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To: Mrs. Colwell, Catharine H. (Mainland High School, ISTF Project Team Teacher)

From: AMSC(AW) Ret. Slimak, John F.

Subj: Mainland High School ISTF Project for 2009

In reviewing the Mainland High School Internet Science and Technology Fair (ISTF) project for 2009, I can offer a few comments on how well the project has met its objectives in satisfying a need in the area of National Critical Technology. In my 20+ years I served in the U.S. Navy in a command capacity, I was involved in the management of several disaster areas and have more than a passing familiarity with the needs of personnel tasked with responding to a disaster. There are three (3) components of "Disaster Relief" that must be addressed in order to mount an effective response to saves lives and property.

1. Mobility - The response to a disaster must be able to be mobilized in a timely fashion. The products and systems presented in the ISTF project show a clear understanding of the fact that any effective response must have the ability to be rapidly deployed. The use of the Skycrane for moving materials allows for the ability to move without use of surface infrastructure that may have been compromised in a disaster while also providing a rapid deployment capability.

2. Communication - The system itself is a communication network that provides for clear and concise information sharing. The raw data coming from the event area is invaluable to commanders and decision makers both on the ground, in the disaster zone and at the command center directing operations.

3. Logistical Support - The fact that this system is able to be deployed remotely allows for data to be shared and resources to be allocated in the most effective and efficient manner that saves resources and provides for relief agencies to protect both lives and property.

All things considered, this project is definitely a viable solution to the problems presented and possibly worth investigating as part of our ongoing efforts to prevent and mitigate both man-made and natural disasters when they happen.

My personal experiences of search and rescue to save lives and property consists of the following disasters:

- 7.7 earthquake, Misawa, Japan (1983)
- Airliner crash KAL 007, China Sea, Korea (1983)
- 6.9 earthquake, San Francisco, California (1989)
- Mt. Pinatubo eruption, Philippines (1991)
- Hurricane Iniki, Kauai, Hawaii (1992)
- Alfred P. Murrah Bombing, Oklahoma City Oklahoma (1995)
- F5 Tornado, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (1999)

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John F. Slimak". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John F. Slimak  
AMSC(AW) USN Ret.