CRJ 547: Forensic and Medicolegal Death Investigation Tabletop Exercise Script Example

FTAA Tabletop Exercise

Background:

Below you will see the actual timeline script designed by Dr. Eloy Nuñez for a tabletop exercise that was conducted one month prior to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) event in Miami, Florida. The exercise was attended by over 60 command officers from the Miami-Dade Police Department, including chiefs, majors, and captains and lieutenants who served as field commanders in various roles. Also attending were lawyers from the Police Legal Bureau and public information officers from the Media Bureau.

The exercise was conducted over a six hour "real time" period that simulated a week's worth of event incidents that were expected to occur. In order to compress 159 hours (Saturday morning through Friday afternoon) into six hours, a considerable amount of "fast forwarding" was done to move the exercise along. That is one of the built-in advantages of tabletop exercises... the ability to compress simulated time into real time.

Another advantage of tabletop exercises is that they provide previews of possible or likely scenarios that may occur in the real life event. This allows the field commanders a preview of the events so that when they happen in real life, they're not the first time that they see them. The commanders are afforded the advantage of being able to envision and anticipate their responses. This is a huge mental advantage.

A post incident review of the below control sheet showed how realistic these scenarios turned out to be. Many of the incidents reported in real life during the week-long FTAA were anticipated in this tabletop exercise with uncanny precision. For example, in control number 069, the incident is described in the control sheet as: "Correction Department is reporting 200 protestors outside DCJ. The protestors are demanding the release of the prisoners" around 12 noon on the Friday of the event. It turned out that there were 200 protestors demanding the release of prisoners outside of DCJ (Dade County Jail) around the same day and time in the actual event a month later. For the commanders that participated in the tabletop exercise, the protest at the jail on the last day of the event came as no surprise. They had an entire month to think of how they would deal with that situation.

Note to Students:

Below you will see the actual timeline sheet used by the tabletop controllers to pace the "injects" of the various scenarios in the exercise. The control sheet is followed by a couple of examples of the numbered injects. For the purpose of this assignment, you are not expected to be as lengthy or as detailed as the real one. Please keep your tabletop script to a maximum of ten incidents, and the descriptions short and to the point.

FTAA Scenario Control Sheet

Control #	Incident Description "Injects"	Received by:	Received from:	Simulated Day/Time	Real Time
001	Pre-Mobilization briefing and Task Force staging assignments	Task Forces	IC / SSIB	Saturday, November 15 0700 hours	
002	200 squatters in Bicentennial Park	MDPD CP	Miami JOC	0715	
003	Banner erected on I395 Biscayne Blvd.	AAA TOC	SSIB	0915	
004	Info received that sections of fence surrounding Intercontinental Hotel have been breached.	MDPD CP	Miami JOC	0915	
005	Coast Guard reports that the Greenpeace ship has been sighted 10 due east of Key Biscayne – Southbound.	MDPD CP	Miami JOC	0920	
006	Request from CIB for assistance from the Task Force Command to raid a puppet warehouse in the Design District 2300 NW 5 Avenue	AAA TOC	MDPD CP	1000	
007	Flash mob at Aventura Mall	MDPD CP	MDPD SSIB	1300	
008	FYI – banner hanging on 10th floor at the Intercontinental Hotel	MDPD CP	Miami JOC	2200	
009	Miami Beach PD advises of 30 protestors at Starbucks	MDPD CP	Miami Beach PD	2230	
010	Debriefing session and SSIB briefing Task Force staging assignments	Task Forces	IC / SSIB	Sunday, November 16 0700	
011	Boat procession traveling eastbound on Miami River toward the Hyatt (10 boats)	MDPD CP	US Customs	1000	
012	Leaflet drop at Pro Player Stadium during Dolphin game	MDPD CP	PPS CP	1300	
013	Banner hung from Metromover rail @ 6 Street NE 2 Avenue	AAA TOC	SSIB	1330	

Control #	Incident Description "Injects"	Received by:	Received from:	Simulated Day/Time	Real Time
014	50 PETA protestors @ Seaquarium	AAA TOC	MDPD CP	1400	
015	Small explosion on a cruise ship berthed at Port of Miami. Possible injuries and HAZMAT spill	MDPD CP	MDPD 911	1410	
016	Farmworkers' caravan northbound from Homestead on US 1 toward Downtown area. Possible destination – Port of Miami			1500	
017	Concerts at Bayfront Park and Bicentennial Park	AAA TC	MDPD SSIB	2300	
018	Attempted breach at Turkey Point power plant by 3 Zodiac boats.	MDPD CP	MDPD 911	Monday 0500	
019	Debriefing Session and SSIB Briefing	Task Forces	IC / SSIB	Monday, November 17 0700	
020	Report of a 3-17 (Crash with injuries) involving a dump truck and passenger van on I95 Southbound and 8 Street. Gravel is dumped on road, causing major tie up at 8 Street exit.	MDPD CP	MDPD 911	0800	
021	200 squatters at Bayfront Park (leftover from previous		Miami JOC	0810	
022	Report of burglary at Howard Johnson's on Biscayne Blvd. 11 Street	AAA TOC	Task Force 1	0815	
023	Teach-in at Howard Johnson's Hotel conference room by Alternatives to Global Corporate Globalization. Arrival of approximately 200 attendees is expected.	AAA TOC	MDPD SSIB	1000	
024	Polecam reports a street theater at 2 nd Avenue NE 8 th		AAA TOC	1600	
025			MDPD SSIB	1900	

Control #	Incident Description "Injects"	Received by:	Received from:	Simulated Day/Time	Real Time
026	Motorman down on I95	AAA TOC	Motors Lt.	1930	
027	Farm worker's vehicle procession arrives at Margaret Pace Park	AAA TOC	SSIB	2300	
028	Debriefing Session and SSIB Briefing	Task Forces	IC / SSIB	Tuesday, November 18 0700	
029	Six nude protestors have climbed the New Theater of the Performing Arts, located at NE 13 Street & Biscayne Boulevard and have strung banners from the building. It appears that some of them are continuing to climb onto a construction crane at the site.	AAA TOC	SSIB	Tuesday 0900	
030	Approximately 100 protestors on bicycles are traveling southbound on Biscayne Boulevard at NE 14 Street.	AAA TOC	Task Force	1000	
031	Forty foot container truck has stopped on top of the bridge into the Port of Miami. Approximately 20 protestors have exited the container and have commenced hanging anti-FTAA banners from the side of the bridge. Incoming traffic has stopped completely. Outgoing traffic has slowed, but not stopped.	POB and Task Force 2	AAA TOC	1030	
032	A group of 40 protestors have obstructed the entrance of the Port of Miami @ Port Blvd. & Biscayne Blvd. Sleeping dragons are being used.	AAA TOC	Motors Lt.	1045	
033	An anti-FTAA banner has been strung from the Metromover rail adjacent to the Miami Herald building.	AAA TOC	SSIB	1100	
034	Steelworkers' Forum on Corporate Responsibility @ Marriott, 1600 Bayshore Drive.	AAA TOC	SSIB	1400	

Control #	Incident Description "Injects"	Received by:	Received from:	Simulated Day/Time	Real Time
035	City reports 20 – 30 "Friends of the Earth" protestors gathering outside the Gusman Theater, 174 E. Flagler St. during the ORIT Parliamentarian Forum. Protestors have strung banners on the nearby Metromover rail, thus forcing the system to be shut down. City MFF is enroute to handle. No assistance from MDPD is requested.	MDPD CP	Miami JOC	1530	
036	Interfaith vigil at Methodist Church @ 400 Biscayne		AAA TOC	1800	
037			Miami JOC	2100	
038	Approximately 3,000 protestors have been observed setting up an encampment at Margaret Pace Park next to the Marriott Biscayne Hotel. The protestors are part a march from Broward County that was organized by the group "Root Cause".	MDPD CP and AAA TOC	MDPD SSIB	2130	
039	Approximately 3,000 protestors from Root Cause are seen walking southbound on Biscayne Boulevard toward Bicentennial Park carrying backpacks.	MDPD CP and AAA TOC	MDPD SSIB	2300	
040	Approximately 60 non-violent protestors gather outside of AAA fence on the Westside.	Task Force 6	AAA TOC	Wednesday 0530	
041	Debriefing Session and SSIB Briefing – Secretary Colin Powell is planning a visit to the Vizcaya venue at 1900.	Task Forces	IC / SSIB	Wednesday, November 19 0700	
042	Report of a 20 bus caravan traveling from Immokalee toward Miami-Dade County. (2,000 people estimated)	MDPD CP	MDPD SSIB	0800	

Control #	Incident Description "Injects"	Received by:	Received from:	Simulated Day/Time	Real Time
043	Suspected Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on South Miami Avenue bridge.	AAA TOC	JOC	0810	
044	MD School Board, 1450 NE 2 Avenue.		MDPD SSIB	1200	
045	City of Miami reports 1,000 AFL-CIO protestors at		JOC	1500	
042 A	The 20 buses from Immokalee have exited I95 at		Motorcycle Unit	1520	
046	3,000 AFL-CIO and other labor groups mass to move		JOC	1700	
047	Large group of protestors are seen mustering at the Marriott, 1600 Bayshore Drive and at the adjacent encampment at Margaret Pace Park.		MDPD SSIB	1710	
048	Colin Powell's plane arrives at MIA	TOC	SRT/DPU	1800	
049	Vizcaya Event commences. Colin Powell arrives.	TOC	Vizcaya Venue	1900	
050	Arrests at Vizcaya	TOC	CAB SERT	1930	
051	Amphitheater at Bayfront Park holds rally.		SSIB	1935	
052	Reports of numerous acts of vandalism to Starbucks stores throughout Dade County. Information only.		MDPD SSIB	1945	
053	Miami Beach Mobile Field Force withdraws from		JOC	2130	

Control #	Scenario Name	Received by:	Received from:	Simulated Day/Time	Real Time
051 A	Crowd disperses from Amphitheater	TOC	SSIB	2230	
051 B			SSIB	2245	
054	Approximately 50 protestors are seen walking into building located at 950 NE 2 Avenue		SSIB	2300	
049 A	Vizcaya event ends uneventfully and Colin Powell returns to MIA. Black Bloc group observed walking out of the Wallflower		Vizcaya Venue	2345	
055			Golf MFF	0345	
056	Debriefing Session and SSIB Briefing	Task Forces	IC / SSIB	Thursday, November 20 0700	
057	Abandoned knapsacks at Amphitheater.	TOC	JOC	0845	
058	City of Miami reports that approximately 100 American Indian Movement protestors at the Miami "Circle" on the Southside of the Miami River. Information only. No assistance requested.	TOC	JOC	0900	
059	Group of approximately 600 demonstrators organized by the group "Brothers of the Same Mind" have arrived at the old Miami Arena and are preparing to move out in unison toward the Amphitheater.	TOC	SSIB	1145	
060	Coalition for Global Justice March from Bayfront Park Amphitheater.	TOC	SSIB	1200	
061	Reports of gridlock. Frustrated people are getting out of their cars.	TOC	Motorcycle Unit	1215	
060 A	SSIB reports that the first demonstrators, who are leading the march have just left Bayfront Park Amphitheater. The vanguard (front end) of the group is now headed northbound along Biscayne Boulevard.		SSIB	1300	

Control #	Scenario Name	Received by:	Received from:	Simulated Day/Time	Real Time
060 B	SSIB report seeing several persons running westbound on NE 3 rd Street.	TOC	SSIB	1310	
060 C			SSIB	1320	
060 D	SSIB reports that a tripod has been erected just north of the intersection of NE 1 st Avenue and 3 rd Street along the parade route.		SSIB	1325	
062	Information is received from a passerby on a cellphone		911	1330	
060 E	SSIB reports that a small portion of the crowd has		SSIB	1330	
060 F	CAB SERT reports that 50 demonstrators have broken		CAB SERT	1400	
063	Reports of shots fired in the area of NW 2 nd Avenue and 3 rd Street.	TOC	Bike Squad	1405	
060 G	SSIB reports that 10 Black Bloc members have entered the 111 Building via the Metrorail and are trashing the second floor cafeteria area.	TOC	SSIB	1410	
060 H	The complaint desk reports that 6 subjects have rushed		911	1410	
060 I	The vanguard of the march has completed the loop and is now headed east on 2 nd Street toward Biscayne Boulevard.	TOC	SSIB	1520	
060 J	City of Miami reports that they have lost contact with an entire snatch team.	TOC	JOC	1525	

064	A Bike Squad has come under attack from Black Bloc protestors at NE 6 th Street and North Miami Avenue.	TOC	Bike Squad	1600	
060 K	Vanguard of march continues southbound on Biscayne Boulevard toward the Intercontinental Hotel.	TOC	JOC	1600	
060 L	Approximately 10,000 demonstrators have gathered at the Intercontinental Hotel fence line at Biscayne Boulevard.	TOC	JOC	1630	
060 M	Crowd is dispersed and head back to their buses and cars.	TOC	SSIB	1800	
064	Gathering at Churchill's 5501 NE 2 Ave.	TOC	SSIB	2100	
065	Earlington Heights Prisoner Processing area is reporting the manifestation of approximately 400 protestors outside their facility.	TOC	Prisoner Processing Detail	2200	
066	Debriefing Session and SSIB Briefing	Task Forces	IC / SSIB	Friday, November 19 0700	
067	Groups of students muster at MDCC-Wolfson Center	TOC	SSIB	1100	
068	White powder is observed on the roadway just east of the MDCC campus.	TOC	SERT	1130	
069	Correction Department is reporting 200 protestors outside DCJ. The protestors are demanding the release of the prisoners.	TOC	MDPD CP	1200	
070	50 protestors have gathered in the Emergency Ward at JMH.	TOC	MDPD CP	1500	

FTAA SCENARIO #001

SSIB Briefing

Saturday - November 15, 2003 0700 hours

- □ A search warrant has been executed at a warehouse in the City of Miami garment district.
- □ Several large puppets and one catapult have been seized. Metal pipes, wrist rockets and gas masks were also seized.

	12 Anarchists were detained but not arrested.
	More search warrants are expected.
	The Greenpeace ship Esperanza has been sighted 20 miles due east of Key Biscayne, heading in a northbound direction.
	The ship is known to have at least four Zodiac inflatable boats.
	Websites have indicated several "Flash Mobs" will be appearing throughout the County.
	International Mall
	Dolphin Mall
	Dadeland Mall
	Aventura Mall
sk	Force Commanders' Briefing

Task Force Commanders' Briefing

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- □ Task Force 1
- □ Task Force 2
- □ Task Force 3
- □ Task Force 4
- □ Task Force 5
- SERT Commanders
- Bike Squad Commanders
- Water Cannon Operations
- Tactical Operations
- □ Venue Commanders (POB and MIA)
- Prisoner Processing Detail Commander
- □ Incident Commander

Note: AAA TOC will become operational at 0700 hours on this date. The HQs CP is already running.

FTAA SCENARIO #002

200 SQUATTERS IN BICENNTENIAL PARK

Saturday – November 15, 0715:

Information received from MDPD CP via the Miami JOC that several hundred squatters are living in tents in Bicentennial Park. The squatters are believed to be protestors from various groups demonstrating at the FTAA Conference. It is apparent that they plan on staying in Bicentennial Park for the duration of the Conference.

PERCIEVED ISSUES:

- 1. These squatters are using Bicentennial Park as a base of operations to plan their Demonstrations.
- 2. Health and hygiene as well as garbage are issues.
- 3. Consent decree imposed on the City of Miami prevents the eviction of squatters.
- 4. Squatters could interfere with Miami Fire Department's Hazmat Operations.
- 5. Squatters' proximity to AAA shortens the desired standoff distance between Task Forces and protestors.

DESIRED RESPONSES:

- 1. MDPD AAA TOC is advised.
- 2. Incident Commander (IC) is advised.
- 3. Call is logged and pinpointed on map.
- 4. SSIB and Field Intelligence Teams (FIT) are notified to monitor the squatters' activities.