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PRACTICE NOTE

Exercise Design: Omaha, Nebraska's Oral Quiz Exercise

PRACTICE

Omaha, Nebraska's Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) managers directed exercise evaluators to quiz exercise players on their roles and responsibilities during the June 20, 2006, TICP exercise. This oral quiz approach provided Omaha emergency communications personnel with the opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency with their TICP.

DESCRIPTION

On June 20, 2006, the Omaha Police Department held a TICP full-scale exercise (FSE) in conjunction with the National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's College World Series. The exercise planners designed the FSE both to test Omaha's TICP procedures and to provide Department of Homeland Security-appointed evaluators with an opportunity to officially validate the TICP.

The Omaha TICP exercise managers designed their exercise as an extended quiz rather than a traditional scenario-driven exercise. The exercise manager decided that evaluators could test players' abilities to demonstrate specific, targeted capabilities. For example, the Omaha evaluators tasked the emergency communications players to perform specific tasks from the TICP, such as opening a communications channel for both fire and law enforcement agencies or broadcasting alerts on multiple radio channels at the same time. This unscripted play allowed the evaluators to observe and validate more sections of Omaha's TICP than a scenario-driven exercise could test. At the same time, the lead exercise manager ensured that the exercise was consistent with HSEEP requirements and generated an after-action report and improvement plan.

The oral quiz method used during the exercise allowed evaluators to test the TICP for various different types of emergencies or natural disasters. Exercise managers who had been involved in other TICP exercises noted that Omaha's exercise validated a greater portion of its TICP than other exercises they had evaluated.

CITATION

Craig, Brian. Emergency Response Unit/Bomb Unit Administrative Assistant, Omaha Police Department. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 14 Mar 2007.

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