



LOS ANGELES COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA

DRILLS, EXERCISES, TRAININGS

HISTORY: 2010 OPERATION GOLDEN PHOENIX (OGP-10)

Background

Extreme terrorist groups continue to threaten United States of America (U.S.) interests abroad and in the homeland. These groups' leaders have declared it a priority to obtain nuclear weapons and use it against the U.S. At the time of OGP-10, there were three documented attacks by terrorists at nuclear facilities worldwide.

The U.S. Federal Government's National Planning Scenario 1: Nuclear Detonation 10-kiloton Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) thread into a storyline that challenges the response capabilities of the emergency management community at large. As overwhelming as it may seem, the most critical point to made is that the majority of the population will survive this kind of an incident and participating agencies must be prepared to manage the consequences in a deliberate and focused manner, in order to protect lives and preserve properties.

It is the responsibility of government agencies at the local, state and federal levels to prepare to respond to all hazards in order to mitigate the effects on its citizens and to continue the operations of government. To this end, emergency management and response personnel and their level of government came together to respond to the U.S. Federal Government's National Planning Scenario 1 and tested new technologies that could aid in the rapid recovery of the impacted area.

In the spirit of preparation for survival, the Operation Golden Phoenix 2010 (OGP-10) Planning Team developed the OGP-10 exercise events under the direction and sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Directorate of Science and Technology (DHS S&T). The OGP-10 exercise was facilitated by the Naval Post Graduate School Center for Asymmetric Warfare.

The OGP-10 exercise is evidence of the growing public safety partnership between Federal, State, local jurisdictions and the private sector regarding the response to an

IND threat that our nation, communities and neighborhoods face. The OGP-10 Planning Team included the leadership of the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management, City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

NOTE: At the time of OGP-10, the exercise events and activities were not based on any actual intelligence or known threat to the Los Angeles County Operational Area or U.S.

OPERATION GOLDEN PHOENIX 2010

The Los Angeles County Operational Area and its partners including the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management, Department of Public Health Radiation Management and Emergency Response and City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department served as lead coordinators for Operation Golden Phoenix 2010 (OGP-10). The exercise program was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Directorate of Science and Technology (DHS S&T). OGP-10 was planned and facilitated by the Naval Post Graduate School Center for Asymmetric Warfare.

OGP-10 events and activities were designed to establish a learning environment for participants to exercise their plans and procedures in responding to an Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) situation. The following is a list of exercise events and activities that took place during OGP-10:

- Los Angeles County Operational Area Public Information Officers (PIO) Design Team Trainings, April 6 & 29, 2010
- Tabletop Exercise and Training (TTX), June 9, 2010
- Los Angeles County Executive Workshop, June 24, 2010
- Disaster Management Area Coordinator (DMAC) Seminar, July 13 & 19, 2010
- Communications Functional Exercise, July 26, 2010
- Area Command Advanced Tabletop Exercise, July 28, 2010
- Full-Functional Exercise, July 28, 2010

OGP-10 Los Angeles County Operational Area PIO Design Team Trainings (April 6 & 29, 2010)

The Operation Golden Phoenix 2010 (OGP-10) Exercise Design Team leaders selected Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Program Specialist/Public Information Officer (PIO) Ken Kondo to serve as the OGP-10 Exercise program Lead PIO that started off with the coordinating of hosting two informational training and planning sessions with the Los Angeles County Operational Area (LACOA) PIOs. The training and planning sessions were held at the Los Angeles

County Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) and The Rose Bowl in Pasadena, April 6 and 29, 2010.

More than 70 PIOs and their staff including city managers and other department representatives attended the two training and planning sessions. The attendees were provided information on OGP-10 scheduled exercise events and activities in addition received presentations on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Integrated Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosive (ICBRNE) system and how it could be utilized to assist first responders and emergency managers as well as their executives in the decision-making process of when to disseminate pre-scripted and incident messages in the event of a detonation of an IND in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

The following is a list of the OGP-10 PIO Design Team Members:

- OGP-10 Lead PIO for exercise planning, media relations and CEOC facility and logistics activations and events, Ken Kondo, L.A. County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management
- John Cvjetkovic, L.A. County Department of Public Social Services
- Jeffrey S. Day, L.A. County Department of Public Health Radiation Management
- Paul Hanley, L.A. County Sheriff's Department Emergency Operations Bureau
- Kathleen Kaufman, L.A. County Department of Public Health Radiation Management
- Khai Luu, L.A. County Sanitation District
- Steve Whitmore, Nicole Nishida, Rich Pena, L.A. County Sheriff's Department
- Mike Contreras, Sarah Kissell, Robert Perkins, L.A. County Department of Public Health
- Dr. Tony Beliz, Halla Alsabagh, Kathleen Piche, Vahe Abolian, L.A. County Department of Mental Health
- Al Reyes, L.A. County Department of Child Support Services
- Doug Quisenberry, Mary Sanders, 211 LA County
- Ellie Wolfe, Patricia Senette-Holt, L.A. County Department of Community and Senior Services
- Ron Lacayo, Bob Spencer, Gary Boze, Kerjon Lee, Mike Kaspar, L.A. County Department of Public Works
- Jeff Terry, Anne Maria Tafoya, L.A. County Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management
- Pablo Valadez, Fred Stowers, L.A. County Fire Department
- Kerri Webb, L.A. County Probation Department
- Mike Wilson, L.A. County Department of Health Services

- Ed Winter, L.A. County Coroner Department
- Daryl Isozaki, City of Burbank Fire Department
- Carmela Burke, Nancy Carrillo, American Red Cross
- Lisa Derderian, City of Pasadena Fire Department
- Chris Ipsen, Veronica Hendrix, City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department
- Francisco Oaxaca, Metrolink
- Jose Ubaldo, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Vince Rifino, City of Glendale Fire Department
- Keith Sterling, City of Burbank
- Sheri Stevenson, City of Pasadena Public Works

**Table Top Exercise and Training (TTX)
June 9, 2010**

Operation Golden Phoenix (OGP-10) hosted a Table Top Training Exercise (TTX) that focused on response and recovery issues following the detonation of 10-kiloton Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The TTX was held at the City of Los Angeles Fire Department Frank Hotchkins Training Center on June 9, 2010. The training event included facilitated discussions in regards to the types of resources, capabilities, subject matter expertise representing various levels of government, emergency public information in addition to the following:

- The effects of 10-kiloton IND detonated in the Los Angeles County Operational Area.
- A demonstration on the use of the Integrated Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive Device (ICBRNE) Test bed to aid in the decision-making process at all levels of operation.
- Breakout discussions focused on the response and recovery issues associated with 10-kiloton detonation in the Los Angeles County Operational Area.
- Five district operational perspectives.
- Three different timeframes.

More than 170 individuals representing 74 agencies and organizations participated in the OGP-10 TTX.

**Executive Workshop
June 24, 2010**

Operation Golden Phoenix (OGP-10) Executive Workshop brought together key members from the Los Angeles County Emergency Management Council (EMC) as the two-hour workshop focused on identifying issues at the executive decision-making level

that would affect response and recovery in the Operational Area following the detonation of 10-kiloton IND in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area.

The Executive Workshop was held at the Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center on June 24, 2010.

The Executive Workshop included training and facilitated discussions on the types of resources, capabilities and subject matter expertise that would be available at various level of government in addition to the following:

- The effects of 10-kiloton IND detonated in the Los Angeles County Operational Area.
- A demonstration on the use of the ICBRNE Test bed to aid in the decision-making process at all level of operation.
- Discussion focusing on the critical information requirements, decision points, policies and agreements currently in place.

Over 35 key department executives and representatives of the Los Angeles County EMC and subject matter experts participated in the Executive Workshop.

Disaster Management Area Coordinator (DMAC) Seminars July 13 & 19, 2010

The Los Angeles County Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMACs) seminars were conducted for the incorporated cities in the Los Angeles County Operational Area focusing on the response and recovery issues following the detonation of 10-kiloton IND in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area. The seminars provided training and discussion materials that enabled the DMACs to host focused Table Top and Training Exercise (TTX) events during the OGP-10 Functional Exercise. The seminars were held in La Canada Flintridge and Long Beach, July 13 and 19, 2010.

77 cities/organizations participated in the DMAC seminars.

2010 Operation Golden Phoenix Communications Exercise July 26, 2010

Operation Golden Phoenix (OGP-10) Communications Exercise was held two days prior to the Functional Exercise (FE) on July 26, 2010. The Communications Exercise focused on the real-time transfer of Integrated Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Device (ICBRNE) data to the participating Emergency Operations Centers in Burbank, City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County.

2010 Operation Golden Phoenix (OGP-10) Functional Exercise July 28, 2010

Operation Golden Phoenix (OGP-10) Functional Exercise (FE) was held at various locations throughout the Los Angeles County Operational Area on July 28, 2010.

The single-day event was based upon the response to the simulated detonation of 10-kiloton Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) that possibly could fit inside a brief case, in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The FE required participants to respond to a situation that occurred at the Universal City's Metro Station (unincorporated area community of Los Angeles County) located near the San Fernando Valley. Los Angeles County Operational Area first responders and emergency managers utilized the Integrated Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Device (ICBRNE) sensors for early warning and real time environmental monitoring. Also, part of the scenario was the activation of Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and Department Operations Centers (DOCs) to manage operational-level response with the establishment of a Joint Information Center (JIC) to manage emergency public information, media coverage and most importantly monitor rumor control. The OGP-10 FE took place throughout the Los Angeles and Ventura County Operational Areas.

During the OGP-10 FE time line, an advance Table Top Exercise (TTX) was established to simulate an Incident Command System (ICS) Area Command to address command, control and coordination of field response and resources that was held at the American Red Cross Pasadena office.

Also taking place at the same time was a live demonstration and press conference of the ICBRNE system as well as on display was various local jurisdictions Hazard and Materials (Haz-Mat) vehicles and staff wearing protective clothing. The OGP-10 live demonstration and press conference was held at the City of Burbank Fire Department Training Center and Emergency Operations Center.

To educate the media and observers about OGP-10, the Los Angeles County Operational Area PIOs Design Training Team developed an information guide. Below is a link to the information guide.

2010 OPERATION GOLDEN PHOENIX INFORMATION GUIDE



OGP-10 was a big success exercise planning and operations wise, but it also attracted international and domestic media coverage too. Listed below is a sample of the print media stories that were published and posted including USA Today cover story, New York News Day column and Emergency Management Magazine featured story.

2010 OPERATION GOLDEN PHOENIX MEDIA STORIES

Print

<u>Month/Date/Year</u>	<u>Media Outlet, Title of News Story/Written By</u>
1/3/10	Covertress blogspot.com, "Golden Phoenix Preps L.A. for Nuclear Attack"
4/12/10	L.A. Daily News, "L.A. Preparing for nuclear attack" by Staff Writer Troy Anderson
4/12/10	Stormfront.org, "L.A. preparing for nuclear attack"
6/26/10	Ventura County Star and vcstar.com, "Navy center to test area's response to nuclear bomb" by Scott Hadly
7/28/10	City News Service, "Nuclear Drill"
7/28/10	Daily Breeze, "Agencies drill for nuclear terrorist attack" from wire service reports
7/28/10	Contra Costa Times, "Agencies drill for nuclear terrorist attack" from wire service reports
7/28/10	Long Beach Press-Telegram, "Agencies drill for nuclear terrorist attack" from wire service reports
7/28/10	IStockAnalyst.com, "Nuclear drill held in Los Angeles"
7/29/10	People's Daily Online, "Nuclear drill held in Los Angeles" (Languages: Chinese and English)
7/29/10	globalsecuritynewswire.org, "Nuclear Strike Exercise Conducted in Los Angeles"
7/29/10	Beijing, China English.sina.com, "Nuclear drill held in Los Angeles" (Languages: Chinese and English)
7/29/10	topix.com, Los Angeles Times, Burbank News Press and Glendale News Press, Cities work on communications" by Gretchen Meier and Tim Berger

- 7/30/10 Emergency Management Magazine, Disaster Preparedness & Recovery: "LA Nuclear Drill Tests Countywide HAZMAT System" by Elaine Pittman
- 8/3/10 Xinhua News Agency English.news.com, "Nuclear drill held in Los Angeles" (Language: Chinese and English)
- 8/3/10 TMC.net, "Nuclear drill held in Los Angeles," Xinhua via Comtex
- 8/4/10 urlfanx.com, "Nuclear drill held in Los Angeles"
- 8/4/10 Safe Environment Engineering website at safeenv.net, "Operation Golden Phoenix 2010"
- 11/10 New York News Day Opinion section and New Day.com, "Nations needs facts on 'dirty nukes' – In perilous world, citizens should know what's being done and what to do in case of attack"
- 11/17/10 Emergency Management Magazine, Training & Education: "Los Angeles County Prepares for a Nuclear Explosion" by Elaine Pittman
- 12/20/10 USA Today and usatoday.com, "L.A. dry run shows urban nuke attack 'a survivable event'" by Steven Sternberg

PHOTO GALLERY

2010 OPERATION GOLDEN PHOENIX LOS ANGELES COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS NUCLEAR EXPLOSION and RADIATION TRAININGS HELD AT L.A. COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER AND THE ROSE BOWL PHOTOGRAPHS (APRIL 6 & 29, 2010)



2010 OPERATION GOLDEN PHOENIX PLANNING SESSION PHOTOGRAPHS



**2010 OPERATION GOLDEN PHOENIX PLANNING SESSION
AT L.A. COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER PHOTOGRAPHS**



**2010 OPERATION GOLDEN PHOENIX TABLETOP EXERCISE
AND TRAINING at LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT
FRANK HOTCHKINS MEMORIAL TRAINING CENTER (JUNE 9, 2010)**





**2010 OPERATION GOLDEN PHOENIX
FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE PHOTOGRAPHS**

