



# Southern Crossing Exercise

## Dothan, Alabama

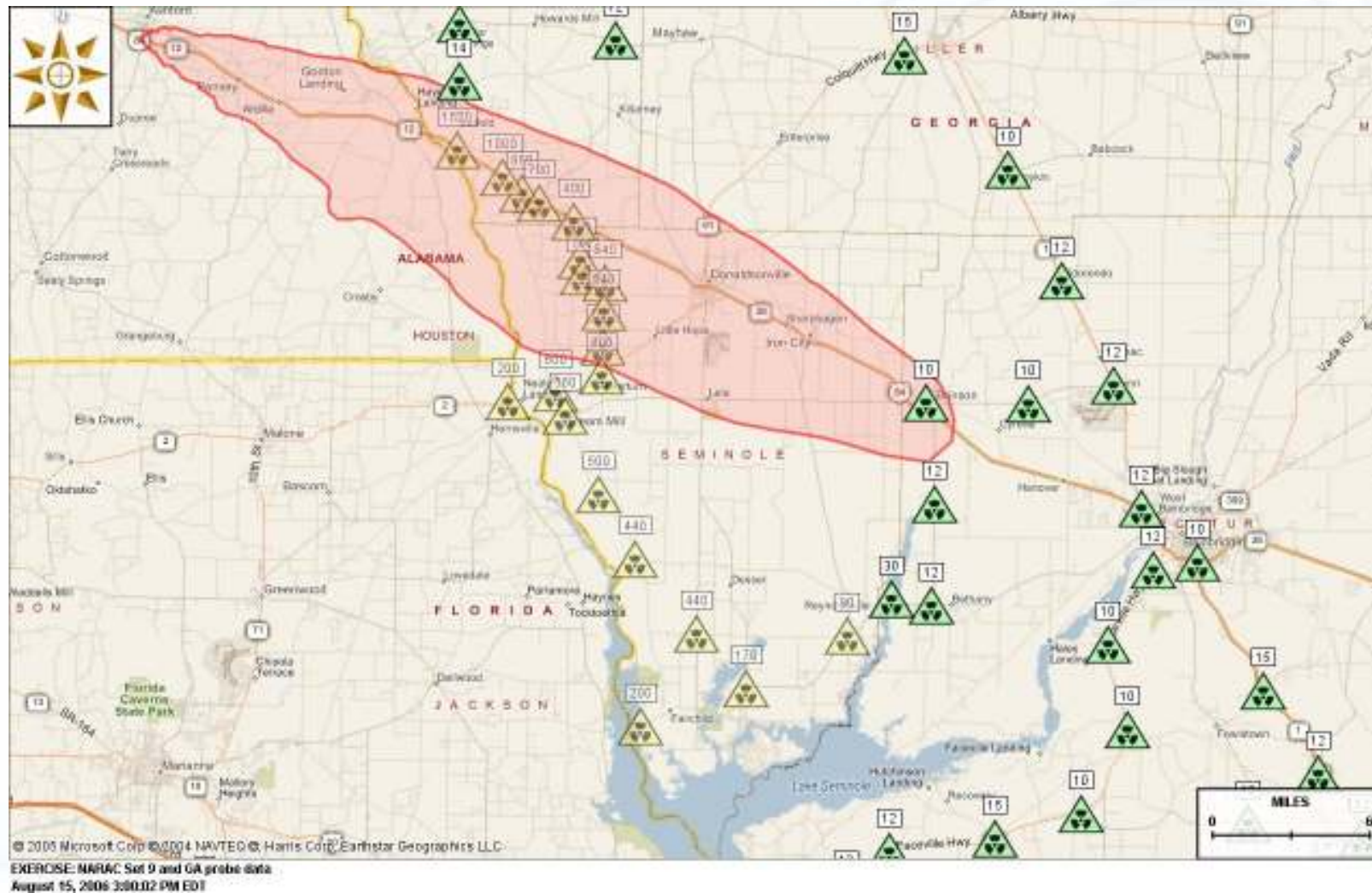
*Lessons Learned and After Actions*

# Background

- Dothan, AL August 14-19, 2006. Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) Scenario
- 5,000 curie Cs-137 source and associated explosives  
Primarily rural area. Cs-137 is a gamma emitter with loft creating a large deposition.
- Full FRMAC deployment. EPA Region 4 responded with 6 OSCs and a Health Physicist. DOE RAP team deployed. ORIA NARAC Mobile Lab deployed. Alabama Bureau of Radiation was the primary state agency. Houston County EMA established unified command. EPA Region 4 participated as Incident Command and field levels.
- Federal Participants: EPA, DOE, CDC, FBI, DHS, NRC, USDA, and OSHA.
- The states of Georgia and Florida also participated.



# Plume Model



# ICS Functionality and Lessons Learned

- **Lack of DHS leadership (i.e., qualified Principle Federal Official) to smooth out issues among Federal Player and formulate Federal role with State and County hampered response.**
- **FRMAC did not integrate efficiently into ICS. FRMAC operations too removed from Incident Command structure.**
- **Lack of uniform data platform hampered operations. Planning Section hampered by lack of access to FRMAC data. FRMAC QA/QC procedures did not permit timely integration of data acquired by states.**
- **RERT specific support role for lead OSC highly successful**
- **Mobile Labs easily integrated into ICS**
- **Dothan/Houston County EMA had difficulty absorbing so many resources (culture clash present to some extent). As Alabama EMA's role grew, the situation improved.**



# Tactical Lessons Learned and Action Items

- Not absolutely clear who has the lead for immediate stabilization efforts that require construction. DOE or EPA?
- The transition of the FRMAC lead from DOE to EPA occurs when the emergency phase ends and clean up begins—however, there may not be a bright line for this distinction.
- No time to develop remediation plans from scratch. Need for presumptive remedies for most likely scenarios.



# After Action Items Completed to Date

- ICS: The FRMAC has drafted guidance with EPA review that maintains the FRMAC as single unit resource but locates it in Planning Section.
- Improve Data Coordination: The FRMAC has adopted SCRIBE as a data platform, allowing rapid data transfer within the Planning Section. ORIA-DOE has conducted a data exercise using SCRIBE.

