

Emergency Preparedness: Anticipate, Respond, Communicate and Perform

THE MASON INN, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

April 11, 2012

Emergency response is a vital and complex process involving government entities at all levels, as well as critical resources owned and operated by the private sector. The readiness of the telecommunications infrastructure required to link all elements in response to emergencies is key to minimizing loss of life and property and maintaining national security. No comprehensive plan exists for making full and effective use of currently available wireless networks. The goal of the symposium is to kick off a national discussion about the issue and establish an integrated approach to the problem involving stakeholders from academia, government, and the private sector.

7 to 8 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast



8 a.m. Keynote Address

TERRIE SUIT, Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security

The Honorable Terrie L. Suit was appointed assistant to the governor for commonwealth preparedness by Gov. Bob McDonnell in January 2010. In 2011, following the passage of HB1773 during the General Assembly session, Suit was appointed secretary of veterans affairs and homeland security by Gov. McDonnell. This title change and re-organization of the office serves as an important and focused vehicle for elevating veterans issues in Virginia providing a clear path for making Virginia the “most veteran-friendly state in the nation.” On the homeland security side, Suit works with federal, state, and local officials, as well as the private sector, to develop a seamless, coordinated security and preparedness strategy and implementation plan. She also serves as Virginia’s homeland security advisor and is the direct liaison between the governor and the federal Department of Homeland Security.

8:30 a.m. **Panel Discussion I—User Views**
Panel Chair: TIMOTHY J. KEATING, Admiral USN (Ret.)

Users, those on the front lines and charged with the direction of operations, will discuss their operational challenges; the role of timely, accurate, and reliable information in meeting those challenges; and the role, actual or potential, that might be played by communications derived from the ongoing revolution in commercial mobile communications and their associated applications. Panel I will address the offerings from industry in the midterm, with an emphasis on the potential for significant improvement in those capabilities as a result of measures to dedicate a portion of the wireless spectrum to emergency communications.

10:15 a.m. **Panel Discussion II—State of the Art**
Panel Chair: LISA DONNAN, Volgenau School Advisory Board Member

The emergency communications market is rapidly evolving as both land mobile radio (LMR) and commercial mobile communications present increasingly capable components and systems to the user community. Panel II will address the engineering challenges facing the implementation of a system that would combine the features associated with LMR and the emergent commercial mobile communications.



Luncheon Address

PETER FONASH, CTO, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Peter Fonash is the chief technology officer for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) cybersecurity and communications organization. Fonash recently returned to DHS from the Federal Reserve Board of Governors where he worked as a special assistant on communications and cybersecurity issues for its staff director. Prior to this position, he was acting director of the National Cybersecurity Division at DHS.

2 p.m. **Panel Discussion III—Mobile Security Applications**
Panel Chair: ANUP K. GHOSH, Research Professor and Chief Scientist, George Mason University

In a time of constrained budgets and significant advances in mobile communication devices, considerable cost savings can be realized from using existing Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) devices for emergency communications, including Apple IOS and Google Android-based devices such as smart phones and tablets. These devices are used for a variety of both personal and business use cases including e-mail, voice, text, entertainment, social media, and business applications. In the emergency communications use case, it is imperative that the device and the network it connects to be available with high reliability. This panel will bring together a range of experts from government and industry who are developing secure mobile network technologies for mission-critical applications to discuss the implications mobile device security and emergency communications applications.

Closing Remarks and Reception

Cost: \$295 per person. To register, visit www.regonline.com/techsymposium2012.

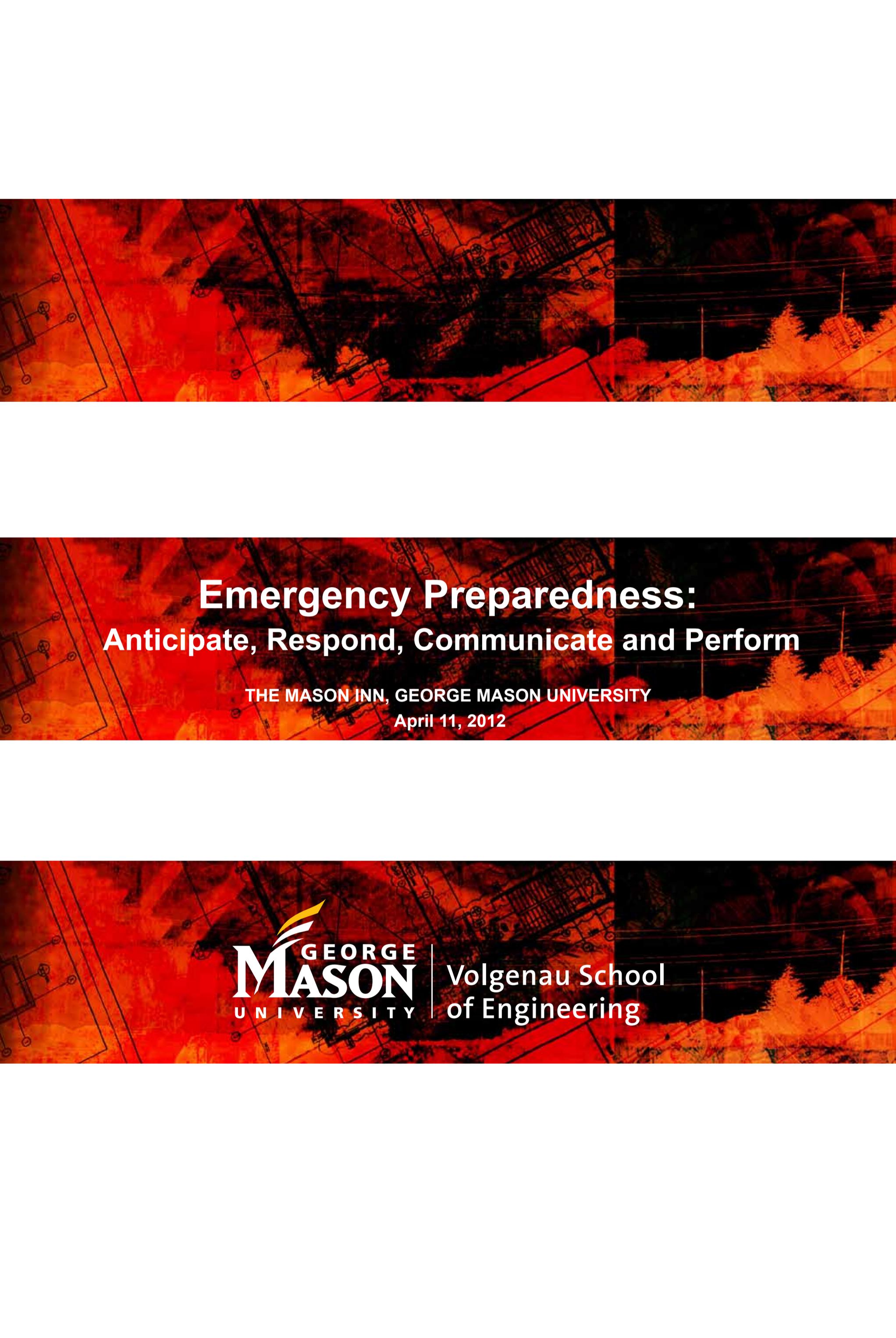
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