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SUBJECT: Exercise STRONG ANGEL II

Last week ASD(NII) and DARPA sponsored an important exercise entitled STRONG ANGEL II (SA 11), focused on "critical information management in austere environments," such as we find today in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- The exercise demonstrated (and sometimes invented) cutting *edge* capabilities to help our forces work better and more securely in stabilization operations with non-military partners such as host nation security forces, indigenous civilians, non-governmental organizations, or other US government agencies,
- In the process, it also promoted DoD's transformational network-centric vision and provided tools that also could be used with state and local first responders in US homeland security situations. These were significant results.

The exercise was run out of temporary shelters set on a lava field near Kona, Hawaii, where temperatures often exceeded 105 degrees. It used commercial communications and collaboration tools to link multi-national participants simultaneously across three continents, ranging from the mid-Pacific to Baghdad. JFCOM, PACOM, NORTHCOM, CENTCOM and the US Mission to NATO had participants onsite, with many others having access via the internet.

Highlights of the 83 completed objectives include:

- **Advanced Translation tools**, supporting multi-lingual, encrypted, unclassified "chat" sessions in Arabic, Hebrew and 12 other languages. Participants were able to listen to Arabic TV and have translations delivered from spoken Arabic to written English within four minutes under field conditions.
- **Modern Collaboration tools** appropriate for civil-military support, allowing the secure synchronization of files and video conferencing around the world.
- **Remote communications capabilities** suitable for both civilian and military use in austere environments, and compliant with DoD wireless policies.
- **Flexible logistics support tools** with geospatial coordination and tracking.
- **Field collection of health, humanitarian assistance and economic development data** along with transmittal to databases from remote sites.
- **Metadata tagging of information** in support of DoD's overall data strategy.

SAII was led by Dr. Eric Rasmussen (Commander, Medical Corps, USN) and cost less than \$50,000. Its results are being briefed within DoD and have attracted media interest (including over 1,950 references on Google). We are working to **turn** these demonstrated capabilities into deployable **tools** to support our forces.



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