

Asset Management at Work for Emergency Management Systems

Case study: Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Terrorism Taskforce

Client Profile:

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Terrorism Taskforce (SPTF) was founded in 1998 in response to the growing threat of terrorism. Since 9/11 the Southeastern Pennsylvania Terrorism Taskforce has been incorporated within homeland security to protect the United States from terrorist attacks or other domestic threats. The safety of the Southeastern Pennsylvania region is critical to countless industries including transportation, manufacturing, medical, agriculture, etc. Furthermore, the region is home to countless historical sites and large sporting venues, all of which must be safeguarded. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Terrorism Taskforce strives to ensure the safety of the region, and if necessary, be able to quickly react to any threats that may face the region, regardless of their origin.

The Situation:

Since its inception in 1998, SPTF has been providing a wide range of assets to first responders so that they would be properly equipped to combat any disaster or threat. However, since its founding, there has been no functional asset management system in place to track where and when assets were deployed.

SPTF needs to be able to track and manage the following types of assets:

- Specialized equipment (i.e. aviation, logistical support, search & rescue, decontamination, detection, cyber security...etc.)
- CBRNE Reference Materials
- CBRNE Incident Response Vehicles
- Medical/Pharmaceutical equipment
- Power equipment
- IT equipment

The Solution:

SPTF approached E-ISG looking for an asset management system that would enable them to track assets across numerous sites. As well, they were interested in a system that would be able to track a variety of different asset types and categories. In addition, SPTF was very interested in being able to track implementation of assets, thus cataloging their efficacy and efficiency, eventually streamlining what emergency assets would be more widely distributed, and which could be lessened or completely eliminated. E-ISG was able to customize its asset management software, Visual Asset Manager (VAM) so that it could account for all of the concerns of the SPTF. Each of the categories and subcategories within VAM was totally redone so that they would apply to SPTF's unique set of assets (equipment is issued to first responders so that they can respond to weapon of mass destruction (WMD) attacks). As well, the SPTF

purchased bar code scanners to use in conjunction with VAM for the scanning and tracking of assets. By utilizing bar code scanners, the SPTF can have an accurate transactional style inventory, where each item is scanned every time it is used or redeployed to another location.

Results:

Since SPTF began working with E-ISG it has run numerous models using VAM to better utilize its emergency and first responder assets. However, due to the enormous size of their asset pool VAM has not been totally implemented and integrated for all eleven counties under the jurisdiction of the SPTF at this point. As well, the high degree of customization that was needed for the SPTF required more in depth training than the standard VAM implementation. Once VAM becomes fully implemented in the near future it will be able to track asset utilization and movement across numerous sites and counties. By employing VAM, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Terrorist Taskforce will be able to account for all of its assets at all times. It will have a detailed understanding of how these assets are currently implemented and utilized. Furthermore, by analyzing reports on asset use (that are produced by VAM) the SPTF will learn how to better allocate its assets to have maximum effect and efficacy.

About E-ISG:

E-ISG combines technology and services to address the unique challenges of Asset Management, Continuity of Operations, and Data Quality. Our experience in crafting low-impact and low-cost solutions for the Windows Mobile environment for data gathering, synchronization and correlation have been integrated seamlessly into our world-class asset management software, Visual Asset Manager (VAM). VAM enables E-ISG to have Full Accountability Mandates and to accurately reflect the true cost of business enterprise.

We focus on four key industries that have special needs related to Asset Management, Continuity of Operations and Data Quality. E-ISG has designed special features into its products to provide a truly optimized process that can be replicated across the enterprise.