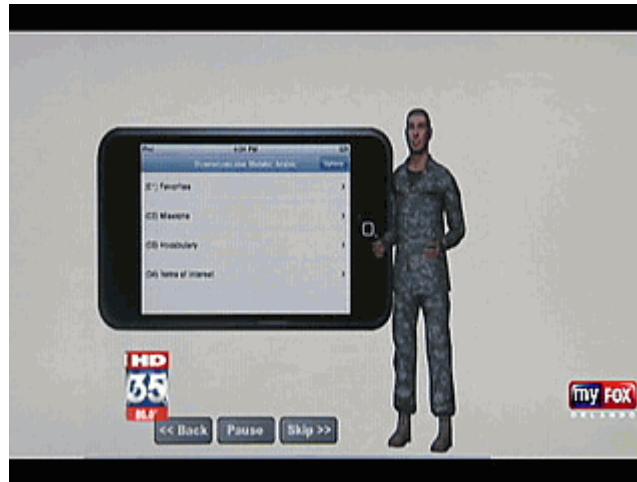




Local technology could help find soldier



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In Hailey, Idaho, on Wednesday, people prayed for the safe return of Private First Class Bowe Bergdahl in a candlelight vigil. The U.S. soldier was captured by the Taliban in Afghanistan. He was last seen in a propaganda video.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates is telling us the military is doing everything it can to bring Bergdahl home. Part of the search for the soldier might include the use of an iPod, iPhone, or iTouch.

An East Orlando company has developed an application designed to bridge the communication gap between the United States and the Middle East. The company is called Vcom3d, headquartered near the University of Central Florida, and the application, or app, is called "v-communicator mobile."

"When you're dealing with the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan, we move to non-kinetic warfare. So we're building relationships on the ground. So we do a lot of interaction with the locals, so you have to be able to communicate with them. Not just verbally, but with gestures too. Hand over the heart for example," gestures Vcom3D Manager, Ernie Bright.

V-communicator is loaded with vocabulary in Pashto, Dari, Kurdish and Arabic. It stores a lot of mission phrases too.

"We can have them do missions, like vehicle checkpoint, where they're asking for your ID, or telling you to get out of your car. We also have scenarios where they're winning the hearts and minds, where we say "Can I give your children these gifts? Would you join us for dinner? Would you like to play soccer?" Bright says.

Soldiers can customize content in the field within minutes.

In the search for Bowe Bergdahl, for example, troops can show locals a picture of the missing

man, and play a Vcom video that asks, "Do you recognize this person?" in five different Middle Eastern languages.

The military-use made perfect sense for Vcom after its highly successful 3D sign-language training application.

Now, Vcommunicator Mobile is about more than simply helping lives. "We're potentially saving lives here," submits Bright.

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