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How to find a way out of this mess?



Cautionary Tales

FEMA's sharing of collective knowledge

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ANTHONY KIMERY

Rosemary Johnston, Savi Technology Vice President, Federal Sales and Strategy

The products and services Savi Technology brings to the homeland security community includes a full array of active and satellite Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) interrogators and sensors backed by a knowledgeable consulting staff. In addition, Savi has a number of portable deployment kits that can be used to provide on site, deployable capability at the right place and right time.

In the chemical industry, for example, trucks operated by independent carriers frequently carry sensitive, caustic, volatile or hazardous materials that must be monitored constantly throughout their journey to ensure safety, cargo integrity and, perhaps more importantly, security. One global chemical company turned to Savi to gain access to the real-time sensor data in order to monitor and manage their business.

For accurate, continuous display of asset location information, combined with asset cargo condition, integrity and security status, Savi deployed its Mobile Tracking platform to collect and process data collected from GPS in real time. Savi also delivered seamless integration of the asset tracking data stream with the customer's existing enterprise software infrastructure, and was able to integrate GPS information from each shipment with environmental data and security/integrity monitoring and combine this information into a single map-based real-time information display.

Using the Savi platform, the client was able to easily implement geofencing — defining journey corridors and anticipated journey timeframes for its shipments. Now, when a shipment is off route or delayed, decision-makers receive real-time alerts and can quickly take action.

But it's not just helping chemical companies track their shipments of toxic substances.

"Savi provides the most scalable and complete sensor analytics solutions for organizations that face critical logistics decisions and need reliable, current information on the location and status of their assets," explained Rosemary Johnston, who oversees Savi Technology's operations, sales operations, systems support and governance assistance.

"For agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the US National Guard and even organizations like the International Red Cross and USAID that need to deploy, monitor and coordinate massive amounts of equipment, resources and assets -- typically under extremely difficult situations -- Savi can help advance those large-scale response actions, as well as provide intelligence to identify improvements for future situations," said Johnston, who supervises a team of sales operations, information systems, business systems and customer relationship managers.

Having been with Savi since 2006 and held a variety of positions in services and support, business process improvement, business integration and transition and information technology systems, Johnston said "Savi's world class software solutions work seamlessly with Savi's hardware, ensuring asset and intransit visibility during emergency management so first responders can do the following:"

- Locate critical assets and then track those assets anywhere in real-time even in harsh, remote or devastated areas;



- Monitor the status and condition of fuel, food, water and other critical assets;
- Predict how long it will take to move and set-up key assets, as well as needed quantities and best placement;
- Know when assets deviate from their planned route / location or have been tampered with;
- Reduce theft or prevent damage to key assets during a time of crisis; and
- Leverage existing Defense Department asset and intransit visibility networks to coordinate activities and communications ... given them a holistic picture of the logistics infrastructure.

Johnston's understanding of the military supply chain and logistics market in particular comes from a distinguished career in both commercial enterprises and her 23-year service in the United States Air Force, where she was responsible for the development of key wartime logistics planning concepts, establishment of supply policies that impacted the depth and breadth of retail and wholesale supply and the conduct of a number of planning and forecasting analyses.

Johnston chaired the US Air Force Supply Chiefs Advisory Board, US Air Force Supply Training Team and US Air Force Supply Wartime Requirements workgroups. She also chaired the Supply Chain Council's Aerospace and Defense working group, which focused on further development of the SCOR Model and use of RFID technology to support and enhance in-transit visibility.

Trends and issues Johnston sees right now and looming on the horizon includes the need for easy to use, portable solutions; sensor agnostic solutions so that companies can use their existing infrastructure and maximize their benefits; increased visibility; and integration with other first responder networks to provide comprehensive command and control.

"Advances in technology are making it possible to monitor the condition and location of assets, equipment and supplies in real-time, anywhere in the world," Johnston said, noting that, "This creates an opportunity for logisticians to make improvements in how they operate, their cost structures and the value of the information they can provide to decision-makers in the field while minimizing the risk associated with managing critical supply chains in contingency operations." **HST**