

## Defense Industrial Base DIB ASSIST™ Emergency Network; A Command Center in the palm of your hand

When a crisis strikes, identifying “at risk” DoD, DHS and their support company’s personnel and providing them assistance is crucial to minimizing the impact to the nation. Many Disaster Alerting systems exist. However, a Disaster Warning system that also enables designated disaster responder personnel to view the location of those in need and to have the ability to communicate via chat and Push to Talk (PTT) has not been available and is desperately needed.

The Defense Industrial Base Information Sharing and Analysis Center (DIB ISAC) has created the DIB Emergency Network (DIB ASSIST) to solve this problem. DIB ASSIST is a communications network that consists of PC/servers that connect to Android and iPhone applications that run on an employee’s smartphone. When an emergency is declared, this app will automatically connect the DIB ASSIST command center to both the “at risk” employee and the designated response team. The response team is provided the location of their personnel and can communicate via PTT or text, even in a communication degraded environment. Personnel are only tracked when they declare that they are in an emergency. This employee-activated declaration also enables the sharing of text and photos of events of interest to disaster responders.

To activate DIB ASSIST, employees simply download the app on to their smartphones. At the DIB ASSIST, their address is entered into their DIB ASSIST database. Unless they declare an emergency, the names of the personnel are maintained only by their company and not provided to the DIB ASSIST or DIB ISAC. In the event of natural disaster or crisis, the DIB ASSIST quickly identifies companies’ personnel who are in the affected area and transmits an Emergency Alert to those personnel. If an employee sends a distress message, that personnel’s location is sent to those personnel designated to respond to those in need. These responders automatically view the location(s) of those in need and can directly chat and Push PTT with them as they provide assistance. The DIB ASSIST app also provides responders routing instructions to the “at risk” personnel.

At no time are the personnel locations tracked unless they declare an emergency. The use of the DIB ASSIST software by the Smartphone users incurs very little battery use and no additional cellular or other costs. The DIB ISAC receives feeds from numerous sources during an event that are passed down to companies and affected personnel so they will get the best information available on risks and areas impacted by an event. The successful implementation of the DIB ASSIST has obvious advantages for DoD, DHS and related companies and organizations. First and foremost, the organization is ensuring the safety of their personnel. And at the same time knowing the location and status of those in an emergency allows the DIB ISAC to effectively and efficiently direct resources and rescue operations.

The DIB ISAC is a not-for-profit company that was established to assist the critical infrastructure companies and agencies they support. The DIB ASSIST systems are available to DIB ISAC members. DIB ASSIST software is powered by Advanced Ground Information Systems, Inc. (AGIS).



The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) Security and Resilience Challenge is managed by the Office of Infrastructure Protection, within the National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in partnership with the National Institute for Hometown Security (NIHS).

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