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*United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for  
Disaster Management and Emergency Response*

**By Associated Press**

Monday, March 14, 2011

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — U.S. Marines will be using information-gathering technology developed by a New Hampshire company to assist with the relief effort in Japan after last week's massive earthquake and tsunami.

The Marines and possibly other branches of the military will begin using the Rapid Data Management System created by Global Relief Technologies in the next few days, and a team of workers from the company is expected to travel to Japan as well, company officials said Monday.

The system includes satellite-linked handheld computers that allow information to be quickly collected and distributed to decision makers. Officials still are working out the details of how it will be used in Japan, but the system can be tailored to the needs on the ground, whether it be assessing food and water supplies, managing refugee camps or analyzing the infrastructure, said Chip Peter, the company's chief information office.

The alternative, he said, involves relief workers filling out paper forms and then manually entering the information into databases, which can mean days or even months going by before the information gets to those who need it.

In February, workers spent close to a month in Thailand, training Marines to use the system. Last year, the company sent a team to Haiti to take a census of amputees after the devastating earthquake there.

That project was significantly different than what the company likely will face in Japan because Haiti "started with very little of their own capability to help themselves, and the Japanese are very capable" in terms of resources and infrastructure, said retired Marine Lt. Gen. Keith Stalder, an adviser to the company.

"There's a significant difference in the capabilities of the two nations, but in terms of what this technology will do for the Japanese, I think it will be every bit as valuable as it was in Haiti," he said.

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