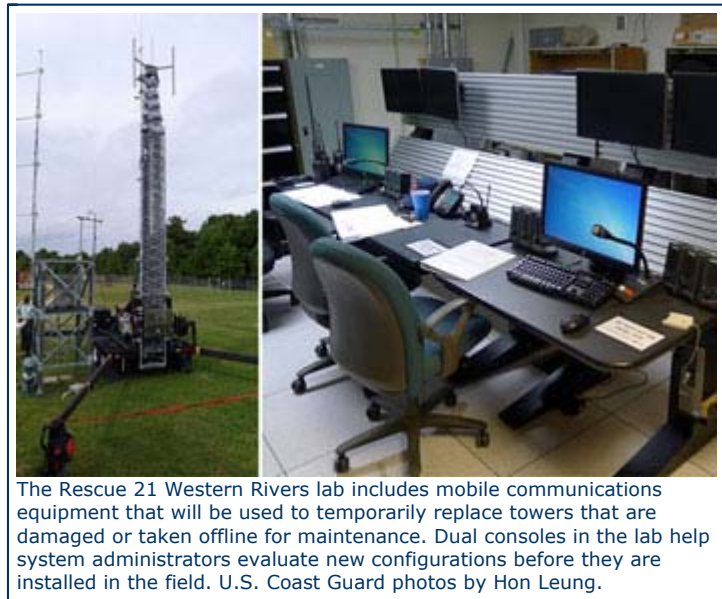


# Acquisition Update: Rescue 21 Western Rivers Lab Installed At C3CEN

Feb. 9, 2015

The Coast Guard completed installation of a new Rescue 21 Western Rivers lab Nov. 6, 2014, at the Command, Control, and Communications Engineering Center in Portsmouth, Virginia, that will test the system before it is installed along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and support it throughout its service life.

The lab will test the Rescue 21 Western Rivers design, developed by Eyak Technologies, to make sure that the system will operate properly without introducing cybersecurity vulnerabilities that could compromise Coast Guard networks or degrade Rescue 21 performance. C3CEN will also use the lab as a service center to manage repairs and upgrades to Rescue 21 throughout its service life in the Western Rivers, reducing the system's down time.



The Rescue 21 Western Rivers lab includes mobile communications equipment that will be used to temporarily replace towers that are damaged or taken offline for maintenance. Dual consoles in the lab help system administrators evaluate new configurations before they are installed in the field. U.S. Coast Guard photos by Hon Leung.

The Rescue 21 system will provide enhanced coverage of VHF radio communication in high traffic areas of the rivers. The system will include digital selective calling, which allows mariners in distress to voicelessly transmit their vessel location and other important information at the push of a button.

“One of the things we really want to emphasize is that the Coast Guard’s work on Rescue 21 is not finished,” said program manager Capt. Paul Boinay. The service has completed the system along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts, but work to deploy Rescue 21 in Alaska and the Western Rivers will continue until 2017.