



## RAPIDLY DEPLOYABLE COMMUNICATIONS

The ability for first responders to communicate among themselves and with command is the most critical component of effective emergency response. And yet, 92 percent of respondents in a December 2006 Larstan survey said that more access to voice, video and data – not just voice – would enhance their agency’s emergency response and daily operations. What’s more, half of the survey respondents have Continuity of Operation (COOP) plans that require them to work in a specific building location—a big problem if the building is contaminated or flooded or roads are impassable, for example.

“Today, if an incident occurs at a scene without communications, the incident commander cannot manage and control,” says Morgan Wright, Cisco’s global industry solutions manager for public safety. “The ability to immediately reconstitute communications if an existing network is down, or to establish communications where there is no infrastructure, is enormously beneficial to public safety.”

Rapidly deployable communications are needed in situations such as:

Fires, large crime scenes, natural disasters, or hostage situations

Network or power outages

Major sporting events or concerts

### **INSTANT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, ANYWHERE**

Some state and local governments have already deployed vehicle-based mobile communications systems (see City of Austin article in this issue). When the vehicle arrives at the scene, the system can connect over any existing wired or wireless network, or, if no other infrastructure is available, by satellite. Regardless of the type of connection, the organization can rapidly deploy a wired or wireless network in and around the vehicle, enabling first responders in the area to use wired or wireless laptops, personal digital assistants, and IP phones to send and receive voice, video, and data useful for decision making.

Other emergency situations require a rapidly deployable communications system that a single first responder can transport and deploy to the incident location. Suitcase-sized kits are available that can connect to a variety of power sources, including car batteries. Like their vehicle-based counterparts, these tactical communications kits connect over whatever network is available: wired, wireless, or satellite. “A satellite connection can be established with nothing more than a view of the sky,” Wright says.

### **BEYOND VOICE**

Rapidly deployable communications systems that are based on Internet Protocol (IP) augment agencies’ existing voice communications methods—usually radios and satellite phones—by delivering streaming video and data to laptops, smartphones, and personal digital assistants. “Images and video are often far more useful than voice for situational awareness,” says Wright. “For example, firefighters who can view video taken from a helicopter on the way to a fire can more intelligently plan their response.” Similarly, law enforcement personnel can more easily locate a missing child or crime suspect at a large event if they can receive a photo on their personal digital assistant instead of listening to a dispatcher’s describe eye color or distinguishing marks, for example.

## KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN

A rapidly deployable communications system with multiple connectivity choices keeps options open in the event of unforeseen circumstances. "What planner could have foreseen there would be an earthquake during the World Series in 1989?" Wright asks. "It's impossible to plan for every contingency. With a combination of wired, wireless, and satellite connectivity options and a power supply, public safety personnel can access the information they need to do their jobs, no matter where the incident, and no matter what communications or power infrastructure is available."

## INSTANT AND MOBILE INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS

Cisco provides two types of rapidly deployable communications solutions, one designed for groups and another for individuals. Both support voice, video, and data communications and can withstand harsh conditions. For more information on Cisco's iComm offerings, visit [www.cisco.com/go/ipics](http://www.cisco.com/go/ipics).



### Corporate Headquarters

Cisco Systems, Inc.  
170 West Tasman Drive  
San Jose, CA 95134-1706  
USA  
[www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)  
Tel: 408 526-4000  
800 553-NETS (6387)  
Fax: 408 526-4100

### European Headquarters

Cisco Systems  
International BV  
Haarlerbergpark  
Haarlerbergweg 13-19  
1101 CH Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
[www-europe.cisco.com](http://www-europe.cisco.com)  
Tel: 31 0 20 357 1000  
Fax: 31 0 20 357 1100

### Americas Headquarters

Cisco Systems, Inc.  
170 West Tasman Drive  
San Jose, CA 95134-1706  
USA  
[www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)  
Tel: 408 526-7660  
Fax: 408 527-0883

### Asia Pacific Headquarters

Cisco Systems, Inc.  
168 Robinson Road  
#28-01 Capital Tower  
Singapore 068912  
[www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)  
Tel: +65 6317 7777  
Fax: +65 6317 7799

Cisco Systems has more than 200 offices in the following countries and regions. Addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers are listed on the Cisco Website at [www.cisco.com/go/offices](http://www.cisco.com/go/offices).

Argentina • Australia • Austria • Belgium • Brazil • Bulgaria • Canada • Chile • China PRC • Colombia • Costa Rica  
Croatia • Cyprus • Czech Republic • Denmark • Dubai, UAE • Finland • France • Germany • Greece • Hong Kong SAR  
Hungary • India • Indonesia • Ireland • Israel • Italy • Japan • Korea • Luxembourg • Malaysia • Mexico  
The Netherlands • New Zealand • Norway • Peru • Philippines • Poland • Portugal • Puerto Rico • Romania • Russia  
Saudi Arabia • Scotland • Singapore • Slovakia • Slovenia • South Africa • Spain • Sweden • Switzerland • Taiwan  
Thailand • Turkey • Ukraine • United Kingdom • United States • Venezuela • Vietnam • Zimbabwe

Copyright © 2005 Cisco Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. The Cisco Square Bridge logo is a trademark of Cisco Systems, Inc.; and Cisco, Cisco Systems, the Cisco Systems logo, are registered trademarks of Cisco Systems, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and certain other countries.

All other trademarks mentioned in this document or Website are the property of their respective owners. The use of the word partner does not imply a partnership relationship between Cisco and any other company. (0502R)

Printed in the USA