



*The DOE Spectrum Management Team at the 2007 Command, Control, and Communications Vehicle Rally (From left to right: Megan O'Donohue, Leo Torrezao, Ron Temple, Mark Garcia, Carlos Segarra, Bruce Washington, and Alden Smith)*

### **DOE Spectrum Management Team attends 2007 Command, Control, and Communications Vehicle Rally**

The Department of Energy (DOE) Spectrum Management Team took advantage of a recent local event sponsored by the Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications (FPIC) to enhance their technical knowledge and develop Team cohesiveness. On June 15, the Team, which includes Bruce Washington, Ron Temple, Mark Garcia, Megan O'Donohue, Leo Torrezao, Alden Smith, and Carlos Segarra, attended the 2007 Command, Control, and Communications Vehicle Rally held at the Fairfax County Police Department's Driver Training Facility in Chantilly, Virginia. The rally brought together the advanced technology capabilities of numerous regional State and Local governments as well as those of several Federal government Agencies. The various entities brought their state-of-the-art Command and Control (C2) mobile platforms that possessed advanced communications and information technology capabilities to include multi-band radios, satellite "reach-back" capabilities, cell phone base stations "on wheels", and high resolution large screen displays.

While at the event, the DOE Spectrum Management Team was able to partake in the rare opportunity to interact with the "owners" of the various C2 platforms. The Team was able to learn about the numerous radio frequency challenges faced by these various Government entities and also the lessons these agencies have learned while implementing these advanced capabilities in their mobile platforms. Hearing the experiences that the owners of the C2 platforms have gone through, both good and bad, was very beneficial to the Team because knowing the mistakes others have made previously will make for better decision making in the future. As an intern, this was my first opportunity to attend

an event such as this. I was able to see right away that the event would offer the Team and I useful insight on the important role that advanced communications capabilities play in spectrum management and personally it was very exciting to see technology at its absolute best. Prior to the rally, I had a shaky understanding of spectrum management and the significant aspects that need to be considered in that specific field. Being able to attend the rally, though, provided me with information and knowledge that would be useful to anyone who was trying to grasp a better comprehension of why the C2 platforms are equipped with such advanced information technology capabilities and how those capabilities intertwine with spectrum management. The DOE Spectrum Management Team is now better equipped to support the DOE Field Organizations that are required to interoperate on radio networks with State and Local governments across the country.

The event was fascinating for most and informative to all. It was a complete success in that it was able to effectively fulfill its preliminary objective of conveying knowledge and experiences about the emergency vehicles with all who were in attendance. "The Rally provided useful hands on experience that many of us working at headquarters and behind-the-scenes rarely get to take part in," said Megan O'Donohue, a member of the DOE Spectrum Management Team. "The vehicle display was very interesting because we were able to see the utility of the tools and technology that we work with every day." The Team took full advantage of a chance to step out from behind their desks and into the field to see the effectiveness of their hard work in action.

Written By: *Carlos Michael Segarra*



*An aerial view of the Command, Control, and Communications Vehicle Rally*