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Agreement at Indiana schools will help manage information in the field

JC | 01.19.2006 | 09:46:38600 | **January 19 '06:** The Department of Homeland Security will give federal grant money to Purdue University which has partnered with the Indiana University School of Medicine to help with analytical software development to disseminate information on a large scale right as a major event unfolds and the response process is underway, the [Journal and Courier](#), a local paper in Lafayette, Indiana reported.

The partnership of Purdue with Indiana University which oversees the Purdue University Regional Visualization and Analytics Center (PURVAC) are mostly extensions "of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash., which leads Homeland Security's National Visualization and Analytics Center," the Journal and Courier reported.

Purdue University's [Exponent](#) reported that the new center "is one of five regional centers focused on improving emergency planning management by tailoring the way information is presented."

According to David Ebert, the associate professor of electrical and computer engineering center director, visualizing information in new ways helps to synthesize and manage coordination and logistics for many operating responding groups during a national or natural event.

"If someone is out in the field," Ebert told the Exponent, "like a firefighter or police officer, they need to make sure that the information provided to them (on a mobile device) is relevant while making sure the machine also uses just enough battery power to stay efficient."

The Exponent said one of Ebert's hopes is that the visualization of information and its management will help responders in the field make quick and essential decisions using increasingly large amounts of information.

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