Rajant Corporation Participates in Mock Disaster Exercise

Toronto exercise utilizes Rajant BreadCrumb® products for mock disaster exercise



Traditionally, disaster response teams communicate with each other via their two-way radios and cell phones. However, as has proven to be the case in a number of major disasters, communications systems fail as the two-way radios and cell phones are overwhelmed by communications traffic. Rajant's BreadCrumb® network provides a secondary communication layer with VoIP (voice over IP), live video and data communications using standard PDAs, laptops, etc. locally and via the internet to the outside world.

On April 7, 2005 the Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) team of Toronto held a disaster response exercise to test its disaster response plans and the communication technologies available to enhance situational awareness and improve safety conditions for first responders. The mock disaster took place in a building located at the Firefighter's Training Site on Bermondsey. The exercise simulated a

building collapse with a number of casualties with varying degrees of injuries. The site of the mock hospital was Centennial College, located 10 miles east of the mock disaster site. The first team to attend the Bermondsey disaster site was the police canine unit for person-location. The dogs located survivors in various parts of the building needing evacuation assistance.

Following closely behind the police canine unit was the HUSAR team (Heavy Urban Search and Rescue) to do an incident site assessment. During the assessment, the Anvil RECoN (Roaming Emergency Communications Network) was deployed to provide wireless network communications (voice, live video and data) online. The Anvil RECoN solution is structured around Rajant's BreadCrumb® products. In this instance, high-resolution, remotely controllable (PTZ) cameras and Rajant BreadCrumbs were placed in strategic positions in and around the collapsed building. Once the BreadCrumb® communications



Tracking victims en route to hospital in real-time, sent over BreadCrumb® network.



Real-time video feed of rescue effort, sent over BreadCrumb® network.



Video camera

network was operational, authorized users were given online access to voice, live video (multiple cameras) and data streams. A wide area communications link was also established, providing access to remote authorized users via the internet. A high level of multi-layer security was maintained throughout the network (local and over the internet) to prevent unauthorized access to the communications.

After the HUSAR team had completed the site assessment and had taken the necessary safety precautions, team members cut through the concrete debris to rescue the casualties. All the casualtieswere evacuated and transported to the mock hospital at Centennial College, where casualties were triaged before being admitted.

In addition, as each patient was moved to the ambulance, an admittance officer recorded basic data about the patient (name, dob, age, address, criticality of the injury) onto a wireless tablet. The data was transmitted via the wireless network to the patient management system. The application facilitated rapid processing of casualties, with additional data being added to the system at later stages. An RFID wristband attached to the casualty ensured that the basic data captured continued to be attached to the casualty.

The exercise was considered a tremendous success. The staff at Rajant Corporation would like to thank Anvil Technologies and the City of Toronto for utilizing BreadCrumb® products in the mock disaster exercise. Rajant is pleased to participate in any exercise where its products add value to relief efforts and help preserve human life.

On June 17, 2005, EMAT (Ontario's

Emergency Medical Assistance Team) in conjunction with local healthcare authorities will be conducting a mock disaster exercise in the City of Windsor, Ontario. Once again, Anvil has been asked to deploy its RECoN solution (voice over IP, live video, data solution over the BreadCrumb® wireless infrastructure).



Police Canine unit searching for victims in and around building



Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) team evacuating victims from disaster site

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