



For Immediate Release

**PORTBLUE RELEASES ITS HICS IV COMPLIANT COMMANDAWARE™
HOSPITAL INCIDENT RESPONSE SYSTEM**

*New Version Helps Hospitals to Meet New, More Stringent Federal and Accreditation
Requirements for Incident Management*

LOS ANGELES (Jan. 9, 2007) – PortBlue Corporation (www.portblue.com), a leading provider of hosted knowledge-based systems, today announced the launch of its latest version of the CommandAware hospital incident response system, providing hospitals with the tools and information they need to develop and utilize a Hospital Incident Command System IV (HICS IV) compliant incident management system. Developed by leading experts in the industry, HICS IV assists hospitals in improving their emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery capabilities for unplanned and planned events. HICS IV is compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and will strengthen hospital disaster preparedness activities. The incorporation of HICS IV within weeks after its release underscores PortBlue’s devotion to customer service and the extremely rapid development cycles of the PortBlue technology platform.

The HICS IV and NIMS frameworks promote a common terminology and command structure among the many entities responsible for disaster management in a community. This commonality enables more effective communication and collaboration among groups such as hospitals, state and local governments, and first responders during disasters. In an effort to improve coordination between hospitals and other key national resources, the federal government, through the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD 5) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), has mandated that all US hospitals become NIMS compliant by August 31, 2008. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the leading national accreditation organization, has also mandated in its environment of care standards that hospitals meet this NIMS compliance requirement by implementing the HICS IV framework. Hospitals must meet JCAHO’s standards to qualify for federal reimbursement through the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

“HICS helps hospitals make the right decisions, coordinate effectively across multiple agencies, and most importantly, give patients the best care possible under stressful and austere conditions,” said Craig DeAtley, Director, Institute for Public Health, Emergency Readiness, Washington Hospital Center. “As co-chair of the consortium that developed HICS IV, I am

pleased that vendors like PortBlue are making compliance easier by building our best practices into their systems.”

CommandAware (www.commandaware.com) offers hospitals best practice guidance in developing a comprehensive incident management plan, built on a resource management platform that can be used in all operational conditions, from everyday hospital capacity management to mass casualty events. The CommandAware mission is threefold: to ensure that hospitals have a state of the art disaster management plan that complies with best practices and accreditation standards, to give disaster managers the information, work process tools, and resources they need to effectively respond to a full “all hazards” array of incidents, and to ensure that hospitals recover from incidents effectively, including financially. CommandAware tracks vital data to capture lessons learned from both emergency drills and actual incidents so that mistakes are not repeated and process improvements are made. The CommandAware resource management tool allows hospital administrators to identify and alleviate bottlenecks in patient flow, improving revenue generation and overall financial performance.

The updated HICS IV-compliance features make it easier for hospitals to improve and execute disaster-preparedness plans that meet the latest in standards and best practices – without hiring or retraining staff. CommandAware eases the compliance and education burden on hospital safety, security, emergency services and disaster management teams by building the most important HICS IV tenets right into the application. Users can apply best practices, even if they are not disaster-management experts or have not yet received HICS IV training. CommandAware simplifies the process of assigning different responsibilities to staff members under different hazard conditions. For example, with a few simple clicks, emergency management staff can establish different response teams and incident-specific tasks and procedures for a pandemic versus an earthquake. CommandAware also dynamically generates new HICS IV documents and forms directly, so users do not have to search for them.

“For the first time, American hospitals face a federal mandate to prepare for disasters with a system also endorsed by JCAHO. Hospital staff in the incident command and response structure don’t have the time or resources to become expert on the tougher, more comprehensive requirements,” said Paul Dimitruk, CEO of PortBlue. “CommandAware builds that expertise into a robust emergency management system that provides hospitals with the array of capabilities required for best practice disaster management, even under crisis conditions.”

About PortBlue

PortBlue Corporation (www.portblue.com) develops and hosts knowledge based systems for the healthcare sector. The practical know-how of recognized experts is rapidly transformed into web-based training, work process and decision-support tools in the form of PortBlue hosted applications. PortBlue’s systems mentor and guide users through key tasks and processes to optimal decisions and outcomes.