

PRESS RELEASE



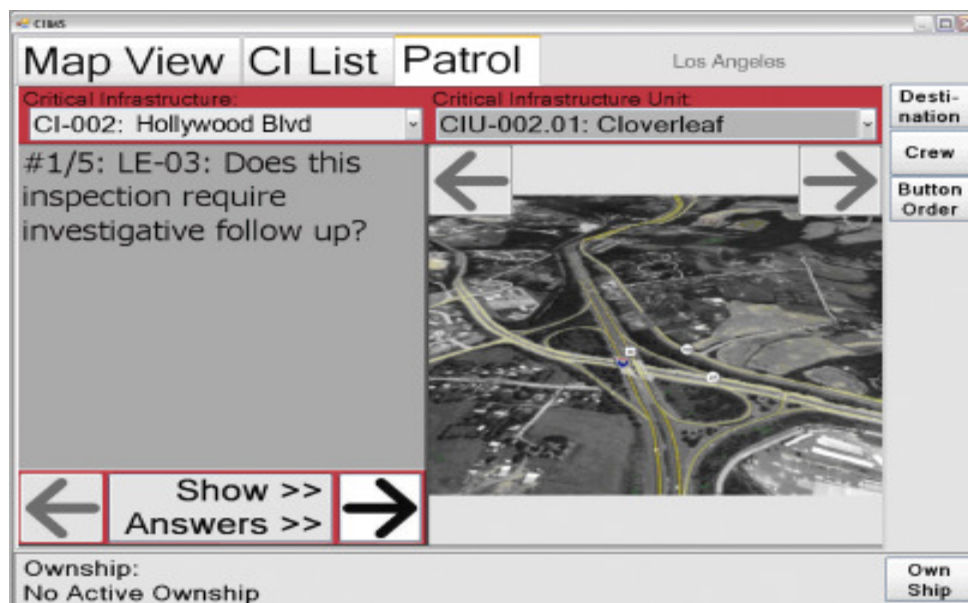
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St. Clair County Blue Water Shield

The St. Clair County Homeland Security – Emergency Management has partnered with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to build on the successful Critical Infrastructure Inspection Management System (CIIMS) prototype developed with the Maryland State Police and the Los Angeles Police Department. Partnering in this project provides St. Clair County a critical opportunity to further develop this prototype to address smaller urban/rural environments.



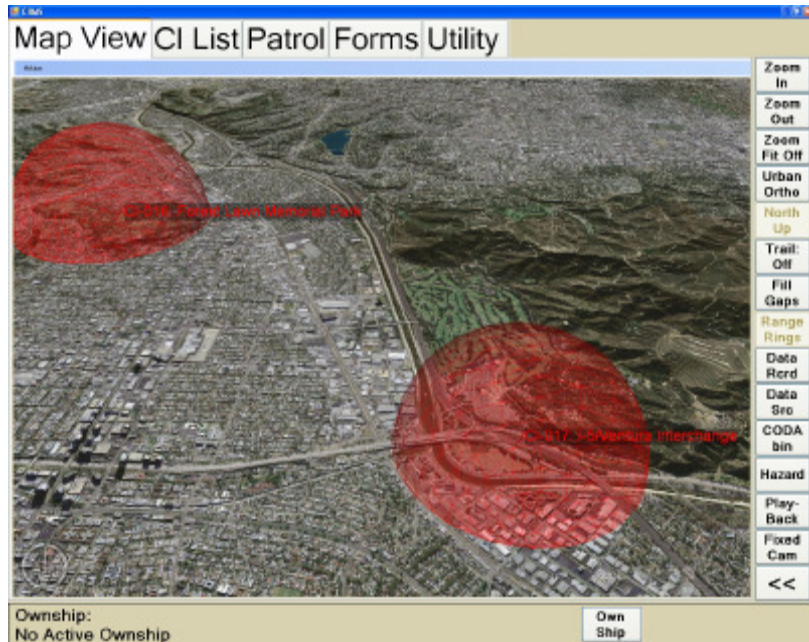
This technology will enable local emergency services agencies to effectively manage inspections of critical structures. By partnering with the Michigan State Police and the St. Clair County Sheriff Department, the County will expand the use of CIIMS during all-hazard events, which are extraordinarily complex and require a multidiscipline team of ground and air response assets that can seamlessly and securely share information.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Blue Water Shield will be used to inspect specified critical infrastructure throughout the Blue Water area. The system will contain images, geographic coordinates, and inspection-related inquiries that help to assess the security of infrastructure sites in the Blue Water Region. The data and information gathered during the inspection are then forwarded via a

data link to analysts for further review and analysis. The risk and threat analysis is then used to determine further action and inspection priorities.

St. Clair County has adopted the CIIMS concept and envisions it to be a critical tool in supporting Blue Water Shield, a comprehensive system that targets all-hazard prevention, preparedness, and response. After testing and further development is completed, Blue Water Shield will be used by the St. Clair County Homeland Security – Emergency Management Office to assign, monitor, and document inspection crews conducting reconnaissance patrols on the ground and in the air.



CIIMS was designed by The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and is funded by the Infrastructure Protection and Disaster Management Division of DHS's Science and Technology Directorate. St. Clair County has signed a 5 year Memorandum of Understanding with the Science and Technology Directorate to serve as a technology test bed with several other projects being considered for implementation.

For more information, contact Jeff Friedland, Director of the St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at 810-989-6325 or jfriedland@stclaircounty.org.