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August 2, 2007

Mr. Rich Shortall, Executive Director
Bay Area SUASI

Dear Mr. Shortall,

On behalf of the Santa Clara County Area Emergency Manager's Association, I request your support of the **Golden Gate Safety Network** Common Operating Picture Service.

Please forward this to the Advisory Group for consideration at its August 6th meeting and forward it to the Approval Authority for their August 10th meeting

This project is widely supported, as BASIC is interested in using it. Joint Venture Silicon Valley wants to use it for recovery management. It has been used for exercises and real events by SFPD, GGNRA police and fire, Marin OES, USCG and others and has had the financial support of State OES Coastal Region through its Law Enforcement and Fire/Rescue Assistant Chiefs, Mickey Griffin and Marv Howard, respectively.

The grant is requested for a multi-element project in support of events in several counties. The money will be used to pay for continued development of the software. It will not result in a proprietary product offered for sale. The software will be free to anyone who wants to use it. The O&M costs will, as I understand it, be modest, consisting of running the server on which the information resides.

Attached, is a project outline about the project.

Thank you,

Barbara R. Cimino

Barbara R. Cimino

President, Santa Clara County Emergency Managers Association

Cc: B. Gaetano
A. Potter
S. hervington
R. Medeiros
K. Shunk
B. Fraccoli
G. Washburn
M. Hovey
K. Foot

Golden Gate Safety Network
Common Operating Picture Service
July 2007

Project Overview

This project will continue to enhance an existing online framework for sharing real time facility and situation status and resource tracking information to assist local government response to major emergencies and disasters. The GGSN Common Operating Picture can be used at both the field and emergency operations center levels, to report and combine situation awareness from multiple agencies and disciplines. This technique can greatly improve coordination and reduce the overall load on radio and cell phone voice communication.

Public safety agencies and other organizations are able to enter data – real time – into the system to report the status of their own essential facilities such as fire stations, police stations, PSAPs & EOCs, hospitals, shelters, and schools. These facility statuses are then viewable through an interactive web browser map that provides global situation status of all the participating entities.

Tracking of key resources is accomplished through a combination of existing agency GPS systems and special cell phones that can be deployed at the time of an incident. Additional critical insight is provided through the ability to upload digital snapshots and web camera video from the incident scene.

The system is based on an open architecture of standard data formats and low cost consumer technology. This Common Operating Picture Service is being developed with public safety grant funding and will be available to all interested agencies at no cost.

This project seeks to provide simple tools and techniques for critical information sharing among the wide spectrum of agencies, disciplines, and jurisdictions that are involved in emergency response and management. This approach will include members of the private sector such as NGOs, CBOs, and business organizations. The goal is to develop a minimum cost method to achieve this coordination without the need to purchase expensive hardware or software.

Pilot Process

Beginning with the current capabilities of the Common Operating Picture Service as demonstrated in Golden Guardian 2006 and several more recent events, the system will be enhanced through a minimum of 4 pilot projects that emphasize the requirements of specific disciplines such as: fire/rescue, law, utilities, and Emergency Management. For example, a pilot project for emergency management could be to create a data layer for community based organizations (CBOs) to improve their awareness and support of vulnerable populations.

Working closely with practitioners and specialists throughout the SF Bay Area region, the system capabilities will be field tested in exercises and real planned events. A major effort will be made each year to incorporate identified improvements in support of the Golden

Guardian Exercise. Based on the progress made in the first year, the scope will be increased to include additional jurisdictions and capabilities in subsequent years.

Funding Strategy

The primary use of grant funds will be for a small, dedicated project team that includes a project director and several part time specialists, such as web application and computer graphic programmers. Team members will work closely with participating agencies and organizations to develop the facility and resource reference data, to program system functions, to train users and administrators, to conduct field tests, and to prepare After Action and other project reports.

A level of effort by the core project team will result in an annual budget of \$300,000, for each of one to three years, depending on grant funding availability. No special equipment will be required and operating costs will be minimal. Quarterly reviews and planning sessions will be held with representatives from the participating agencies to insure that project objectives are aligned with real world agency requirements.

Results & Deliverables

- 1) Requirements prototype, complete with source code and operating procedures
- 2) Facility data layers for each discipline, with the ability to post and report status on structures, equipment, and personnel.
- 3) Key Resource Inventories compiled and “typed” according to the DHS IRIS and CA-OHS METRICS standards.
- 4) On-line Regional Resource Status reporting in support of Law, Fire, and Emergency Management mutual aid.
- 5) Interface strategy for combining information from other relevant data sources such as RIMS, ROSS, and agency systems such as E Team and WebEOC.
- 6) Agency Implementation Kit that includes a CD containing server software, data preparation templates, operating instructions, and user training guides. Includes training of agency personnel.
- 7) After Action Reports will be generated after each tested event, incorporating lessons learned.