

May 11, 2006

To: aid-n_all@jhuapl.edu**From:** Tia Gao**Subject:** Lessons Learned from Mass Casualty Drill at Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute**Introduction:**

On Wednesday May 10, 2006, 5 AID-N team members participated as victims at a mass casualty drill conducted by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (College Park, MD) in efforts to better understand the emergency response process. This memo summarizes the timeline of the mass casualty incident (MCI) that was simulated in the drill and the key take-aways. The drill was conducted 3 times with different groups of rescuers. Each group of rescuers were a mix of first responders, medics, fire, police, physicians and nurses. Groups were not trained on the drill procedures. The timeline of events, with the exception of the initial bomb explosion, were blinded to both rescuers and victims.

Timeline of Events:

The following timed sequence of events show how the scene looked, from the victim's point of view.

0:00 bomb goes off, 20 victims are scattered about the scene

0:10 rescuer unit arrives

0:12 first wave of rescuers ties colored triage ribbons around all the patients.

- Green patients are instructed to walk themselves to the treatment area.
- Red/Yellow patients cannot walk and are left at the scene for the second wave of rescuers.

0:16 second wave of rescuers arrives at the scene to take away the red patients.

- After a long wait, yellow patients are taken away
- Black patients are covered in wool black tarp and carried off.

0:30

- at the treatment area: patients are cordoned into sections based on their triage color. Each cordoned section is marked by a colored flag: 1) red flag "Immediate" 2) yellow flag "delayed" 3) green flag "minor" and 4) black flag "morgue"
- patients deteriorated while waiting in the treatment area and they were retriaged to a more immediate triage level. Medics noticed patients that were deteriorating if the patient had fallen over or showed obvious signs of deterioration.
- ambulances arrive and take off the reds and yellows.
- triage officers checks back at the treatment area to count the number of waiting patients and ensures it equals the number of triaged patients he counted earlier
- all patients are eventually transported off by ambulances, except black patients.

Major take-aways:

- Each individual triage color treatment area had its own "Treatment officer" in a supervisory role
- Nurses and non-authorized personnel self-dispatch themselves. The UAV can monitor the perimeters.
- Loudspeaker cannot be heard. We should provide an alternative mode of communication to the medics. We can have short messages displayed on the triage tag's LCD.
- Their walkie talkies had very hardy packaging.
- Looking at LEDs in the sun is very hard. The LCD should display one letter to designate the triage color.