

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS NORTHEAST AIR DEFENSE SECTOR (ANG)
ROME, NEW YORK

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18 Jun 98

MEMORANDUM FOR CV, DO, LG, SC

FROM: NE AD Sector/CVX
4 Otis Street
Rome, NY 13441-4712

SUBJECT: FERTILE GAIN 98-2 After Action Report

1. The Northeast Air Defense Sector conducted a FERTILE GAIN exercise over three days from 9-11 Jun 98. Each day was split into an AM and PM exercise session. The training emphasis was on NABS operations, Battle Staff /Ops floor evacuation procedures and higher headquarters coordination. This exercise encompassed six distinct scenarios from peacetime to wartime and asset reconstitution. Each scenario included a prebrief and immediate debrief.

2. The six scenarios are as follows:

a. The first scenario was a lost pilot/aircraft. This was a peacetime, standard daily operations type scenario. It started as a request from FAA for help in locating a missing aircraft on a proposed flight route, then developed into a NORAD unknown air sovereignty intercept when the aircraft appeared over the ADIZ. The scenario continued into a Search and Rescue (SAR) as the aircraft ran out of fuel and crashed into the ocean. This scenario required the Ops floor and Battle Staff to coordinate with both civil and military headquarters to accomplish the desired learning objectives.

b. The second scenario was a hijacked USAIR B727. This was also a peacetime, standard daily operations scenario. The aircraft was hijacked by a bank robber enroute from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia to an undisclosed destination. FAA requested that NEADS monitor this aircraft with fighter escort. The hijacked aircraft flew out to approximately "Champ" where the hijacker jumped out of the aircraft and crippled the jet with a bomb blast. This scenario required the Ops floor/Battle Staff to coordinate extensively with FAA and military higher headquarters intercept and monitor the hijacked aircraft. Additionally, SAR assets were also required to accomplish the mission scenario.

c. The third scenario was an E-3/NABS decentralization exercise. The background for this exercise was that the E-3 was enroute to a specified point to meet a "Bear F" EPAT during heightened political tensions. This scenario was complicated by various scripted communication/data disruptions. Additionally, DMA inputs were added to the scenario to test various levels of DMA procedures. This scenario required the NABS and Battle Staff to

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coordinate through various communications methods to effectively execute the mission during changing decentralization command levels.

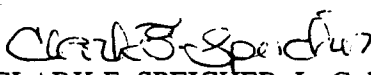
d The fourth scenario was a SAOC bomb threat/evacuation. Prior to the bomb threat, there was an unknown within the NEADS AOR. The incident forcing the evacuation was a fire in the battery room. The scenario did not require an actual expansion by the SEADS. CVX and staff provided hip pocket manning for the exercise scenario to enable us to evacuate as many personnel as possible. This scenario stressed the coordination and setup of an alternate command center for the Battle Staff/EBS/Ops floor operations.

e. The fifth scenario was to defend against a coordinated SLCM attack in the NEADS AOR. The Battlestaff and Ops floor were given approximate locations of the threats, friendly assets (Navy, fighters, tankers, and ADA units) and a situational briefing. The scenario required a coordinated effort between the Ops floor and Battle Staff to decide on positioning of assets (air/ground) to effectively protect the NEADS AOR. This scenario also included reporting procedures (bullet/bean counting) for the EBS to effectively plan for follow-on operations.

f. The last exercise was a wartime scenario. The NEADS Battle Staff was faced with defending the AOR against a possible two pronged attack by BEAR H bombers with the surviving assets from the AM scenario. The Sector's radars/UHF radios (HF/SATCOM only) were simulated inoperable. They had a single E-3 as the eyes for the Sector. The Battle Staff was challenged to interface with the NABS team aboard the E-3 and to fight a comprehensive air battle with reconstituted forces. NABS team exercised command and control of air assets at level three decentralization.

3. Overall, feedback from the exercise was very positive. Individuals liked the opportunity to debrief after each scenario and generally felt the simulation of the E-3 allowed effective NABS interface with the Battle Staff and fully exercised the various levels of E-3 decentralization. With the ORI in January 1999, each of our upcoming GAIN exercises will continue to emphasize training scenarios that will challenge the Battle Staff/EBS/Ops Floor in the execution of daily operations (peacetime) to a wartime environment.

4. We have changed our report format slightly and have attached CVX and Battle Staff/Ops floor observations, comments and recommendations. If you have any questions or comments concerning this report, contact Maj Nasypany at extension 6148.


CLARK F. SPEICHER, Lt Col, NYANG
Director, Exercise and Analysis

Attachment:
FG 98-2 Observations

cc: CC

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