

SIMULATIONS PAY FOR THEMSELVES AT THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

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ABSTRACT

This presentation describes how Emergency and Disaster Management Simulation (EDMSIM) software is currently improving the fidelity of training exercises while reducing costs for the National Guard Bureau (NGB). One NGB mission is to provide exercise evaluations for ten regional support organizations known as the Homeland Response Force (HRF). The HRF mission is to be prepared when, by proper authority and consent of a state Governor(s), is alerted and assembles within 6-12 hours. The HRF is charged with deploying and conducting the following missions: command and control; casualty assistance; search and extraction; decontamination; medical triage and stabilization; and Fatality Search and Recovery. The functional components of the HRF are manned and operated by the various State National Guard organizations that comprise the region. As one component to evaluate the HRF's readiness, the NGB uses EDMSIM as the exercise simulation driver to create the simulated conditions and provide the simulated effects causing the HRF to activate and operate.

1 INTRODUCTION

During a Homeland Response Force (HRF) External Evaluation (EXEVAL), ATS uses EDMSIM to typically replicate six CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERFPs), six Civil Support Teams (CSTs), a Consequence Management Supply Center (CoMSUPCEN), and a Joint Task Force. All the representative components of these units are loaded into EDMSIM which generates simulation "outputs," include real-time and realistic positions, personnel, logistics, situational problems, and significant actions reporting. These "outputs" are sent to the HRF to drive the exercise. Our ability to realistically replicate those "outputs" that exist in any real situation, without having to replicate real outputs, results in a cost savings equivalent to that of the pay and allowances, lodging, per diem, etc. for roughly one thousand six hundred (1,600) exercise personnel.

The value of the simulation is not limited to exercise event executions only. During the development of the exercise or the Joint Exercise Life Cycle (JELC), ATS employees assist the event planners in the proper employment of units, speak in "one voice" for all simulated units, act as CRE subject matter experts, and provide guidance to the HRF staff to ensure the simulation is employed in such a way to achieve maximum training realism and resulting training effectiveness. Our staff support the JELC from cradle to grave reduces the overall exercise cost and total planning time while providing the most realistic situational "stress," resulting in realistic situational training. ATS has provided this service to the National Guard Bureau (NGB) J37 since 2011, and has used simulations to save the millions of dollars.

2 PRACTICAL APPLICATION

During a recent training event for the Washington, D.C. National Guard, ATS was supporting a routine training event in preparation for the 2017 Presidential Inauguration. The exercise participants included various District of Columbia government agencies, the Washington, D.C. National Guard and National Guard organizations from five other surrounding states, the National Guard Bureau, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During the February event, inclement weather caused three live State National Guard exercise participant organizations to drop out, but EDMSIM was able to replicate their capability and simulate the organizations' participation without the rest of the training exercise participants being aware of their live absence.

EDMSIM's constructive simulation provides the National Guard the ability to simulate an entire event, offering participant organizations the option to make whichever units you would like to have live training. One of the most powerful components of the simulation is its ability to replicate any aspect of a National Guard training exercise, while maintaining the highest level of fidelity and realism. In other words, if it can happen, EDMSIM can replicate it in the simulation. EDMSIM will replicate any type of manmade or natural disaster, thus giving the National Guard the ability to train before a real disaster ever occurs.

EDMSIM also brings significant cost savings to traditional training exercises. For example, during a typical HRF EXEVAL ATS will often be asked to simulate one or multiple CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERFPs). Each of the CERFP elements consists of 197 personnel, with a cost of over \$150,000 per week per CERFP. With a staff of 12 contractors and part-time staff, ATS is able to use EDMSIM to simulate the capability of a CERFP to train the command staff, *without* the requirement to activate a live CERFP. This is a cost savings which the National Guard Bureau should achieve at four HRF EXEVAL events per year.

3 CONCLUSION

The use of constructive simulations in support of National Guard Bureau sponsored training events gives the Bureau a level of flexibility, scalability, and cost savings that are not possible using traditional training methods. This National Guard Bureau has created a "use case" that has become a model for success across other military and civilian organizations, which is has now grown to support every training event for the nations CBRNE Response Enterprise.