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Drexel, Drakontas Field Wireless Situation Awareness Solution for US Army SINCE Demonstration

Drexel University and Drakontas LLC announced today the successful integration of a variety of wireless situation awareness and other custom software tools developed for the United States Army as part of the Simulation and C2 Information Systems Connectivity Experimentation (SINCE) Program managed by the Command and Control (C2) Directorate of CERDEC/RDECOM.

The prime objectives of the SINCE Program are the exploration, demonstration and evaluation of new technologies for conducting dynamic mission planning and operations management to support network-centric operations. In support of this effort, researchers from Drexel's Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) Program integrated DragonForce™ software provided by Drakontas LLC, with more than 37 situation awareness and battlefield planning and management systems representing coalition forces from the militaries of the US, Germany, France, Canada and Israel.

"The combined technologies of Drexel and Drakontas provided essential capabilities for performing reachback, over secure wireless networks, from actors in the field to the battle command functions", according to Col. Gary Griffin (Ret.), who served as the Scenario Manager for the SINCE exercise.

For the demonstration, Drexel researchers used techniques developed through the Secure Wireless Agent Testbed (SWAT) that enable real-time tracking of dismounted personnel operating handheld and mobile computing devices. During the exercises, operators used SWAT to enter live data, such as position and event reports, into the SINCE battle command simulation environment transmitted over SWAT's secure mobile ad hoc wireless network (MANET). "SWAT provides a living example of a complete network-centric system, integrating intelligent software agents, ad hoc networks with information assurance technologies operating across a wide variety of computing platforms," said William Regli, Associate Technical Director of the ACIN Program. SWAT was used to achieve the interoperability between back-end systems and the end-user mobile device application, DragonForce.

For Drakontas, participation in the SINCE program provides additional feedback for the community of first responders and private security officers who use DragonForce™ every day to provide situation awareness and enhanced response capabilities. "Part of the capabilities fielded today were developed specifically for the first responder community with support from the Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice (NIJ)," explained James Sim, President of Drakontas LLC. "This continuing effort to refine our software tools with feedback from both the military and civilian community offers a unique example of what Congress intended in the funding of dual use technology research."

"Bridging military and civilian users is essential to our success on the battlefield and in

the war against terrorism,” said Edward Celiano, Project Manager of the ACIN Program. “We are proud that ACIN is making valuable contributions to the military and homeland security communities.”

ABOUT Drakontas. Drakontas LLC builds software applications for secure wireless networks. The company's mission is to put trusted communications tools into the hands of first responders and security professionals. For more information about Drakontas, please see the company's Web site, www.drakontas.com.

ABOUT Drexel University. Founded in 1891 by financier Anthony J. Drexel, Drexel University holds a unique place in higher education as Philadelphia's technological university and a leader in the integration of technology into academics. Drexel's distinguished faculty and quality academic programs have been recognized internationally. In 2000, Drexel became the first major U.S. university to operate a campus-wide, fully wireless network. U.S. News & World Report ranks Drexel as the top university for specialized programs in information systems, in the top 10 for library and information science and among the top 25 online MBA programs. More information about Drexel University can be obtained from the Internet at <http://www.drexel.edu>.

ABOUT ACIN. The Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) Technology Center is America's first small business accelerator dedicated to serving the US Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security. Established in 2001 through a contract between the US Army and Drexel University, the mission of the ACIN Technology Center is to identify small businesses and technologies that make information delivery faster, more secure, and more flexible. ACIN is focused on technology that provides benefits to the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security, leveraging COTS technology or with the potential for commercial development. For more information contact Christine A. Malone, ACIN Camden Center for Entrepreneurship in Technology, Waterfront Technology Center, Suite 300, 200 Federal Street, Camden, NJ 08103. Phone: 856.614.5415, Fax: 856.614.5489, E- mail: info@acincenter.org, <http://www.acincenter.org>.