

# HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TOOL



*Naval Medical Research Center  
Silver Spring, MD*

***“The support that FirstLink provided – both leading us to a Navy technology relevant to our needs, then facilitating our access to it – was timely and important to our ongoing work on disaster simulation and leadership training.”***

*-- Chris Hatzi Sr. Director  
Crisis Simulations International*

Instigated by the events of September 11th, 2001, concerns have escalated about hospitals' readiness to respond to a sudden swell in patients involved in a domestic terrorist attack. The U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), part of the Naval Medical Command and its Navy Medical Research Center, has responded by developing the Hospital Emergency Assistance Tool (HEAT). HEAT provides a framework for determining the surge capacity of hospitals in a modeled crisis situation and further identifies deficits that may require planning attention.

Crisis Simulations International, LLC (CSI), a crisis simulation and leadership training firm in Tualatin, OR, will be applying HEAT in scenarios that simulate the decisions that will need to be made in a pandemic flu outbreak and mass casualty event under a Cooperative Research Development Agreement established with the U.S. Navy. This simulation and training is part of a project led by Penn State Hershey College of Medicine, which has focused on improving surge capacity and enhancing community and hospital preparedness for public health emergencies. This project is funded by the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations, Office of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. FirstLink facilitated the introduction of BUMED and CSI and aided in the transfer of the HEAT technology to the company.

This collaborative R&D activity is expected to increase the accuracy of the catastrophic models embedded in HEAT and validate the applicability of HEAT to disaster modeling and assessments. The methodologies used in HEAT are equally suited to other scenarios, such as terrorist incidents or natural disasters, and may become an important tool in our nation's emergency medical preparedness.

The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), Naval Medical Command, provides high-quality, economical health care to active duty Navy and Marine Corps members, retirees, and their families, while supporting contingency, humanitarian and joint operations around the world with health care professionals. The Navy Medical Research Center enhances the health, safety, readiness, and performance of Navy and Marine Corps personnel through basic and applied biomedical research.

FirstLink is the Department of Defense's National Center of Excellence for First Responder Technologies, supporting first responder needs through the development of commercial pathways between Department of Defense Science & Technology, private industry and universities.

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