

C3 Link Supports Ground Zero Rescue Effort



DTTP's C3 capabilities supported Guard deployments to the areas ravaged by the 11 Sep. attacks.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., 10 Oct 01 – In the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York and Virginia on Tuesday, 11 September, the National Guard's Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP) – like dozens of military, public, and private organizations – pitched in to provide its own unique brand of support. As rescuers assessed the devastation and began to organize their efforts, the DTTP established a command, control, and communications (C3) site to link the National Guard command staffs in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

The request for the C3 site came from the Secretary of Defense's Office of Readiness and

Training, which asked for the linkage should the office be forced to relocate after the attack. Fortunately, the office was able to continue operations from the Pentagon, but the C3 capabilities established at the Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Co-Lab in Alexandria, Va., presented a terrific opportunity to support Guard soldiers responding to the emergencies.

"The DTTP equipment was prepped and ready to go," said MAJ Stephan Picard, DTTP Chief, Policy & Liaison. "We knew communications would be key in coordinating the response – especially since land-line and cellular calls weren't getting through – so we offered our services to the STARCs [State Area Commands]."

Early on the morning of Wednesday, 12 September, DTTP personnel set up a "hot loop" to link Guard forces in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, using the DTTP resources at the Alexandria Co-Lab to integrate and facilitate the link and provide technical support. Command staffs used the continuous, 24-hour connection to conduct scheduled briefings, impromptu meetings and conversations as they planned and coordinated National Guard support in affected areas.

"Topics ranged from deployment planning to logistics for such things as meals," said LTC Chauncey Dockins, DTTP Product Manager. "Early feedback indicates that the hot loop sped communications and eliminated hours of frustration – at a time when every minute counted."

DTTP personnel also used the opportunity to test connectivity with STARCs and classrooms across the country, demonstrating the system's ability to link all 54 states and territories. According to MAJ Picard, "We have the ability to provide a key, nationwide communications link should it ever be needed." The C3 site remained in operation until 25 September, when it was no longer required, but can be reestablished at any time.

For more information, please contact MAJ Stephan Picard, Chief, DTTP Policy & Liaison, at picard@adlnet.org or (703) 575-4382.