



TACTICOMM

FROM HOWARD TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS



Sunday, February 10, 2013 at 5:15 PM, the landscape of Oak Grove, Hattiesburg, and Petal, Mississippi changed forever.



As residents and visitors of Hattiesburg and Petal, MS took shelter in their homes and businesses, an EF4 tornado was raging through the heart of the Pine Belt, leaving a path of destruction in its wake. Little did we know that one of our very own employees would be fighting for her life as the tornado demolished her home.



The next morning revealed the true extent of this disaster. It was major—leaving residents without homes, cars and, something we all take for granted, a way to communicate with family and friends. Howard Technology Solutions bridged this communications gap in the following days by establishing and maintaining a Tacticomm Command Post. Tacticomm is Howard's Mobile Command and Communications Vehicle, specifically designed to address the needs associated with emergency situations and public safety management.



Monday, February 11th, Howard Technology Solutions' Professional Services Team went to work. Members Matthew Mauldin, Brian Stroka, Andy Roberts, David Emory, and David Rochelle arrived in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and set up operations at the corner of Pearl Street and 24th Avenue, where the home of Howard employee Jordan Williams was completely destroyed, just two blocks from the University of Southern Mississippi. The HTS team set up their Tacticomm unit to provide Jordan and her neighbors with essential communication services, along with bottled water and snacks.

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For three days in Hattiesburg, and one in Petal, Tacticomm was deployed as a WiFi Hotspot, VoIP phone communications hub, and charging station for electronic equipment. By utilizing a Xirrus Access Point, HTS was able to provide wireless access to a 4-block area, enabling residents to communicate via phones, laptops, and computers that had escaped damage from the storm. Some residents sat on their front porches, while others were able to stay inside secured areas of their homes and access the Tacticomm Hotspot. Area residents came by each day to charge their cell phones and laptops, enabling them to make calls and watch movies before going to bed, activities that provided a measure of normalcy and boosted morale after the devastating effects of the storm.

One resident said "Being cut off from the outside world is scary, but with the assistance Howard has given us today, I have been able to notify my friends and family in other states through social media and let them know that my wife and I are ok."

About TACTICOMM

Tacticomm is Howard's new mobile command and communications solution for emergency response and public safety management. It provides solutions suitable for small-scale daily operational activities and major mobilizations alike, from single components to complete mobile communication packages. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/pr-tacticomm>



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