantage or do you like to shy away from those because they are not exact?

No, I think they are beneficial. At the outcome will vary as it's going to but you have to have a starting point in terms of making a preparation be where you are going to see to stop and what type of response you think you are going to have to muster. Levels of support and things like that so predictive tool certainly have a role. I'm understand where some of my brothers and first responders come from and that cannot tell me what you think is going to happen, just let me know and where it's going to go. It is a mentality that I am not too terribly proud of that 25 years ago when people came to us with technology or trying to develop something to say that we were a little bit reluctant to embrace it would be an understatement. In fact, I am reminded of the scene in the movie, "A Few Good Men" and they say, what do you think about the Navy? I like the Navy, every time we have a fight you give us a boat ride paid so we really resisted anyone trying to tell us how to do our jobs in the world has changed. Now we have to respond to instances that may involve toxic substances and buildings that have collapsed answer technologies that we did not imagine whereas 25 years ago we would have embraced an e -- we would not have increased in the enhancement in technology.

David represents the kind of truth that we all need to get and I am grateful that you have joined us. Are there any other questions in the room?

One more back there.

My name is James Bryant, Mike and John, those two programs that he talked about today have any overlap at all, the Virtual USA and UICDS?

Mike Smith?

The question is, do they have overlap? That it is we are middleware. We can ride on just about any system. Obviously we are in the same building with the Virtual USA folks and particularly Marc Caplan and some folks working with him to make sure that we are compatible with each other as we continue to go forward.

Put the mike up closer.

John, you have something to say?

Virtual USA is an initiative not a project and UICDS may very well be an important building block for us. We certainly are not limiting ourselves to things that we invent. In fact, we reach out to all of the people in S&T as well as all the states, counties, etc.

I expect you will hear more about both of these appeared to you have a quick follow up and then we have a Web question.

Are you all working with Texas? I was working in Austin a couple weeks ago and I saw some of the things that they're doing and it seems like some of this may have some --

That is a presentation to are related to border security and in code-sharing. We will have somebody talk about TexMap that is linked to Virtual USA or in some ways, you are talking at least.

It is very hard, I cannot hear anything on the phone and the Web has a delay on and which makes it the difficult. Go ahead.

There are things that they have that do certainly apply. We have talked to them in the context of the southern border which is the whole another initiative that our Secretary has started. The technology that TexMap has is similar to Virtual Alabama and at the technology there are similarities that we can do and to something that we certainly want to be involved with but we are not at the present time.

Thanks, John. We have one last question and if not, feel free to go back to shoveling or whichever it is you are doing.

We actually have two. Will the sell all program be voluntary by phone users?

Randy's answer is --

It would be an opt in arrangement.

I think I'm getting the cut off so I do not think they want -- and to ask this one? Okay.

Mike, is an agent based task resource allocation process to support real time field Operations part of UICDS?

What was the first part? Agent based?

Agent based task resource. And if not would be considered?

Is certainly would be considered. Any kind of program or application that has used in the emergency management field right now, right now that is where our key is. It really becomes connecting through our software development kit to the core and the short answer is yes.

We'd like that.

Okay. Do not forget to join us at 9:00 tomorrow morning. 9:00 Melton, 11:00 Eastern.

This is what is going to happen next, we will go to lunch and posters. Anybody leaving the facility needs to turn in this and you can get it if you come back. That is really important.