



Fact Sheet - Exercise ARDENT SENTRY - NORTHERN EDGE 07

Background: ARDENT SENTRY-NORTHERN EDGE 07 (AS-NE 07) is a Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed, U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) sponsored homeland defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) exercise that is taking place 30 April – 17 May 2007. The Homeland Security Council has designated ARDENT SENTRY-NORTHERN EDGE (and associated exercises VIGILANT GUARD, ALASKA SHIELD, INDIANA SENTRY, BLUE FLAG, POSITIVE RESPONSE, and the 2007 National Hurricane Preparedness Exercise) as a National Level Exercise for 2007. This exercise includes Canada Command as a full partner, and is the largest (number of personnel, length of exercise, number of venues, and cost) and most complex exercise undertaken in the exercise series.

Purpose: To provide local, state, federal, Department of Defense (DOD), and non-governmental organizations and agencies involved in homeland security emergency management the opportunity to participate in a full range of training scenarios that will better prepare participants to respond to a national crisis. The participating organizations will conduct a multi-layered, civilian-led response to a national crisis

Objectives:

- Demonstrate multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional unity of effort in support of a civilian-led response to a national crisis through collaboration with local, state, and federal responders.
- State leaders are provided an opportunity to orchestrate and lead response efforts within their state to include the use of state assets, emergency management assistance compacts, and support from federal resources, including active duty military forces.
- The National Guard is provided with an opportunity to exercise with USNORTHCOM, other federal agencies, and representatives from local, state, and non-governmental organizations involved in homeland security.
- USNORTHCOM is provided an opportunity to exercise support of civil authorities in the execution of DOD Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or High-yield Explosive (CBRNE) response plans and Joint Task Force operations.
- North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) will exercise against a variety of threats.
- Improve coordination with Canadian partners in cross-border events.
- Explore seams in homeland defense and DSCA processes with DOD, U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Strategic Command, and non-DOD government agencies.
- Build on previous exercises and real-world lessons learned.

Actions: AS-NE 07 is a full-scale exercise involving the strategic and operational coordination between key incident management centers at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels, as well as the deployment of tactical response forces. To provide training for the DOD, USNORTHCOM will deploy a Joint Task Force headquarters to each of the main exercise venues to command and control active duty military forces in support of the state and federal response. Specifically, DOD involvement includes:

- Joint Task Force Civil Support deploying to a catastrophic CBRNE Consequence Management event.
- Joint Task Force Alaska deploying within in the state of Alaska in response to a variety of scenarios.
- One U.S. Army North Operational Command Post deploying to prepare for a catastrophic hurricane event.
- U.S. Pacific Fleet and U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area vessels along with the Canadian Navy conducting operations in the Gulf of Alaska.

The primary exercise events take place in Indiana and New England, as well as Alaska and its adjacent waters. NORAD events (simulated and live-fly) take place over multiple locations in the United States and Canada. With the exception of Indiana, there will be minimal deployment of active duty forces with little to no direct impact on local communities. There will be no cross-border deployments.

National Planning Scenario One (detonation of a 10-kiloton improvised nuclear device) provides the scenario where local, state, and federal responders have the opportunity to work together to handle a national crisis. Several local and state organizations will provide the initial response to the event. The National Guard of Indiana, Illinois and Ohio will be part of the state response and more than 2,000 active duty military personnel will assist with the federal response. All exercise events for this scenario take place at Camp Atterbury and the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. This exercise presents an opportunity for federal active duty and State National Guard forces to work together. Other participants in the federal support of local and state efforts include the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V.

AS-NE 07 includes a hurricane scenario - impacting the New England area - that is the capstone event for hurricane season preparations. Participants include the six New England states, New York, FEMA Regions I and II, and numerous federal agencies. The event is intended to test the full range of domestic incident management procedures in response to a hurricane under the National Response Plan and 2007 Hurricane Concept of Operations Plan. This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA and DOD.

The state of Alaska, in coordination with Joint Task Force Alaska, is conducting multiple homeland defense, homeland security, and critical infrastructure protection events throughout the state. Major participants include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, and FEMA Region X along with state, local and private sector organizations. Maritime events take place in the waters adjacent to Alaska and include U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, and Canadian Navy forces.

Aerospace events are taking place across all the exercise venues, exercising the ability to mobilize resources for aerospace defense, aerospace control, maritime warning, drug interdiction, and coordination of air operations in a disaster area.

For additional information about the exercise visit: www.northcom.mil