

Operation Eagle: DVI Aspects of a Disaster Exercise at Ben Gurion Airport

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The true purpose of an exercise should be to test a system and find the weak points which need further treatment. Many airport exercises, however, are basically a theatrical rerun of well practiced routines:

- * Putting out an aircraft fire (with known fuel in known quantity and an extinguishing agent with a tested formula)
- * Securing the crash site (usually an airport runway which is already a "closed" zone)
- * Evacuation of the wounded (by ambulance services which preform this function on a daily basis)

Although there are factors such as inter-agency co-ordination, communications, and sheer quantity which do need review and practice, the basic acts pose few problems.

In Israel it was decided that although these operations did have to be drilled, our exercise at Ben Gurion Airport would stress areas which had previously not been emphasized --- debriefing the uninjured and identifying the dead. The exercise was called Operation Eagle.