

Field Trip # 1: To Advanced Regional Traffic Interactive Management and Information System (ARTIMIS) Center

Host: Mr. Ahmad Saleh, Traffic Engineer Advanced Regional Interactive Traffic Management Information System

Date: July 7, 2010

Time: 1:45-5:00 PM

Venue: ARTIMIS Operations and Control Center, 508 W. Third St., Cincinnati, OH 45202

Prepared by:

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The RET Site participants along with the students from the REU Program attended a two-hour long field trip to the Advanced Regional Interactive Traffic Management & Information System (ARTIMIS) facility located in Cincinnati, Ohio. The purpose of the field trip was to familiarize the group with the process of determining the lengths of traffic delays and notifying motorists of potential delays, accidents and road closures.



Mr. Saleh was one of several ARTIMIS employees that took the time to answer questions from the group. The group's questions ranged from how long does it take: to get an electronic message – often displayed on the local expressways - to motorists once the information is received and confirmed by ARTIMIS; to how does the process work; to how often are their cameras working. The group also got a chance to witness Mr. Saleh and the others chase down information regarding a traffic accident and subsequent detour information for an accident on the eastern side of Interstate I-275.

A presentation also featured the ARTIMIS employees explaining what they do on a daily basis to alleviate traffic congestion. Along with notifying motorists with electronic messages, ARTIMIS has relief vans that drive along the local expressways helping disabled motorist with problems such as dead batteries, empty fuel tanks, minor repairs such as flat tires, and accidents.

The group also toured the facility and was given a brief synopsis of the history of the organization. This segment featured the employees informing the group that they hear the radio transmissions of the local law enforcement and emergency agencies on both sides of the Ohio River. The employees also told stories about what it is like to hear of these emergency response personnel talking about fatalities over the radio, and some employees have even seen the carnage after a fatal car accident on one of the

more than 80 cameras and monitors being used at the ARTIMIS control center. Many of the RET members were shocked to learn that the ARTIMIS employees were classified as employees of the state of Ohio and not working for a private firm. ARTIMIS became a state entity within the last five years, and has been around for the local highways for more than a decade.

ARTIMIS not only works with local emergency response employees, but also works with the local media. The control has the logos of four local television stations under some of the monitors inside of the control room. These monitors show what each station would show if they were receiving a live feed from the control room, as they often do for the morning rush hour.

The groups were able to witness the employees scan each of the cameras the workers were assigned to witness. As the afternoon grew longer, the group had to be moved from the main control room. As the local afternoon rush hour began, communications between ARTIMIS employees and others, along with increased radio traffic made it difficult for Mr. Saleh and the ARTIMIS employees to hear in the control room.