



The HOME FRONT Imperatives ...

The methods by which the disaster management and law enforcement communities utilize to collect and share data during a crisis event must be improved. It is imperative that we move away from the current stovepipe approach, where information remains constrained within strict organizational channels and not shared with other agencies or jurisdictions.

Addressing this imperative, the Western Disaster Center has developed the Home Front Initiative. HOME FRONT currently consists of two initiatives. Project HOME FRONT is an evolving public/private partnership to research and develop the process and technologies needed to support the operations of a San Francisco Bay Area Domestic Terrorism Joint Operations Center (JOC). This initiative is being developed under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Disaster Center and the San Francisco FBI Domestic Terrorism / Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator, dated March 29, 2001. Project COLLABORATION is being developed with the support and participation of the Health Officers Association of California (HOAC). Project COLLABORATION will link the Physician Health Officers in California's County and City Health Departments in a secure, virtual private network collaborative work environment, improving California's ability to prepare for, mitigate from, respond to and recover from natural, environmental, technological and man-made disasters.

It is imperative that the state and local disaster manager be able to access near-real-time, all-source, synoptic data related to an ongoing disaster event. The challenge is how the state and local disaster manager, incident commander and first responder can make best use of evolving commercial technologies and federal resources.

HOME FRONT is an important step in addressing these imperatives. Further, the WDC HOME FRONT initiative will act as a catalyst and focal point for California and Silicon Valley public and private sector high technology investment. The capabilities that will be developed as part of the HOME FRONT initiative will be the national model.

The National Imperatives ...

Success in countering the varied threats that face us is the national imperative, particularly in this era when the difference between natural, environmental, technological or man-made disasters is increasingly blurred. We must be able to mitigate, plan for, respond to and recover from the full spectrum of threats and crises that may arise. Resources are finite, so we must be selective in our

approaches, focusing on challenges that most directly affect our immediate threats and engaging where we can make the most difference. We must forge an effective partnership of federal, state and local government agencies, industry and other private sector organizations and the many investments that are being made to address Homeland Security. All available resources must be leveraged to address all threats whether they are the result of terrorism or the rupture of an earthquake fault, flood or wildfire.

In addressing this imperative the Western Disaster Center is promoting the concept of an all-source / all-hazard US Disaster Information Network. The Western Disaster Center US Disaster Information Network concept has been developed in parallel and is consistent with the evolving National Hazards Information Strategy, a federal initiative to reduce disaster losses through better information.

California Imperatives ...

California leads the nation in both infrastructure and people at risk from natural, environmental, technological and man-made disasters. Facing this threat, California with its vast economic resources and skilled workforce is one of the best-prepared states in the nation. Because of forward thinking government, California fortunate to have one of the most highly capable, and technologically advanced disaster management organizations in the nation.

The California Anti-Terrorism Information Center was established on September 25, 2001 to address the imperative that the state be able to exchange information with local law enforcement agencies within California. HOME FRONT will assist California in accomplishing this important mission.

The Silicon Valley Regional Imperatives ...

Silicon Valley's imperatives mirror those of the nation and California. Silicon Valley is located in one of the world's most seismically active areas, a region also subject to wildfires, floods and landslides. As the nation's high technology nexus, Silicon Valley is also vulnerable to the growing threat of technological disasters and the greater San Francisco Bay Area, in general, is recognized as a clear terrorist target of opportunity. To be sustainable, Silicon Valley like the nation must be able to thrive in the face of these threats.

Silicon Valley's most pressing imperative is perhaps the need for innovation. Without innovation the Silicon Valley high technology engine will cease to function.

Silicon Valley as we know it today has been shaped by four eras of technology innovation; defense, integrated circuits, personal computers and the Internet. Lockheed's need of small electronics to power the cold war Polaris missile laid

the foundation for Fairchild and the commercial integrated circuit industry. As Intel and other companies commercialized the integrated circuit the personal computer became practical. Apple's innovation of the friendly computer set the foundation for companies like Netscape and the Internet era.

These waves of technology innovation are interdependent. Today there are signs that Silicon Valley's trail of innovation is closing upon itself with the computer, communication and information technologies of the Internet era being the core technologies needed to address yet another cycle of national security imperatives.

In testimony to the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh said that as FEMA struggled to address the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, "it would have been helpful to draw on the expertise of Silicon Valley".

The San Jose Mercury News, in a December 11, 2001 editorial, concluded that while we are still looking for the next great innovation, Silicon Valley's most immediate opportunity might lie in addressing homeland security.

In a February 21, 2002 address to Silicon Valley leaders, when discussing the administration's FY 2003 budget request of \$38 Billion for homeland security, Vice President Cheney laid down the challenge to Silicon Valley yet again by describing how the sustained, long-term strategy to protect the nation will involve the best efforts of high tech industry, indicating that much of what the nation needs, in the end, is the gathering, the analysis, and the sharing of information.

The Silicon Valley imperative is clear. We need to identify and establish an activity that can act as the catalyst to rally the high technology resources of the region, state and nation to address all the threats that face us.

This catalyst is the WDC HOME FRONT Initiative.

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