Background: Chemical releases, suicide bombers, air and subsurface threats. The U.S. must be prepared to handle these real-life incidents. Collaboratively training to respond to such incidents, however, has been more theoretical than practical. Now, with the help of DHS S&T, SSPT™ is giving training scenarios a high-tech edge: from static tabletop models to virtual sites with gaming technology and 3D modeling.

Technical Description: SSPT™ runs on a variety of interactive display screens as a touch-based application. Pictured at right is a 55” Perceptive Pixel touch screen housed on a pedestal to facilitate group interaction. Users may now interact with virtual venues composed of 3D models in a synthetic terrain with their hands. The virtual sites may be real places or geo-typical, or a mixture of both for specific situational awareness training or planning purposes. The system also includes a set of customizable assets such as vehicles, individuals, security measures, etc. for placement in the virtual site. This allows users to collaboratively create site specific event plans, security plans and infrastructure protection plans, and then run "what-if" scenarios to challenge these plans. SSPT™ users can determine alternative routes, placement of assets and containment areas, as well as apply a host of icons to quickly place labels of rooms, locations, threats, adversaries etc. to develop the best case alternatives to mitigate risks. Snap shots can be taken to create multiple views of different versions of a plan, and then displayed on separate screens for briefings or training purposes. Additional useful built-in tools include asset management reports, notepad, and Asset Tray window containing all available 3D assets by category.

Advantages:
- 3D models and game-based real life virtual environments and assets
- Simulates scenarios for making and assessing decisions
- Collaborative, interactive involvement by teams with a touch interface
- Makes the means to devise, configure, and test security and emergency situation management engaging, flexible, and easy
- Improves awareness through both third and first person viewing perspectives for overhead site evaluation and for a virtual interaction with the site, reflecting real life operations.

Acquisition and Support: SSPT™ is an integrated system engineered with a wide variety of alternatives to suite various budgets. The systems can be deployed as a service on an as-needed basis to support specific training and events or delivered as a turnkey network of systems to training facilities, control rooms, etc..

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