

Kansas Public Information / Geographic Information Emergency Response Support Vehicle



When a large-scale disaster strikes a community, there are a number of essentials that the residents need – food, water and shelter being the most basic. An essential need, for both disaster victims and responders, is information.

In the wake of a disaster, accurate, timely, and credible information is critical for an effective response. However, the same factors that hinder the delivery of basic essentials also impact the delivery of information. In an effort to overcome the hindering factors in a disaster response, the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department, through the Integrated Initiatives Office in conjunction with Northrop Grumman Corporation, built a Public Information / Geographic Information

Emergency Response Support Vehicle, or PI/GI (pronounced “Piggy”), to provide information essential to disaster response where information is lacking. The PI/GI is built on a 2009 Ford Super Duty Econoline van chassis with a cabin area created and installed by Dodgen Industries, creating a 24’ long vehicle. When the PI/GI is deployed to a scene, it brings with it a host of capabilities including:

- 7.0KW Onan gasoline generator capable of running the vehicle for about 48 hours on one tank
- Cisco 2811 Router with Verizon Cellular Aircard, Wireless Access Point, and a connection for an existing network
- MotoSat 1.2M satellite internet dish
- 4-VoIP telephone lines (I is for faxes)
- Internal wired network
- Over two terabytes of network data storage
- 4-PC laptop/workstations, each with an internet connection, access to the vehicle printers, and to the internal vehicle data storage
- Cellular signal booster
- Climate-controlled workspace
- Jack digital TV antenna
- King-Dome satellite TV dish
- 2 -DirectTV receivers
- 4-19” LCD TVs
- 800MHz base station and 2-800MHz handheld radios
- Weather radio
- Weather station
- HP Color Laser printer/scanner/fax
- HP Inkjet 24” plotter
- 4-DVD/DVR recorders
- 6-External 120V outlets
- Shore power connection
- External scene lighting
- 4 Deep cycle marine batteries

Internally, the vehicle is set up with two separate work areas, one for public information, and one for the geographic information. Each work area contains two computers with access to a multifunction scanner, copier, fax machine, and large format plotter through an internal network. The public information area also contains televisions and video equipment. A cabinet with network equipment and telephones separates the two work areas.

Along with the capabilities of the vehicle, the PI/GI has a team of public affairs and geographic information specialists that can be deployed with the vehicle. To find out more about the public affairs team, please contact the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department Public Affairs Office at 785-274-1190 or ng.ks.ksarng.list.staff-pao@mail.mil. To find out more on the geographic information team, please contact the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department Geospatial Technologies Section at 785-274-1550 or jesse.l.smith166.nfg@mail.mil

Why is the vehicle needed?

With the equipment and personnel that the PI/GI brings to an emergency, it can greatly enhance the ability of responders to quickly and effectively manage the emergency. The job of the public information officer is to ensure that accurate and credible information is delivered to the public in a timely manner. With the communication, media monitoring, and computing capacities of the PI/GI, the public information officer can be more effective. Emergencies happen over a large area, making them inherently geographic. The PI/GI and GIS personnel facilitate the ability to create, modify, and print maps on-scene; consequently, allowing responders and emergency managers to quickly make decision on how best to manage the scene. GIS personnel can either directly support a local GIS person or can augment them by allowing the local GIS person to focus on city and county emergency operation needs.

Where will the PI/GI deploy?

The PI/GI is set up to deploy anywhere in the state of Kansas; however, through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact the PI/GI may deploy nationwide.

How is the PI/GI requested?

A local emergency management agency needs to request the PI/GI through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The PI/GI will only deploy to counties that have an active local emergency declaration. The SEOC reserves the right to reallocate the PI/GI at any time. To request the PI/GI, call (800) 905-7521 at anytime.

What information is needed when requesting the PI/GI?

The Kansas Adjutant General's Department needs to know:

- Where specifically to send the vehicle
- List of local road closures affecting the route of the vehicle
- When the vehicle needs to report (date/time)
- What personnel are needed (GIS, PIO, or both) and desired skill set, if known

What is needed to support the PI/GI when it is on scene?

The PI/GI is not designed to be completely stand-alone and needs some support facilities. The PI/GI personnel will need food and lodging. Deploying personnel are instructed to bring a sleeping bag in the event that hotel accommodations are unavailable and can self sustain for 72 hours.

How much does the PI/GI cost to deploy?

The PI/GI is paid for by the state of Kansas for the first seven (7) days of the deployment and the lodging is, for this time period, paid by the employer of the responding personnel. After the initial seven days of deployment, the requesting agency is responsible for all of the cost associated with the PI/GI and the cost of food, lodging, and wages for personnel. To estimate the costs of the vehicle please use the following information:

- Transportation Cost = $0.071 * Trip\ Mileage + \left(\frac{Fuel\ Price\ (per\ gallon) * Trip\ Mileage}{7.5} \right)$
- Daily Generator Cost = $0.283 * Hours\ Operated + \left(\left(\frac{Fuel\ Price\ (per\ Gallon)}{1.22} \right) * Hours\ Operated \right)$
- Daily Internet and Television Service = \$42.81
- Printing:
 - Black and White = \$0.04 per page
 - Color = \$0.16 per page
 - Large Format = \$0.75 per square foot