

Golden Phoenix – Overview – July 2008

Golden Phoenix began in 2006 as a grass roots exercise and has become an annual multi-agency collaborative training event.

Initially formed in Los Angeles under the title Marine Air Group Mutual Assistance (MAGMA), the event changed names in 2007 to Golden Phoenix, and grew to include over 60 local, state and federal agencies with over 1000 participants.

The Golden Phoenix concept offers a unique opportunity to bring together non-traditional partners at the tactical level while executing select incident response protocols.

The objective of Operation Golden Phoenix is a method for the USMC and Customs and Border Protection to fulfill their exercise requirements. As an addendum, they are using the opportunity as a platform to explore technologies and interface options with civilian capabilities. The National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue (NIUSR) has been designated as the civil coordinator for the exercise.

This is not a traditional exercise as much as it is a developmental research endeavor for the civil side. We are looking for concepts and ideas that will help expand the entire emergency response capacity. We are looking for ideas that work, both old and new, in unison to support the response. We will think outside of the box but will not lose sight of the successful tools that the box contains.

During the exercise the NIUSR Coordinator at Brown Field will hold meetings of all civil participants to facilitate developing scenarios to be injected into the exercise. Please feel free to bring ideas to those meetings that will showcase your organization's capabilities and capacities. For additional information see civmil.org

Organizers

USMC

US Customs and Border Protection – Secure Border Initiative

Nation Institute for Urban Search and Rescue (NIUSR) – Disaster Readiness and Response

SDSU – Visualization 'Viz' Center, Homeland Defense Program

CivMil.org – Civilian/Military Preparedness – Coordinating Information and Resources

Location

The Brown Field site is located in the extreme Southern portion of San Diego County. The Brown Field location is an undeveloped open parcel of land. There is only one narrow road in and out of the location. It abounds with ruts, potholes, and furrows. The area is covered with knee-high weeds and field grass. In July the weather is generally extremely hot and dry. Your organization will be provided with a working space on the field. There will be no facilities provided except for hygienic portable toilets.

NIUSR Golden Phoenix objectives for Brown Field

1. To establish a civil facilitation and coordination center at Brown Field for the civil integration in an emergency response.
2. Establish a communications network that ties the NIUSR civil facilitation and coordination center at Brown Field to the front line first responders (USMC/CBP) through a civil command center (SDSU).
3. Establish a usable communications network with civil volunteers and disaster nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) using available resources.
4. To explore experimental communications links and routing as proof of concept of effectiveness of a civil volunteers and disaster NGOs direct communications connection to a unified command.
5. To explore and examine procedures and develop best practices models for integrating civil volunteers and disaster NGOs into disaster communications systems in order to inform the response command of available capabilities and capacities in the civil/NGO domain.

6. Explore possible academic, technological and industry integration procedures through the civil facilitation and coordination center by communicating logistical needs from the response command to the center.
8. Explore possible academic, technological and industry integration procedures through the civil facilitation and coordination center by communicating civil resources, capabilities and capacities to the response command through the center.
9. Probe the capacity of available integration communications systems to withstand disaster level usage by civil and NGOs to communicate with the response center.

Exercise Protocols

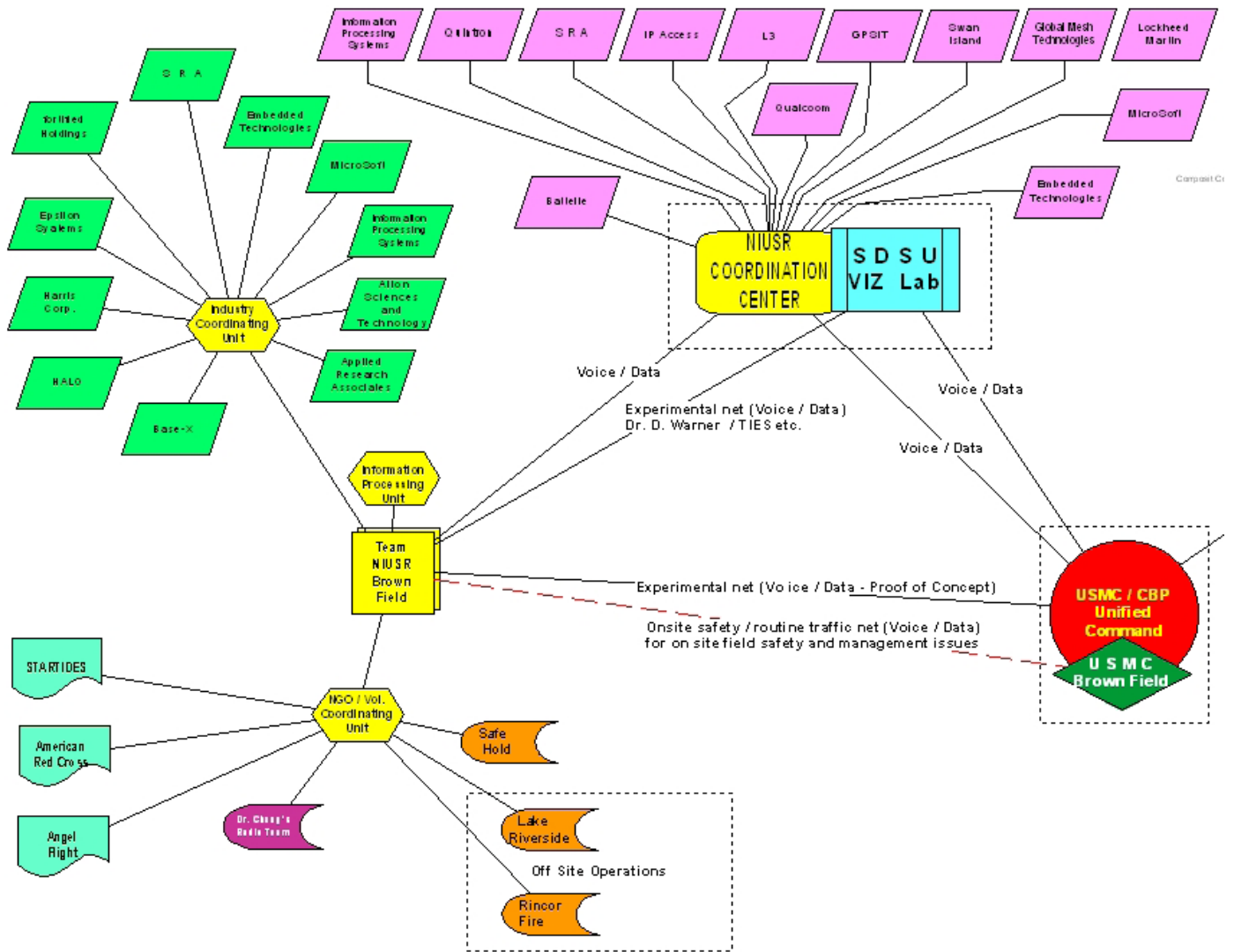
Golden Phoenix is a Military/federal agency exercise in which the industry and civilian component has been invited to interface and participate. The industry and civil participation will be conducted separately from the military/federal agency exercise. Any interface with the military/federal agency exercise will be directed by the NIUSR Operations Center.

The US Marine Corps will have an operational unit collocated at the Brown Field Operating area. Their footprint will be clearly identified. This is a regulated training event for the Marine Corps. They are not unsocial but they must be allowed to operate without interference. Do not enter the Marine operations area unless assigned to a task there. Feel free to associate with Marines in the civil operating area but do not delay them in their assignments.

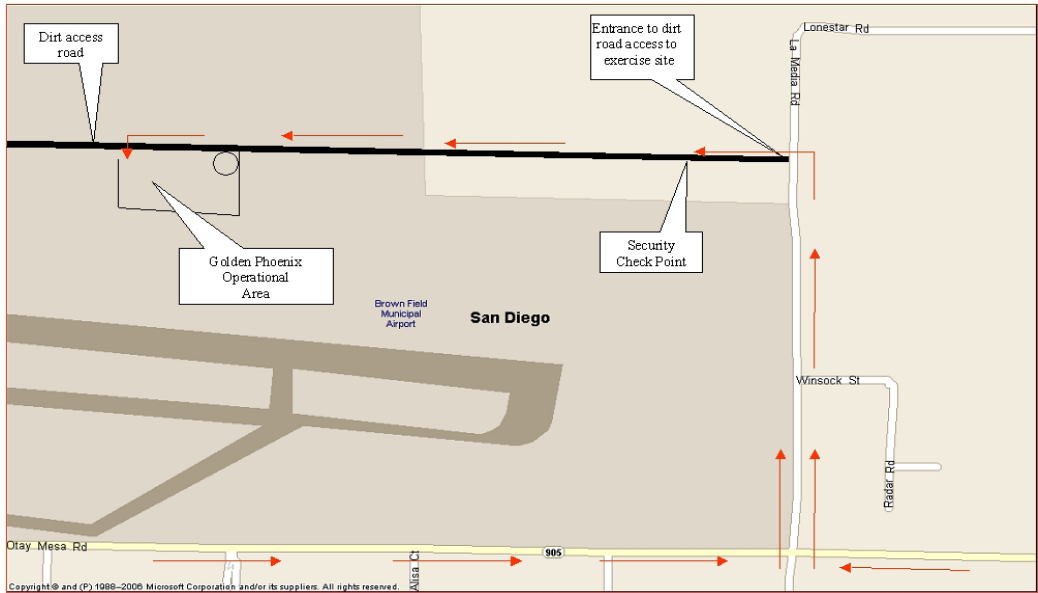
Industry Participants (partial list)

Applied Research Associates – Smart Border Technology
Base-X – Portable shelters
Battelle
Epsilon systems
Fortified Communications – Portable emergency response equipment
Global Mesh Technologies
GPSIT - GPS covert tracking
Harris
IP Access – femto cells
L3
Lockheed Martin
Microsoft
Qualcomm
SRA International
Swan Island.net – Disaster management, JWID 04

Communication Links



Brown Field Site



Brown Field Site – Details, 40 participants

