

Manchester firm part of drill

By Howard French

Journal Inquirer

Manchester's Marcus Communications Co. is supplying radio equipment being used in the mock disaster drill in southeastern Connecticut, according to a statement from founder and General Partner Bruce S. Marcus.

The five-day so-called "TOPOFF 3" drill started Monday, and involves public officials, police, fire, rescue, and health care workers in New Jersey as well as Connecticut. The New Jersey drill is a simulation of a biological weapons terrorist attack in Union County, while the Connecticut drill involves a simulated chemical weapon terrorist attack in the New London area, close to the Millstone nuclear power plant complex.

The Marcus equipment is being used to permit everyone involved in the drill, from local law enforcement to the FBI and Secret Service to communicate.

Marcus said in a company statement.

"Marcus is also equipping the FBI Joint Operations Center, at Ocean Beach State Park, with special equipment that will allow the FBI to integrate with many disparate radio systems," he said.

"In addition, Marcus is also providing the Amateur Emergency Radios Service with several amateur repeaters for support of the Red Cross and other agencies," Marcus added.

Marcus founded Marcus Communications in April 1969 at 134 East Center St., in Manchester. He was president until August 2001 when his son, Stephen B. Marcus, became Chief Executive Officer.

Bruce Marcus continued with the company as chief technology officer, and is on the company's board of directors.

Marcus Communications is located in a 50,000 square-foot building at 275 New State Road in Manchester. The 33-year-old company employs 30 workers.