

Case Study > National Defense University

ABOUT NDU

The National Defense University is the premier center for Joint Professional Military Education (JPME), and is under the direction of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. The University's main campus is on Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. The National Defense University is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

The NDU's Center for Information Assurance Education (CIAE) focuses on new technology for improving situational awareness and decision making in field and offers education and guidance to very senior level military officers and federal officials regarding.



THE CHALLENGE

The Crisis Center serves as a mock operations center where very senior level military officers and federal officials are trained in the use of technology to help them improve situational awareness and decision making in field.

This reflects an underlying role of the NDU to provide education and guidance on new technology as part of a broader development program.

For this reason, the NDU wanted a field proven network-based collaboration tool which provides the necessary distributed information sharing capability that is the cornerstone of collaborative decision making.

THE SOLUTION

Since training sessions are based on re-creating real world crisis scenarios, Activu was enlisted to design and build an information visualization system that supports this objective.

Activu installed a large display wall composed of six (2x3) 50" DLP cubes as the typical focal point within an emergency operations center.

To demonstrate the options for information access, display and sharing across several groups in multiple locations, Activu worked with the NDU to design a real world information environment. The Local Area Network was to simulate a larger Wide Area Network, and was populated with a broad range of information sources.

Using a bomb explosion as an example crisis, session participants via Activu can dynamically access and display several different types of video, such as surveillance cameras, radar thermal imaging, internet and TV broadcast feeds. They experience the process of combining PLUME analysis results with information generated by other new tools, and pushing this to other simulated locations, all of which unfolds in a progression of sharing events as the crisis scenario plays out.

The result is an increased knowledge and awareness of a technology that is capable of creating a dynamic information sharing environment where collaboration works effectively across groups and geography.

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