



December 2009 Edition

Secretary Napolitano Launches Virtual USA Initiative



On December 9, 2009, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano officially launched Virtual USA (vUSA), an end-user driven initiative focused on cross-jurisdictional information sharing and collaboration among the homeland security and emergency management community.

Developed by the Command, Control and Interoperability (CCI) Division, vUSA is developing a technical solution and operational guidelines to share incident response information through existing systems and geospatial platforms in partnership with local, state, tribal, and Federal officials, as well as the vendor community. Through vUSA, homeland security and emergency management stakeholders not only will be able to quickly access critical information from relevant sources, they will also be able to customize the display of information based upon the end user's unique needs. Through improved situational awareness, these communities will be better equipped to save lives, protect property, and realize operational efficiencies.

vUSA links disparate tools and technologies in order to share the location and status of critical assets and information—such as power and water lines, flood detectors, helicopter-capable landing sites, emergency vehicle and ambulance locations, weather and traffic conditions, evacuation routes, and school and government building floor plans—across all levels of government. vUSA currently is being piloted in eight states—Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Virginia, and Tennessee—with plans underway in additional regions and states.

In addition to Secretary Napolitano's announcement, the White House recently highlighted vUSA as an exemplary initiative exhibiting its Open Government Directive's three core values of transparency, participation, and collaboration. vUSA was one of only three Federal initiatives among the 20 current open government initiatives that was highlighted by the White House during this rollout.

CCICADA Launches Inaugural Event at Rutgers University

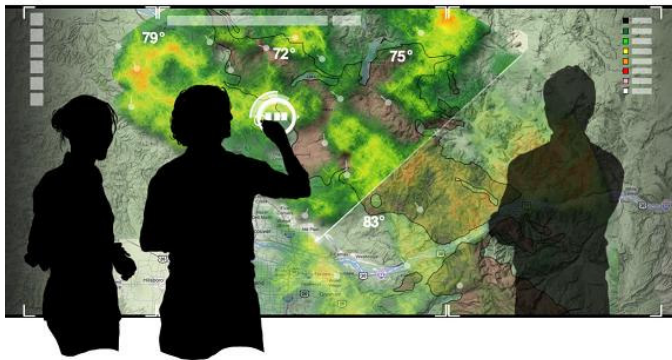
The Command, Control, and Interoperability Center for Advanced Data Analysis (CCICADA) held its official kick-off at Rutgers University on December 9-10, 2009. CCICADA joins the Visual Analytics for Command, Control, and Interoperability Environments (or VACCINE) Center at Purdue University to form the Command, Control, and Interoperability Center of Excellence (CCI CoE) within DHS. The opening day involved presentations about the Center's research and education projects, a panel with directors from other



DHS Centers of Excellence, and poster presentations by students from some of CCICADA's 14 partner institutions. The official kick-off meeting on December 10 featured remarks from S&T Deputy Under Secretary Brad Buswell; University Programs Director Matthew Clark; and CCI CoE Program Manager and CCI Basic/Futures Research Lead, Joe Kielman.

Throughout the kick-off, panels comprising of participants from state and Federal government agencies, the emergency response community, the CCICADA Advisory Board, industry representatives, and researchers associated with the center and its partners discussed the Center's interactions with other DHS Centers, trends in Data Analytics, hopes for the impact of CCICADA's research, and the role of academic research in homeland security. CCICADA's research will investigate new algorithmic methods in data analysis to address increasingly challenging problems associated with present and emerging homeland security threats.

PIE Workshop Increases Emergency Planning and Response



Researchers, practitioners, decision and policy makers convened from December 14-15, 2009, in Seattle, Washington to participate in CCI's Basic/Futures Research (BFR) Precision Information Environments (PIE) workshop. Conducted by BFR Lead, Joe Kielman, and PIE Principal Investigator, Bill Pike, this workshop was designed to establish a research agenda for the next generation of information analysis, collaboration, and decision support technology for the emergency planning and response community.

Participants helped define the research challenges in designing and developing future technology that will change the way emergency management stakeholders interact and exchange information. The goal of the PIE program is to develop real-time synthesis, communication, and analysis capabilities for dynamically generated and collected information. The PIE is tailored to meet the precise needs of individuals in a diverse user base that includes analysts, situation commanders, public safety personnel, and emergency responders, among others.

Transitioning Identity Management Technologies to State and Local Emergency Managers

On December 9-10, 2009 in Washington, D.C., CCI helped convene and kick-off the First Responder Authentication Credential/Personal Identify Verification (FRAC/PIV-I) Technology Transition Working Group. Comprised of local, state, and Federal government employees, the group will help better secure our Nation by assisting state and local governments solve identity management challenges. In the past, physical access to disaster sites and logical access to computer systems have been insecure and inefficient. Additionally, there is a need to ensure that critical information is shared with the right person at the right time for the right reason. Identity, access, and credentialing technologies will help overcome this challenge.

The working group is extremely valuable to DHS S&T for a number of reasons. First, the group will help rapidly deploy identity management solutions at the state and local levels. Many of the states that participated in the working group are on the forefront of identity management, and have already implemented innovative solutions. CCI's Identity Management program will help document these successes so that other state and local governments can replicate them. Second, the group will identify technological gaps where CCI can provide research and development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) support. Third, the working group will provide Federal policy makers with a unified state emergency manager perspective on Federal/Emergency Response Official (F/ERO) attributes that are crucial to enabling Federal-to-state data-sharing initiatives such as vUSA.

Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)

The S&T Directorate has several active solicitations that are now available at <http://baa.st.dhs.gov>. The solicitations related to CCI include the following:

- **Long Range BAA 09-05:** The S&T Directorate is soliciting individuals or teams to conduct basic research, initiate applied technology development, or prepare integrated prototypes for field investigations of the performance of new and innovative solutions. Examples of interest areas and relevant technologies include:
 - Interoperable devices and systems to improve information sharing and collaboration among emergency responders across all levels of government
 - Advanced information assurance for networked infrastructure protection
 - Integrated incident management components and systems to improve emergency responder safety
 - Innovative technologies to increase operational efficiency and create new capabilities for criminal and terrorist investigations and operations

In addition, efforts that propose basic or advanced research and technology demonstrations may be submitted to address technology gaps as described in the S&T document, *High-Priority Technology Needs*, dated May 2009, as amended. This document is also available at <https://baa.st.dhs.gov>. For questions about this solicitation, please contact SandT.CCI@dhs.gov.

Save the Date

- From February 2-4, 2010, the 11th Annual Technologies for Critical Incident Preparedness (TCIP) Conference and Exposition will convene in Philadelphia, PA. Focusing on prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery, the TCIP Conference will highlight emergency response technology and training tools developed by DHS and the U.S. Departments of Justice and Defense. TCIP provides a forum for emergency responders to discuss best practices and exchange information. TCIP offers the emergency response community an opportunity for collaboration and constructive discussion about the future of emergency preparedness and response.

Through a practitioner-driven approach, the Science and Technology Directorate's Command, Control and Interoperability (CCI) Division creates and deploys information resources—standards, frameworks, tools, and technologies—to enable seamless and secure interactions among homeland security

stakeholders. With its Federal partners, CCI is working to strengthen capabilities to communicate, share, visualize, analyze, and protect information.

The CCI Bulletin provides updates about CCI-related initiatives, accomplishments, and opportunities. This Bulletin is distributed to stakeholders monthly. If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please e-mail Wendy Howe at wendy.howe2@hq.dhs.gov.