

Fact Sheet

April 16, 2012

HOMELAND SECURITY EXERCISE AND EVALUATION PROGRAM (HSEEP)

BACKGROUND

HSEEP provides a foundation for exercise planning, conduct and evaluation, and provides a methodology to ensure a consistent and collaborative approach. Based on several policy and programmatic changes, the National Exercise Division launched an effort to review and update the HSEEP documents. Key overarching changes include:

- Consolidation and reorganization of Volumes I-III and V to promote usability
- Alignment to the new Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8): National Preparedness, the National Preparedness Goal, and the National Preparedness System
- Emphasis on flexibility rather than compliance with HSEEP doctrine

The revisions to the HSEEP doctrine are designed to make it a more practical, effective tool for exercise planners and practitioners from across the whole community of preparedness stakeholders. Exercises will continue to focus on assessing performance against capability-based strategic and operational objectives.

KEY REVISIONS

Revision	Location	Justification
HSEEP Volumes I-III and V have been reorganized into a consolidated HSEEP document with chapters aligned to each phase of the exercise planning cycle.	HSEEP Overview Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 4 Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Organizing content into an overview and chapters for Exercise Program Management, Exercise Design and Development, Exercise Conduct, Evaluation, and Improvement Planning more closely follows the exercise planning cycle, makes finding specific information easier, and reduces redundancies. <i>Note: Material and references no longer included in the core HSEEP doctrine will remain available as part of the HSEEP Resource Center (formerly HSEEP Library).</i>
Terms and acronyms have been compiled in a Glossary of Terms and Acronym List.	Glossary of Terms and Acronym List	The centralized location for terms and acronyms improves usability and makes finding information easier and faster.
Sample exercise material and templates provided in HSEEP Volume IV have been updated. Documents will be aligned to each chapter and posted accordingly to the HSEEP Resource Center.	HSEEP Overview Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 4 Chapter 5 Chapter 6	Updated sample exercise material and templates reflect the changes in HSEEP doctrine and terminology and reduce redundancies.

Concepts and terminology reflect PPD-8, the National Preparedness Goal, and the National Preparedness System.	HSEEP Overview Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 4 Chapter 5 Chapter 6	PPD-8 introduced a number of important concepts, including core capabilities and engagement with whole community stakeholders. Where appropriate, HSEEP concepts and terms have been updated to reflect this guidance. This change will better support exercise integration with the other components of the National Preparedness System.
The use of a progressive approach to exercise program management replaces the building block approach.	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	The progressive planning approach focuses on improving core capabilities through a series of exercises anchored by a common set of exercise objectives rather than a linear progression of exercise types as implied by the building block approach.
The set of factors influencing the development of the Multi-Year Exercise Program planning priorities has been expanded.	Chapter 2	In addition to the National Preparedness Goal priorities and core capabilities, factors to establish exercise program objectives should also include specific threats and hazards, areas for improvement, external source requirements, and accreditation standards and regulations.
Exercises are no longer categorized as <i>discussion-based</i> and <i>operations-based</i> .	Chapter 2	Referring to specific exercise types rather than categories simplifies and clarifies guidance.
The type and number of planning conferences is driven by the complexity of the exercise.	Chapter 3	This change provides exercise planners with greater flexibility to tailor planning schedules and events to best meeting their organizations' priorities, timeframes, and resources. This will allow for shorter planning timelines and fewer meetings for less complex exercises, such as seminars or workshops.
Emphasis on exercise evaluation is included as an important discussion point at the Initial Planning Conference.	Chapter 3 Chapter 5	Identifying core capabilities and selecting appropriate Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEGs) early in the planning process ensures that the design, development, and execution of the exercise best supports an effective evaluation.
There is an increased emphasis on modeling and simulation planning.	Chapter 3	Modeling and simulation should be considered in exercise planning efforts because they can bring versatility, cost savings, and fidelity to exercises.
Completion of the After Action Report (AAR) is driven by the sponsoring organization and/or grant guidance or cooperative agreements, rather than a standard timeline.	Chapter 5	Open timelines provide organizations with more flexibility to develop the AAR/Improvement Plan at their own discretion. This change also avoids any inconsistency with timelines driven by grant guidance or cooperative agreements.
The development of Quick-Look Reports emphasizing high-priority, mission-critical issues within seven days of the exercise is encouraged.	Chapter 5	Quick-Look Reports enable organizations to rapidly articulate key strengths, areas for improvement, lessons learned, and capability gaps immediately following an exercise. These reports capture the critical issues that need immediate attention prior to the development of the full AAR.