



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DEFENCE NUCLEAR SAFETY REGULATOR

PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR DOCKYARDS

[REDACTED]

DNSR/ 20/3/2 ()

BRITREP

Headquarters British Forces
British Indian Ocean Territory
Diego Garcia
BFPO 485

Birch 3c, #3333

Abbey Wood
Bristol, BS34 8JH

Direct line: [redacted]

Fax [redacted]

e-mail: [redacted]

Date 21 August 2006

EXERCISE INDIAN FOOTPRINT 2006

References:

- A. JSP 471 Defence Nuclear Accident Response
- B. DNSR 20/3/2(83) dated 17 May 06
- C. SONART 423/28
- D. Diego Garcia Special Safety Scheme Issue 06 March 2005
- E. Collocated Health Physics Report, Diego Garcia 13 June – 28 June 06

1. As an operating nuclear submarine Z berth, in line with UK Ministry of Defence policy, Reference A, there is a requirement for a demonstration of the arrangements for a Nuclear Accident Response Organisation at the Z berth in Diego Garcia (DG). Normally, for a Z berth this would be a three yearly Grade C exercise requiring full play of the NARO. However noting the geographical location of Diego Garcia and the associated cost in supporting a grade C exercise at such a location, DNSR agreed to limit this demonstration to a table top exercise and a guided walk through of the facilities.

2. The exercise was conducted in DG on Wednesday 12th July 2006 with the guided walkthrough of the Automatic Counter Measures Zone (ACMZ) and Exclusion Zone Reception Centre (EZRC) on Tuesday the 11th July. The exercise scope and scenario were produced by Staff Officer Nuclear Accident Response and Training (SONART). This and the agreed objectives were stated at Reference C and it is against those objectives that the regulatory assessment was made, the details of which are at Annex A. The SONART representatives also contributed to the assessment of the exercise.

3. In assessing the exercise due cognisance has been taken of the fact that this was a table top exercise and as such there is a limit to the level of demonstration that could be provided. It is not easy to make a judgement on the effect of decisions made by those participating, focus of the assessment was therefore on the rationale for the decisions made in response to the distaff injects, rather than the outcomes. [redacted].

4. [redacted]

5. [redacted] As current policy stands there is a requirement that the NARO on DG is on standby whenever a nuclear powered warship is alongside. In addition it requires Health Physics support to be provided for the duration of the visits. Currently there is no resident health physics support and hence it is provided via a co-located health physics team. [redacted]

6. Should clarification be required on any of the issues please do not hesitate to contact me.

[redacted]

DNSR Principal Inspector (Dockyards)

Copy: (* e-mail only)

DNSR*

DNSR NPR*

DNSR IP*

FMEO(SM)*

NBRSD Devonport*

DS&C ADNAR*

SONART*

DSTL*

PJHQ-J5 Plans*

CNS-Ops AD*

CBRN Pol-NNPP*

File

Indian Footprint 2006 – DNSR Assessment

Exercise Planning and Management.

1. DNSR advised the SONART team of the required objectives of the exercise which were to demonstrate:
 - a. Knowledge of the operators plan including individual's awareness of roles and responsibilities.
 - b. Set up and access control of ACMZ and PPCMZ.
 - c. Provision of transport for evacuees.
 - d. Availability of suitable equipment in EZRC, EMHQ and MLRs.
 - e. Location and Layout of ASP.
 - f. Availability of suitable trained monitoring personnel and equipment.
 - g. Communications systems.
 - h. Sheltering facilities.
 - i. Distribution of PITs.
 - j. Casualty handling including facility for dealing with contaminated casualties.
2. [redacted], there were limitations within a table top exercise to provide effective demonstrations. [redacted] Nevertheless the exercise was assessed with this in mind and the assessment focussed on intent rather than actions. A guided walkthrough of the ACMZ and the EZRC was provided to address the relevant objectives.
3. There was no specific co-located health physics support available for the exercise. Health Physics support is a key part of the NARO function. [redacted]. Whilst there was no specific health physics support available for the exercise, [redacted] of the SONART team provided this function during the exercise, this allowed realistic assessment of the ICs decision making process.
4. The level of demonstration within a table top exercise is limited. [redacted]

Rehearsal of operational and tactical aspects of the operators plan.

5. The table top exercise commenced shortly after 9.00am. [redacted]
6. [redacted]
7. [redacted]
8. [redacted]
9. [redacted]
10. [redacted]
11. [redacted]

Knowledge of Operators Plan

12. [redacted]
13. [redacted]

Setup and Access Control of ACMZ and PPCMZ.

14. The Access controls were demonstrated during a guided walkthrough of the facility and a verbal brief by a number of key staff in particular a very comprehensive brief by ROPO2. [redacted]
15. [redacted]
16. The control of the PPCMZ is relatively simple on DG when compared to other sites due to the remoteness and layout of the island. As there is only one road through the PPCMZ and a relatively limited population. There is also a clear option to evacuate to shelter at either end of the island depending on wind conditions should the need arise. [redacted]

Provision of transport for evacuees

17. [redacted]

Equipment in EZRC, EMHQ and MLR

18. The NARO equipment on DG was assessed by the Co-located Health Physics team, reported at Reference E, and by [redacted] of the SONART team managing the exercise. [redacted]
19. SPECSAFE details the location of the EMHQ as the "North end of BEQ5" [redacted].
20. The EZRC is currently located at what was the Island gymnasium [redacted].

Layout and Location of Area Safety Panel (ASP)

21. The ASP is reasonably located in the BRITREP and XO offices within the administration block. [redacted]

Availability of suitably trained monitoring personnel and equipment.

22. [redacted]
23. The Monitoring Land Rovers (MLRs) did not have a map with Grid references for delineating any plume. [redacted]

Availability of Suitably maintained monitoring equipment and maintenance processes.

24. See para 19 above.

Communication Systems

25. [redacted]

Alternative sheltering facilities

26. The geographical layout on DG allows for a number of options for sheltering, all listed in the SPECSAFE, which can be utilised to suit whatever the prevailing wind conditions are. [redacted]

Distribution of PITS

27. The distribution of PITS is to be carried out at CAT1 in accordance with the SPECSAFE and will be made from defined pre-distribution centres. [redacted] the effectiveness could not be demonstrated during a TTX. It was however noted that the supporting PITS leaflet was written in English. [redacted]

Dealing with casualties including availability of facilities for any contaminated personnel.

28. The medical facilities for dealing with casualties of a Nuclear Accident are provided by [redacted] medical Staff. Initial triage is to be conducted at the ACMZ control point with preliminary decontamination before transfer to either the EZRC or the Medical centre. [redacted]

29. [redacted]

SUMMARY

30. Accepting the limitations of a Table Top Exercise [redacted].

31. [redacted]

Annex B to
DNSR 20/3/2
Dated 21st August
2006

DNSR FINDINGS FROM INDIAN FOOTPRINT 2006

FINDING	ISSUE	REF	ACTION REQUIRED
1	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
2	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
3	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
4	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
5	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
6	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
7	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
8	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]