

A Co-ordinated Approach to Emergency Response Equipment Requirements



The Infrastructure Response Equipment Group was formed following an initiative from the Small Business Unit of UKTI. The initial event held at Gibraltar Barracks near Camberley brought together some 40 companies involved in Expeditionary and Humanitarian Operations Infrastructure Support. The need for such an approach was soon recognised by events in, for example, Haiti, where it was quickly recognised that one of the key issues of such natural disasters was effective communication to the outside world, followed by concerns over the basic infrastructure for the region.



Response Equipment Group) not only has the capability within its membership of meeting the essential response requirements but also has access to complementary services. Secondly, the Group will assess the project requirement and agree a lead company who will co-ordinate the Group's response with the customer organisation, providing a single point of contact, simplifying the process.

In fact, during the initial stages of establishing the Infrastructure Response Equipment Group, the natural disaster in Haiti struck. Two of our member companies, Hesco Bastion and Lifesaver products, have been heavily involved in the humanitarian response, as you will see from the images in these pages. Equally, both of these companies have been providing support to our troops in Afghanistan; Hesco Bastion providing reinforced structures to house and protect whilst Lifesaver's bottles enable individual soldiers to extract safe drinking water from such sources as stagnant pools or murky streams and rivers.

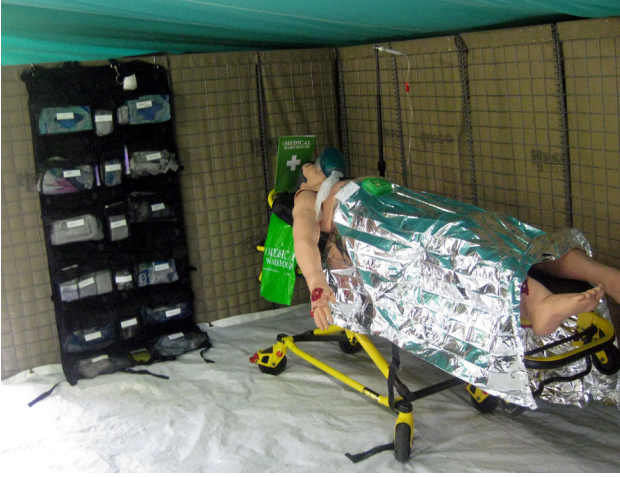


The companies involved in the Infrastructure Response Equipment Group are capable of providing a wide range of support for both military and civilian operations requiring shelters, power (batteries and generators), clean drinking water, medical supplies, lighting, telecommunications, replacement road surfaces and helicopter landing surfaces, bridges, pontoons, barriers and protection.

Our objective is to be the point of contact for any organisation or operation looking to establish bases in environments where there is either no established infrastructure or where the previous infrastructure has been destroyed by either natural or other forces. The Infrastructure Response Equipment Group exists to support both military and civilian activities.

There are a number of key issues surrounding the effective response to infrastructure problems. One is that of a co-ordinated approach. InfREG (the Infrastructure

Response Equipment Group) not only has the capability within its membership of meeting the essential response requirements but also has access to complementary services, providing not just medical supplies but also assisting with emergency response training to help ensure that emergency response is as effective as possible in the event of both national and local disasters. Included in the range of medical products is the Blizzard Heat blanket, developed in partnership with the US military and carried by all US special forces medical personnel. Blizzard's products are now carried by all RAF aircraft on operations.



As well as Hesco Bastion, Lifesaver and the Medical Warehouse, the Infrastructure Response Equipment Group has a further thirteen members. Hesco Bastion is not our only shelter provider as also included in the membership is Unishelter, a company who can provide a range of units based around a standard shipping container format. Simple to erect, Unishelter's structures are capable of providing a range of facilities including accommodation, command and control centres as well as clean room environments for medical treatment units – a truly flexible solution.

Hawklok flooring systems provide a simple to lay, palletised flooring system which can be used with virtually any shelter construction.

Operations in desert and tropical environments will benefit from the ultra-low energy cooling capability provided by Sleepbreeze, ensuring that personnel can rest or sleep in hot and/or humid conditions.

Key to any operations in remote locations is power; power to enable effective communications, power to provide lighting, power even to protect your position from incursion. The Infrastructure Response Equipment Group has the capability to provide both battery-based and generator power solutions. DMS technologies already provides the UK MoD and foreign defence organisations with portable powerpacks for the engine starting for a wide range of vehicles, helicopters and aircraft. The company also supplies ruggedised battery solutions for communications and security applications that can be re-charged using energy harvesting techniques such as solar (photovoltaic panels) and wind driven generators. Battery-based power is silent, can even be buried during operation and emits no smell, ideal for covert operations or in enclosed environments.

However, batteries can provide only a short term power supply solution where power requirements are high. Badnams are specialist providers of customised ultra-quiet, portable generators up to 2kW. Their robust units, operating in environments from -35°C to +55°C, can run for up to 70hrs on one "jerrycan" of petrol or avgas. Harrington Generators provide equipment capable of

supplying in excess of 2.7kVA to a wide range of customers in both the defence and civilian sectors, including the UK MoD, NATO, Network Rail and equipment hire companies.

Peli Products' Remote Area Lighting Systems offer portable, powerful LED lighting for operations where no conventional power is available. These rechargeable lighting products are fully operational for rapid deployment in seconds. Also included in the range is specifically designed shelter lighting systems.

Airfloat MPS provides a highly versatile and cost-effective answer to a whole range of pontoon, mooring and related requirements. The system is easy and quick to install, needing minimal expertise but will provide a temporary or permanent solution. Airfloat MPS has been tried and tested at numerous demanding applications throughout the world in both the leisure and commercial marine sectors and is the sturdiest system available. It is also fair to state that the system would have been effective in protecting the USA's eastern seaboard from the recent devastating oil slick.

FAUN Trackway is a modular road system used for the rapid deployment and recovery of vehicles and people. It provides temporary access into areas where there are no roads or the roads have been damaged. FAUN Trackway is the innovative solution for the mobility of vehicles and aircraft.

Another of the Group's members is Fuel Handling Systems, providing integrated logistics to both military and commercial customers requiring specialist supplies of fuel, fuel equipment and related supplies.

Journalists reporting the natural disaster in Haiti highlighted the problem of communications and the effect that issue was having on the ability to effectively respond to the immediate needs of the community. The Infrastructure Response Equipment Group (InfREG) includes Servicom, a specialist satellite communications specialist, amongst its membership.

Perhaps unique to any organisation such as InfREG is the inclusion of unmanned air vehicle security and surveillance. UAVSI's "Vigilant" UAV system is a sophisticated and highly reliable information gathering tool that can be very quickly deployed. The "Vigilant" will assist in post disaster missions including earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, landslides, snowstorms and critical national infrastructure failures.

To contact the Infrastructure Response Equipment Group, please go to:

www.infreg.com