



OREGON MILITARY DEPARTMENT
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS, OREGON NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
1776 MILITIA WAY
P.O. BOX 14350
SALEM, OREGON 97309-5047

November 10, 2009

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to invite you to participate in the initial planning meeting for an important Pacific Northwest pilot program. The meeting will take place December 1, 2009 at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem, Oregon. Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington have agreed to partner with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on a component of the Virtual USA initiative, led by the Science and Technology Directorate's Command, Control and Interoperability Division (CID). The pilot will advance a technical and cultural shift in how the Nation shares information during an emergency.

This meeting will introduce a Pacific Northwest information sharing pilot that can link information sharing platforms for more efficient and effective incident management within and across the states of our region.

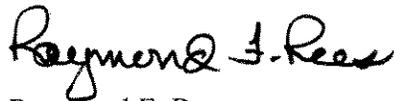
The pilot seeks to develop a capability among Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington that enables seamless information sharing by leveraging existing federal, state and local technologies, as well as emerging ones. CID and the R-Tech Technical Assistance team will partner with our five states to implement a program that builds on the lessons learned and best practices of the Southeast Regional Operations Platform Pilot (SE ROPP) currently underway. As in the SE ROPP, DHS will partner with The Pacific Northwest states to develop a governance structure that allows us to link disparate systems and share information during emergencies. DHS will also provide technical assistance to ensure all systems can seamlessly connect. The NW Pilot's first phase (ending September/October 2010) will establish through a real time demonstration that the required technology and governance are in place for seamless information sharing in the event of an emergency. The pilot's second phase (time period to be determined) will build on the governance framework and technological capabilities developed in the first phase and also seek to deepen the states' integration into the overall Virtual USA initiative. The states will develop the timeline for the pilot, as well as the scope, with guidance from Southeast pilot participants and DHS.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Pilot meeting for Oregon partners on December 1, 2009 provides the opportunity to share lessons learned from the development of Virginia's Integrated Platform for Emergency Response (VIPER) and Alabama's Virtual Alabama platform, and provide a briefing on the status of Oregon's statewide Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) initiatives, governance structure and data set inventory. Most importantly these briefings will lead to discussions concerning Oregon partners' needs, interests and constraints involving emergency response and situational awareness data and visualization platforms. It will include a

discussion of the potential to leverage partnerships at the local, state, regional and federal level, and the opportunity to leverage resources and technological developments in order to provide Oregon leaders at all jurisdictional levels with tools that will enable them to improve day-to-day operations as well as emergency response and disaster operations.

I hope that you will join me on December 1 for these very important discussions. Included you will find the conference agenda and driving directions for the conference. Please RSVP NLT November 20, 2009 with your availability and if you plan to eat at the DPSST cafeteria or bring your own lunch to John Sneed, Deputy Director of Oregon Emergency Management at jsneed@oem.state.or.us or 503-378-2911 x22292.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond F. Rees". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'F'.

Raymond F. Rees
Major General
The Adjutant General