

## TICK - TOCK



A WHITE PAPER by  
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## TICK - TOCK—TIME IS ZERO

Will you join me as we ponder another concept of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? It is the concept of “TIME”. Time is the essence of Life Saving, the basic concept that SAILORS & FISHERMAN WHO LIVE UPON THE WATER NEVER FORGET.

We, in this age having skipped from the water to cyber space appear to have forgotten that humans do live long without air to breathe. Let us think about that for a minute. Again a little background.

WE, so long ago, formed a small band that we named The National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue. Some 37 years ago.

Now NIUSR has moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Concept of the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension (as though it had not always been there.) Now Time is Zero and Distance is Zero. Well that is not exactly true for Distance is definable by “time”. It is so many minutes to lunch break. Or it is 24 hours to take the train from Washington DC to Boston, etc. But Time has remained indefinable. Since 1908 we humanoids have decided to use as a definable point of reference Einstein’s determination that the **speed of light** would be our world-wide point of reference whereby we would calculate TIME.

Roll over, Einstein?

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“The physics world is abuzz with news that a group of European physicists plans to announce Friday, September 22, 2011, that it has clocked a burst of subatomic particles

known as neutrinos breaking the cosmic speed limit — the speed of light — that was set by [Albert Einstein](#) in 1908.

If true, it is a result that would change the world. But that “if” is enormous

Will you join me as we ponder the concept of TIME [for Life Saving](#) in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?`

When we started NIUSR we were all “ground pounders” of various ilks, most with some military background -- even if it was only as a Marine Cook. And many of us had been sailors at one time or another. Sailors never forget Time in relation to Life. One does not live long in freezing cold water. Need I say the thought is in-grained. “Do NOT Fall Overboard”.

We humanoids have always struggled to master the concept of Time. Minutes, seconds and hours is a concept that began “recently” with the invention of the Clock. I Googled “Invention of the clock” and came up empty but let’s say it was in the last few hundred years. Before that we told time by the length of a candle burning. Even before the word “candle” we told time by “tallows” the tapers that burned before someone made a better burning wand and invented the word “Candle”.

Mariners told time by “bells”. 4 bells was, and still is, “Change of Watch”. And take note of the word “watch”. Long before you wore it on your wrist, it meant change of the duty roster at sea.

But let’s get back to the land. In addition to the clock, we, today, tell time by days, especially in relationship to distance.

” I spent two days on the train to reach New York City from Omaha.”

Did you realize that Native American Indian tribes told time by **nights**, not days? Yes, they would have said it took me ten sleeps (nights) to reach the Hudson River from the Omaha Reservation.

When I traveled in 1950 from New York to California we traveled along the bottom of Montana on a road called “The 10 Sleep Canyon.” That road today is a paved high-speed Freeway and the name has disappeared replaced by a number in the national lexicon of federal highways. No one knows it was once the main thoroughfare for Native Americans to cross the wide reaches of our nation. The name and all its history has disappeared in sixty years, except in the oral history of native tribes which has existed though 100’s of years of wars and occupations and will undoubtedly continue uninterrupted.

But let's change gears now and talk about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and "Time". Today's culture is wedded to **SPEED**, not SLEEPS. And some of us have fallen into the 5<sup>th</sup> Dimension (as though it had not always been there!), and the concept of Time as Zero. Time has always been Zero because it is indefinable. We as humanoids have always given it "names" so we could use those names to build relationships to "reality", (whatever that is!)

Now we say "Time is Zero and Distance is Zero". That sounds good but is not "exactly" true. Distance is not Zero—exactly—because it is definable. It is definable by TIME for example. It is so many "somethings" to reach from point A to point B, -- sleeps, days, hours, whatever.

But TIME is not definable, so we "make up" measurements for it.

Now here is the Meat of this pondering. We each can have our own concept of what is the length of the "time" that is appropriate to accomplish a task. And for the last 40 years the length of time for Life Saving Response between our Top Down Systems of Response and the length of LifeSaving Survival have grown longer and slower. But Mother Nature is not subject to our definitions. She is omnipotent.

Our present day catch is the Bottom Up Response Systems are all based on **Life Saving Time Lines**. Depending on the occasion, these vary BUT they are finite, measurable and restricted. People die if not rescued "in time" regardless of scale by which you are measuring Life. .

Let us immediately be clear. This fact is not meant to say one system is "better" than the other—Bottom Up over Top Down.

It is necessary to understand that the Top Down system and the Bottom Up have different objectives, **but have the same ultimate GOAL** of returning the nation to its former state of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness guaranteed by our Constitution. (Not to be factious, it did not include a warm bed and hot meals in time of catastrophe.)

HOWEVER

The Objective of the Top Down System is the protection and restoration of the Continuity of Government, at the Federal, State and Local levels and the protection of our political form of government.

The Objective of the Bottom Up System is the protection and saving of People, not the Government. PEOPLE are the focus of those who Care enough to risk life and limb to save and care for another human being. To provide safety and protection, shelter and sustenance for those *in extremis*.

These are two different objectives, and ARE NOT following the same “road” to the SAME GOAL, but they SHARE THE SAME GOAL and we must learn to RESPECT that fact.

TRUST AND RESPECT are the key to Connect the Top Down and Bottom Up Systems to form a WHOLE Response to the larger and larger Disasters we appear to be facing in these first decades of our new Century.

For 40 years we have been trying to “bridge” these differences in approach to civilian Disaster Response. No wonder we have been unsuccessful. We are using the wrong word. “Bridge” gives the subliminal thought that we have bridged two sides of an entity, one side to the other of a road, a canyon, whatever. But it is a bridge from like to like, from one side of a road to the same road on the other side.

The correct word for us is “CONNECT”. The Top Down System, while sharing the same GOAL with the Bottom Up System have two DIFFERENT reasons (roads) for existing. One is Continuity of Government and the preservation of its Capital Buildings and political systems of our Nation at all levels. The other is the Well-being of the People of the Nation. Both essential the Strength of our Beloved America.

It is time that we begin to Honor and Respect these differing approaches and support each other to form a Trusted and Respected symbiosis for the Joint Effectiveness in the rapidity, the SPEED that each system must bring to bear in the Chaos of Disaster.

Let us join together with Trust and Respect and CONNECT these two approaches for Communities survive in times of the Chaos of Disaster, both great and small.

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