

~ *THE RAPID RESPONDER* ~

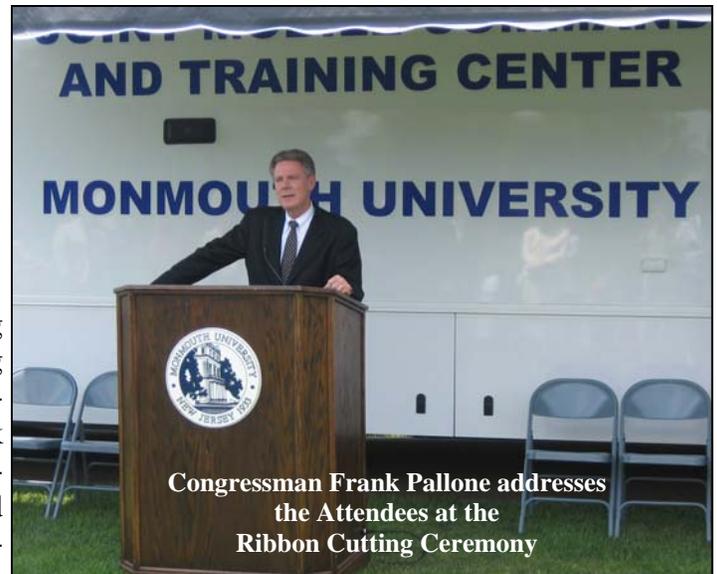
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RAPID RESPONSE INSTITUTE

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*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
For Joint Mobile Command
and Training Center . . .*

The Rapid Response Institute held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for its new Joint Mobile Command and Training Center truck on Friday, July 6, 2007, at Monmouth University. Among those in attendance were Congressman Frank Pallone; Freeholder Barbara McMorrow; Councilman Thomas DeBruin, West Long Branch; Deputy Mayor David Hiers, Ocean Township; John Sklinar, Director of the Northeast Regional Response Center, Fort Monmouth; and Dr. Ashok Bapat of CERMUSA, St. Francis University. Representatives from Homeland Intelligence Technologies, Haulmark Industries, State Emergency Management, and the Monmouth County Health Department attended as well. The attendees were addressed by Congressman Pallone, Monmouth University President Paul Gaffney, and RRI Director Barbara Reagor.



Congressman Frank Pallone addresses the Attendees at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

In 2007, with federal sponsorship, the Institute, along with its academic partner, the Center of Excellence for Remote Medically Underserved Areas (CERMUSA) of St. Francis University, led the development and delivery of a Joint Mobile Command and Training truck. The vehicle serves as a mobile test, training, and exercise center utilizing software applications and real-time database systems developed as part of the Rapid Response program. The mobile center has already been acclaimed for its performance in support of Trial 3.27 at CWID'07 (Coalition Warfighter Interoperability Demonstration), a major defense-wide communications exercise (see article on Page 2). It will be used to evaluate new software tools and emerging technologies, as well as train defense and civilian agencies in preparedness response and recovery using decision-support technologies.



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Rapid Response Institute Participates in CWID 2007

By James Hammill, RRI Contract Researcher

The Joint Mobile Command and Training Center truck made its debut at CWID 2007 (Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration) held at Dahlgren Naval Base in Virginia.

Monmouth University was invited to participate in CWID, an exercise held annually and conducted under the authority of the United States “Joint-Chiefs-of-Staff.” The Rapid Response Institute (RRI) recently helped design and build a “Joint Mobile Command and Training Center” (JMCTC) under contract to the Department of Defense by a Congressional set-aside from the State of New Jersey. The customer for the vehicle is the Army’s Edgewood Chemical/Biological Command out of Aberdeen, Maryland. Mr. William Ginley, NBC Battlefield Management Team, communicated with the University that the National Security Agency (NSA) requested we take part in the CWID exercise for 2007, which would be a “Simulated Biological Attack on the United States” and that the JMCTC would be the focal point of the civilian first responder community. The “truck,” as we call it, had to be ready to support first responders from around the country at a moment’s notice. While plans for the exercise were being developed, the RRI Team readied the vehicle and equipment to support any eventuality an exercise of this nature could bring. We were told that the exercise would involve the civilian first responder, Department of Defense assets, Northcom, all combatant commands—worldwide and NATO forces. Further, the exercise would require the “players” to be able to communicate via the internet, voice phone, cellular, radio, and satellite communications. Furthermore, one of the trials being conducted would be the first time the “classified information” is being shared in a “non-classified environment—the truck.”

We left with the “truck” on May 29th and returned to the University on June 23rd after the exercise was concluded. During our time away we participated in the worldwide exercise from the Dahlgren Naval Warfare Station and Fort Belvoir in Virginia. Although we didn’t know who would be knocking on our door, we successfully housed first responders from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Alabama, Indiana, and Michigan, along with federal government and DoD personnel. The “truck” turned out to be one of the “hits” during the exercise. We withstood power failures, rain storms, heat, and continuous communications up-time, which was recognized by all the participants from the base’s staff to the “Flag Officers” observing and overseeing the exercise.

For the work accomplished during the CWID exercise, the combined team of Monmouth University, US Army (Edgewood), EIM, Air Force Research Labs, and Battelle have been nominated for the Excellence in Integration Award by the Association for Enterprise Integration. The purpose of the program is to recognize and reward the contributions and achievements of project teams that exemplify excellence in achieving integrated enterprises and are models of the best applications of technology and leadership to improve enterprise performance.

We are profoundly proud of being nominated and look forward to working with the emergency responder community in Monmouth County, the State, and other federal and DoD agencies in the country.



Joint Mobile Command and Training Center
At CWID 2007, Fort Belvoir, VA

Dewey Beach, Delaware Training Exercise . . .

By James Hammill, RRI Contract Researcher

On July 11, 2007, the Rapid Response Institute was contacted by a group from the town of Dewey Beach, Delaware. The town was aware of the capabilities of the Joint Mobile Command and Training “truck.” Initially, there was a meeting on July 15th in which RRI provided a presentation to the Beach Patrol that would be conducting an open water rescue in the Atlantic Ocean scheduled for July 30th.

The exercise would involve lifeguards jumping from the State Police helicopter to effect a rescue at sea. The players would be the Dewey Beach Patrol (all trained as lifeguards equipped to jump from a helicopter as well as being fully certified EMS technicians), local police, and state police aviation. Prior to this exercise, the communications link between the responding agencies was non-existent except for relays between headquarters by cell phones. The “truck” would be able to provide a seamless communication and platform via satellite as well as operational working positions for access to databases and weather information.

The capabilities of the “truck” so impressed the town managers that they decided to expand the open water rescue to a “simulated evacuation” of the town and surrounding areas. The planned exercise grew to include the mayor, city planner, and police chief from Dewey as well as the Delaware Department of Transportation, Department of Recreation, State Police Patrol and Communications, Department of Emergency Management (both county and state), National Guard, Rehoboth Fire, Police, EMS, Water Rescue Fire Boat, Coast Guard, National Weather Service, and even NASA (that wanted to test controlling a remote operated 23’ vessel via the Iridium Low Earth Orbit, LEO, satellite network from our truck). The “truck” was designated as the “Unified Command Platform,” which would house the “Incident Commander” and the working staff supporting the event. During the day of the event, the “truck” provided the required communications including radio, satellite, and IP Phone connectivity as well as working hand-in-hand with the Delaware State Police Tactical Command Truck, which would provide a command and control feed from the law enforcement agencies participating in the exercise.

Haskell Exercise at the Monmouth Park Racetrack

By James Hammill, RRI Contract Researcher

On August 5, 2007, Monmouth University’s Rapid Response Institute (RRI) Joint Mobile Command and Training Center (JMCTC) joined local law enforcement and the County Office of Emergency Management by providing work space, monitoring radio traffic, and electronic systems information to surrounding towns’ first responder communities during the Haskell Race at Monmouth Park Racetrack. The “truck” was positioned at the Main Street Fire Station in Oceanport and was used as a back-up command vehicle, while systems were tested in preparation for the upcoming Breeders’ Cup this October. RRI personnel also worked with the FBI testing a downlink feed from the FBI helicopter to the “truck.”

The Breeders’ Cup race will draw people from all over the world to the event and is being viewed by Homeland Security at the state and federal levels as a “high profile event with international visibility.” Security for the event will be tight, and the RRI will work with law enforcement and first responder personnel during the event.

The University/RRI will have the capability of housing emergency management from all levels of government, local to federal and DoD, in the “prototype” truck and also at the “army trailer” located on the grounds near Edison Hall.

RRI Student Employees Share their thoughts on working with the Institute . . .

When asked to share their thoughts on their experiences working with the Rapid Response Institute, the student employees had this to say:

- Mathew Weisfeld, Undergraduate: “Working for the RRI has provided great experience of working with technology professionals and skillful peers to help create a stronger homeland!”
- Thomas Murphy, Undergraduate: “The faculty and staff with whom we work are very friendly and willing to help the student employees in any way. The project heads are open to discussion and will work with the students’ schedules to find the best time to meet.”
- Alex Karpodinis, Undergraduate: “The RRI was quite a learning experience for me. Working in a small group on a large-scale project was something I had never experienced before but has helped me grow as a Computer Scientist.”

Welcome Back . . .

The Rapid Response Institute is pleased to welcome back the following students in support of our professors and government contracts for the Fall ‘07 Semester:

- Doug Alpaugh
- Alex Karpodinis
- Joseph Lilonski
- Stefanie Martin
- Thomas Murphy
- Regina Mushrock
- Mathew Weisfeld

The dedication and hard work of these students are greatly valued and appreciated!

Rapid Response Institute

Celebrates another milestone . . .

~ Its 3rd Anniversary ~

Join us at the end of October 2007

Date and location to be announced.

RRI Hosts NJHLS Technology Committee Meeting

The Rapid Response Institute hosted the New Jersey Homeland Security Technology Committee for its July 11th meeting.

Following the meeting, members of the committee were given a tour of the Joint Mobile Command and Training Center truck.

~The Rapid Responder~

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