



TOP OFFICIALS (TOPOFF)

An Overview



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National Exercise Program
TOPOFF Operations



BRIEFING OBJECTIVE

**Provide an overview of TOPOFF
National Counter Terrorism
Exercise Series**



TOPOFF: A BRIEF HISTORY



TOPOFF LEGISLATION

- **Public Law 106-553 provides funding for TOPOFF, and Senate Report 106-404 outlines the concept.**
- **Responsibility for the TOPOFF Domestic Counterterrorism National Exercise Series transferred from the Department of Justice to the Department of Homeland Security on March, 1 2003 with transfer of the Office for Domestic Preparedness.**
- **A national, biennial Domestic Counter Terrorism Exercise Series.**
- **Two year planning endeavor, involving experts at all levels of government and the private sector.**

The Top Official (TOPOFF) National Domestic Counterterrorism Exercise Series is the cornerstone of the Secretary of Homeland Security's National Exercise Program.



TOPOFF 2000 – MAY 2000

- **Congress directed conduct of a no notice exercise:** “...with the participation of all key personnel who would participate in the consequence management of such an actual terrorist event.”
- **TOPOFF 2000 was a single, full-scale exercise conducted over 10 days in three venues:**
 - Denver, CO: Bioterrorism attack (Plague).
 - Portsmouth, NH: Chemical attack (Sulfur Mustard).
 - National Capital Region: NCR 2000, concurrent but separate exercise (Radiological Dispersal Device).
- **Lessons from TOPOFF 2000 and September 11th steered T2 exercise goals and objectives.**





TOPOFF 2 (T2) GOALS

- Improve the nation's capacity to manage complex/extreme terrorism events.
- Create a broader operating framework of expert Federal, State, and local (FSL) integrated crisis/consequence incident management capability.
- Validate FSL authorities, strategies, plans, policies, procedures, protocols, and synchronized capabilities.
- Build a sustainable, systematic national exercise program to support national domestic preparedness objectives.

T2 focused on a limited number of critical federal, state, local and international crisis and consequence management objectives.

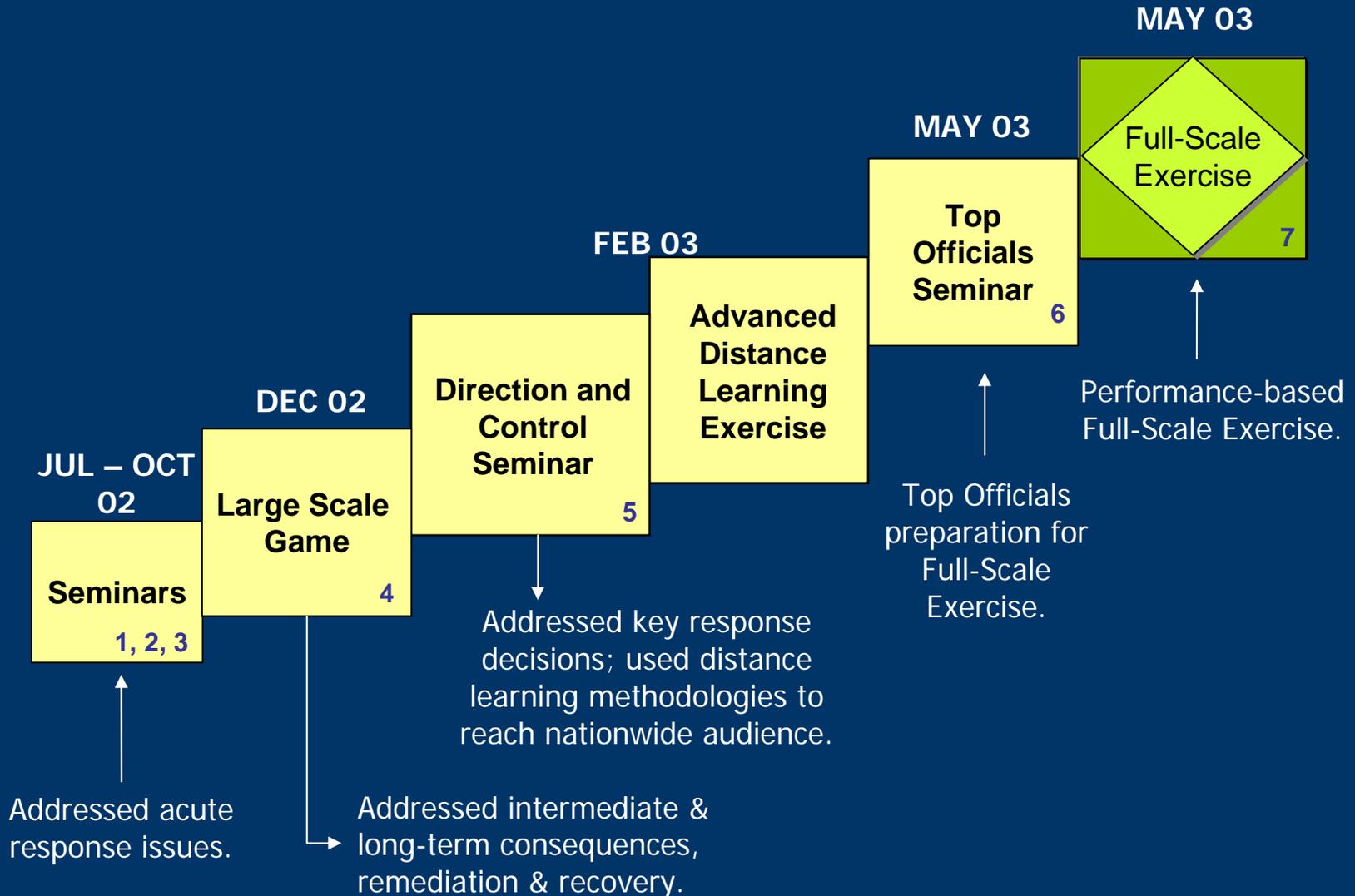


TOPOFF 2 EXERCISE DESIGN

- **A cycle of exercise activity that increases in complexity.**
 - Focus on identifying and resolving acute issues before the full-scale exercise (FSE), observe performance during and after the series.
 - “Banks” learning after each exercise activity.
- **All participants have access to the full exercise scenario and all exercise documentation.**
 - Only the Master Scenario Events List (MSEL) and injects that shape the free play is closely held.



T2 CYCLE OF ACTIVITY





EXERCISE SCENARIO

- **Scenario Considerations**

- Not a prediction of the future, or of a future opponent's actions.
- Not a statement of official policy.
- Contains artificialities necessary to create conditions required to attain exercise goals and objectives.
- Does not supplant existing intelligence estimates.



TOP OFFICIAL PARTICIPANTS

TOPOFF 2 Included Participation by:

- **Key Cabinet officials**
- **Senior federal officials at the national and regional level**
- **Senior state and local officials**
- **Canadian key and senior officials**



RDD SITE





TOPOFF 3



TOPOFF 3: AN EXERCISE IN PARTNERSHIP

- **The Partners:**
 - **Federal**
 - **New Jersey and Connecticut**
 - **Private Sector**
 - **International**
- **All participate in each T3 Development phase.**



NEW IN T3

- **Underlying Themes**
 - **Prevention**
 - **Private Sector**
 - **Recovery**
 - **Public Information**

- **Large Scale Game**



T3 PARTNER BENEFITS

- **Relationships**
- **Test existing plans, procedures, and policies**
- **Directly participate in the extensive T3 Building Block process**
- **Opportunity to better prepare for WMD event**
- **Learning experience; not “win or lose”**
 - No “Softballs”
- **Lessons Learned/Best Practices**
- **Intangibles**



T3 RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Memorandum of Agreement**
 - Early in T3 process
 - Between ODP and State Partners
 - Defines ODP/State/Territory/Local responsibilities
 - Determines Level of Effort
 - Some Flexibility
- **ODP will provide one Venue Director and Venue Support Team per State/Territory**



T3 RESPONSIBILITIES (Continued)

- **State provides Dedicated Exercise Development Team**
 - Identify Primary/Alternate planners and other POC's
 - Coordinate level of play
 - Confirm goals, issues, and objectives
 - Inform Top Officials
- **All partners participate in each phase of the Exercise process**
- **Full Scale Exercise play at the highest levels**



TOPOFF 3 FLEXIBILITY

- **Allows for unforeseen catastrophic events**
 - Natural Disasters
 - War
 - WMD or Terrorist events
- **Joint decision to continue**
- **Schedule de-confliction**



T3 PARTICIPANTS

- 27 Federal departments and agencies
- Connecticut: single venue, statewide impact
- New Jersey: statewide venue
- United Kingdom: Command Post Exercise (Home Office and Metro Police)
- Canada: Command Post Exercise
- Nongovernmental organizations
- Private sector participants: 156 organizations



T3 FULL SCALE EXERCISE

- **April 4 – 8, 2005**
- **Excitement and Apprehension**
- **Challenges**
- **Rewards**



VIRTUAL NEWS NETWORK (VNN)



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Washington, D.C. Weather
80°F/26°C Sunny

VNN.com / Headline News
May 12, 2004 | Updated 1:50 pm ET

Possible Terrorist Acts Disrupt Government Functions

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management has released a news bulletin nationwide authorizing administrative leave for non-essential and mission-critical emergency employees who work in the National Capital Region, and is directing them to stay home tomorrow, May 13, 2004.

Airport Security at Smaller Public Airfields

While major airports quickly beefed up security after the 9-11 terrorist attacks, smaller airports have also begun increasing their safeguards and paying more attention to activity on their fields.

MARKETS May 11: Market Close

DJIA	4625.36	▼	-26.58
NASDAQ	1812.11	▼	-4.66
S&P 500	1224.29	▼	-2.32

Possible Terrorist Attacks in New Jersey and Connecticut

Unconfirmed reports from Newark, NJ, and Hartford, CT indicate that massive incidents are currently occurring at buildings belonging to AgriVex, Inc. in both locations.

Nerve Gas Attack Thwarted in D.C.

Officials said Tuesday that the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) has thwarted a possible nerve gas attack on Washington, D.C., and that evidence has been gathered suggesting collaborators were in various stages of planning on several other plots to harm U.S. interests here and abroad.

VNN.com Feedback



T3 FULL SCALE EXERCISE VCC





T3 FULL SCALE EXERCISE





T3 FULL SCALE EXERCISE





T3 FULL SCALE EXERCISE





AFTER ACTION PROCESS





SUMMARY

- **T3 was the largest and most complex WMD terrorist exercise ever undertaken by the U.S. government.**
- **The exercise was successful in stressing domestic and international response systems and the agencies.**
- **It was the most extensive test to date of the new National Incident Management System (NIMS) and NRP.**
- **The exercise was successful in meeting its four objectives**
 - Incident management
 - Intelligence/investigation
 - Public information
 - Evaluation



TOPOFF'S ENDURING VALUE

- Hands-on training for thousands of participants
- Increased preparedness across agencies and jurisdictions
- A more unified and effective Homeland Security system

***“A Nation prepared
is a powerful deterrent.”***

**National Preparedness Goal (HSPD-8)
September 2004**



TOPOFF: THE ROAD AHEAD

- **Focus**
- **Push the envelope**
- **Lessons learned**
- **Flexible, open, and responsive**



T4 PARTICIPANTS

- **Guam, Arizona, and Oregon**
- **Observe and learn each phase of TOPOFF 3**
- **TOPOFF 2 representatives present to mentor during segments of T3 process**
 - Also Available via phone/email
- **T3 participants mentor T4 participants**



CONCLUSION

- **Realistic**
- **Complex Challenges: Planning and Execution**
- **Flexible, dynamic, & designed to benefit the widest audience**
- **Cornerstone of Department of Homeland Security's Exercise Program**



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- CT POC for TOPOFF 3

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TOPOFF