



## GRT News Spring 2009



### Board Member to Join Obama Administration

GRT Board Member Lt. General Wallace (Chip) Gregson (Ret.) has been nominated Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs by President Obama. A long time advocate of the Marine Corps' role in humanitarian assistance, Lt. General Gregson will leave GRT's Board of Directors during his service at DOD. Lt. General Gregson retired from the Marine Corps in 2005 after 37 years of service. Most recently, he was Commanding General of the Marine Forces Central Command in the Pacific, where he led and managed over 70,000 Marines and Sailors in the Middle East, Afghanistan, East Africa, Asia and the United States. Lt. General Gregson serves as a Director and Treasurer of the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund; as Trustee, Marine Corps University Foundation; and as Advisor, Center for Unconventional Security Affairs. He has also served as Chief Operating Officer for the United States Olympic Committee. We will miss Lt. General Gregson's leadership and wish him the very best in his continued public service.

### Budgets,

## RDMS Selected for USNS Comfort Hospital Ship

The U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine has selected RDMS for its hospital ship USNS Comfort. The Comfort and its sister ship USNS Mercy conduct medical humanitarian assistance missions around the globe with naval and NGO medical personnel.

RDMS will be used to support expeditionary medical missions launched from the Comfort. Vital patient information will be entered during these missions using RDMS Collect PDAs, shared among medical personnel, and transmitted in real time to the hospital ship using RDMS Communicate. Barcode patient wristbands which can be instantly scanned with the PDAs are used to uniquely identify each patient. Medical personnel on the ship will use RDMS Collaborate to view patients seen, patients in surgery, chief complaints, and will generate real-time comprehensive reports that accurately and explicitly provide statistics of each medical mission.

During 2009, the Comfort is sailing with a medical/dental/veterinary crew that includes about 650 medical professionals from the Navy, Army, Air Force and U.S. Public Health Service, nongovernmental organizations and other international partners. Canada, Chile, El Salvador, France, the Netherlands, and Nicaragua will also provide medical professionals for the mission. 2009 NGO participants include Foundation for the Advancement of Children's Esthetics (FACE), Food for the Poor, International Aid, Latter Day Saints Ministries, Operation Smile and Project Hope.

The ship is uniquely capable of providing health services support as an element of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and has been configured to provide a range of services at sea and ashore. The ship provided support in New York City following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and in the Gulf Coast region in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

## RDMS for Border Security

The Maine Warden Service (yes, fish and game wardens) have selected RDMS for back country border security activities along the 600-plus mile U.S. Canada border. Acting in concert with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Maine Wardens are patrolling remote areas using 4x4 pickups, all terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, boats and canoes.

As in many other northern states, Wardens are the only law enforcement personnel in these remote border locations where cellular communications rarely work. This makes RDMS with BGAN satellite communications ideal for reporting border information on people, foot tracks, animal traps, ATV's, ATV tracks, border crossing paths, border structures, camps, clues, snowmobiles, snowmobile tracks, vehicles, vehicle tracks, watercraft and aircraft.

One of the features of RDMS that has been found particularly useful is the



## Batteries, and Barriers: PDA Implementation Issues for NGO's

GRT recently commissioned the NYU Wagner School to conduct a research study on what prevents humanitarian NGOs from adopting technology that can potentially improve their operations and response time. The NYU Team conducted extensive interviews with nine organizations, from animal welfare to humanitarian relief, to discover the financial, technical, and institutional barriers preventing groups from implementing technology into their field programs. Their thought provoking final report titled "Budgets, Batteries, and Barriers: PDA Implementation Issues for NGO's" may be obtained by sending an email request to [adam.palmer@grt.com](mailto:adam.palmer@grt.com).

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ability to quickly take a picture of any of the above and link it to a data form and GPS coordinates. This saves time, freeing Wardens to make additional border inspections. It also saves time back in the office since this same information does not need to be manually transcribed from paper into a computer.

## Governor Lynch Visits

As continuous rainfall caused rivers to rise throughout the states of Maine and New Hampshire, Gov. John Lynch paid a visit to GRT and viewed real-time data RDMS reports from field operators in remote locations detailing tenuous conditions in the region.

Lynch commended GRT for providing the technology and expanding its staff from three to 40 people over the past five years.

"It's very impressive," said Lynch. "It's particularly meaningful to me, having experienced half a dozen natural disasters in New Hampshire. A critical element of the response is good communication and getting accurate data about what's going on in the field. They provide the technology to make that happen," added Lynch. "Without good data, you can't make good decisions."



## RDMS Project Rental Kits

GRT announced a new RDMS Project Rental program that allows customers working on limited duration missions to rent a turn-key RDMS solution on a weekly or monthly basis. RDMS Project Rental Kits provide various combinations of PDAs, BGAN satellite terminals, Notebook PCs and a full suite of RDMS software, including RDMS Collect, RDMS Communicate and RDMS Collaborate. Get all the functional and time saving benefits of RDMS with the added convenience of simply returning the equipment to GRT when your project is over.

