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MIGHTY DERRINGER SEARCH PLANNING

The CONUS search planning phase of Mighty Derringer consisted of five stages: (1) Scenario familiarization; (2) Integration of the search into the scenario; (3) FBI Liaison; (4) Survey of local area; (5) Local Liaison. This was all done with the overall exercise search objectives in mind—namely command and control and close liaison with the FBI. Since some key planners are quite familiar with the search problem the second category was essentially written into the scenario and any further refinement consisted of slight variations in the time line and structuring the search locations to fit the scenario.

Initial FBI liaison was made at the headquarters level followed by an introduction to the local FBI at site city.

Following the initial FBI contact in site city, a survey was made of the local area to determine likely locations for search and an actual source location that would meet the overall scenario. While planning the search phase and picking locations one must keep in mind the logic of the scenario and what areas would most likely fit this logic in the terrorists minds. The locations were picked based upon device knowledge (assuming the terrorists knew how to achieve maximum effect) and then tailored to the unfolding scenario. Close liaison was needed with the FBI CONUS scenario writers to assure realism.

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Once the search locations were picked a meeting was set up with local officials, i.e., Public Safety, Fire and Law Enforcement, and the overall plan described.

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Following this meeting, the local FBI representative made initial contacts by phone with each hand-held search location and a follow-up meeting was planned where we met with these contacts in company with the FBI. At each site we described in general what we intended to do and what was required of the local contact. Without exception, cooperation was excellent. No building plans were acquired before hand; this was left as free play.

Local law enforcement was also asked for players to be navigators for mobile search. In addition, escorts were requested for hand-held searchers who might be used in verifying the hit in the source location. This was also a real world requirement.

In addition to identifying the search locations, we needed to locate a TOC separated from the CP by some distance since the CP was located approximately 40 miles from the search scene. We located a site about midway between the CP and site city and were able to obtain permission to use it from the local police. Two telephone lines were prestaged at this location.

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Once these arrangements were made, it was just a matter of checking with the local contacts the week previous to the exercise to ensure that everything was still on schedule and they were prepared to receive us.

Once the exercise started the players were given the contacts of the search locations as part of the search priority inject and free play ensued.

The TOC location was given as an advanced party selection based upon interaction with the FBI.

From this point on the search play proceeded rather smoothly and the players responded well.

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