

## Case Study-Tabletop Exercise for National Security Affairs –August 2014

### Part I

There has been intelligence gathered in Europe and in the Middle East pointing to an imminent attack on the US from terrorist cells in the US and suspected terrorists traveling to the US. The information indicates bombs being placed and detonated at several locations across the US. Information appears to suggest four possible targets to be held in four different US locations.

The first location is Port NOLA, the Port of New Orleans. A number of cruise ships use this point as a base, including Carnival, Royal Caribbean, and Norwegian. In two weeks, Norwegian will launch a new ship, The Diamond of the Sea. This will reportedly be their most luxurious ship and the launch will feature many high-profile guests, such as Marine Corps General James Conway, former Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The second location is Ft. Lauderdale. In ten days the city will host the Ft. Lauderdale Air Show. The show features precision jets and a variety of air demonstrations by 10 different air groups. The beach viewing is free and usually several hundred thousand people view the show from the beach, from special VIP stands, from high rise condos and hotels and from the hundreds of boats in the ocean and the intercoastal waterway.

The third location is the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, home of the USC Trojans football team. This stadium has a capacity of 93,607 and is ranked as the 7<sup>th</sup> highest capacity stadium in the US. In two weeks the stadium will be the host for the national event for American Up! an organization devoted to mentoring and promoting upcoming young American leaders. Thousand will participate and keynote speakers include Hillary Rodham Clinton and Michelle Obama.

The fourth location is Dallas. The annual MetroPCS Dallas Marathon will take place in two weeks. The course begins on Main Street at the Market and ends on Griffin. There are about 30 stop stations and runners also cross the bridge. It is expected that almost a million spectators will cheer on the runners and 40 bands will playing along the course. Guests include celebrities Brad Pitt and George W. Bush.

You are a part of an anti-terrorist taskforce. The information obtained appears to be credible. All 4 events are scheduled to take place within the next two weeks. You are being asked to examine what response the task force should take. Specifically you are looking at prevention, intervention, mitigation, response and post-response.

You will be receiving additional information about the same case.. At this point, please discuss the following:

- A. Based on the above, what steps would you take regarding prevention and where?
- B. What agencies, departments and organizations should be contacted and why? What would their role be and what suggestions do you have for coordination?

## GRADING RUBRIC

You must:	% Of Total	In order to get full percentage:
A. Based on the above, what steps would you take regarding prevention and where?	15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Define and discuss prevention.</li> <li>2. Define and discuss at least 3 specific steps relate it to this case</li> <li>3. What is your analysis regarding the similarities and differences among the 4 potential events/locations?</li> </ol>
B.  What agencies, departments and organizations should be contacted and why? What would their role be and what suggestions do you have for coordination?	20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and discuss agencies, departments and organizations should be contacted and why</li> <li>2. Define and discuss the role each agency would take and how you think they should be coordinated and why.</li> </ol>

## Part II

Here is additional information about the same intelligence. Please answer this AFTER you have responded to Part I.

Assume you have now received information that 8 days ago two unidentified men were seen in the company of a suspected Al Qaeda operative, Safid al-Fadl in New York. Information on al-Fadl indicates he is an explosives expert who specializes in arming and training suicide bombers.

Five days ago three men suspected of having terrorist connections were arrested in Miami trying to rent a boat. However it was later determined that a two other men and a woman who was traveling with them but not on the watch list had successfully rented a power boat for two weeks. It appears they disconnected the boat's tracking device and it has not been seen since the day after it was rented.

New intelligence was recently identified regarding the Dallas Marathon. A manager at a convenience store station outside Austin called local law enforcement to report what he considered to be suspicious activity. During the last 3 nights, three men came in carrying 5 large gas cans each and filled them up. Last night when he had causally asked them why they needed

so much gas, the men appeared to be nervous and were spoke quietly in Arabic. The manager, a former army medic, was concerned by their conversation. Having served in Iraq, he had learned some basic Arabic and was able to pick out words such as “blast” and “death.” Local law enforcement reported it to the FBI but were unable to locate the SUV they drove or the men.

Based on the above intelligence, please respond to the following:

- C. What specific steps would you take regarding each of these locations? How would your plans regarding prevention and mitigation change?
- D. Would you inform local agencies and officials and of so, how?

**GRADING RUBRIC**

You must:	% Of Total	In order to get full percentage:
C. What specific steps would you take regarding each of these locations? How would your plans regarding prevention and mitigation change?	20	1. Identify and discuss the specific steps you would take based on the information you have just received for each location  2. Describe how your plans changed in light of this new information.
D. Would you inform local agencies and officials and of so, how?	10	1. What would factor into your decision to inform local authorities in each location and how would this occur?

**Part III**

**Please answer this ONLY AFTER you have completed Parts I and II.**

**New Flash-----**Incoming news is that 3 bombs have been detonated along the course of the MetroPCS Dallas Marathon. One bomb went off in the lobby of an apartment building. The bomb blew up the lobby and the sidewalk outside. It is estimated that 300 people were injured

and at least 80 are dead. A second bomb exploded in a car on a side street. It resulted in 5 deaths and about 45 injuries. A third bomb explosion was the work of a female suicide bomber who detonated her bomb at the halfway mark of the race killing 50 people, including the bomber, and injuring 60 individuals.

Now there is news that a small boat has exploded in the Port of New Orleans. A tip was called into the FBI indicating more boats would blow up. Based on this latest piece of news, please respond to the following:

- E. Describe and discuss how you would go about putting together a plan to respond to these events.
- F. What steps would be needed for recovery, including media management? Please be specific.

**G. GRADING RUBRIC**

You must:	% Of Total	In order to get full percentage:
E. Describe and discuss how you would go about putting together a plan to respond to this event.	20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fully describe and discuss what you would do to formulate a plan to respond to the events in Dallas and the news from New Orleans.</li> <li>2. Include the resources you think would be needed and what agencies should be involved.</li> </ol>
F. What steps would be needed for recovery, including media management? Please be specific.	15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Identify and discuss 3 specific steps needed for recovery.</li> <li>2. Recommend a media management strategy to facilitate communication about this event.</li> </ol>

Total needed to pass is 70 out of 100