



Exercise Support SERVICES

Optimize your team's emergency response skills.



GP Strategies® provides a total partnership approach to support preparedness exercise efforts in local, regional, and state agencies. GP Strategies possesses the knowledge, expertise, and resources that will ensure comprehensive support and partnership for your tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises initiatives.

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

GP Strategies' approach for exercise assistance is organized into a set of modular steps that can be applied in whole or in part to fit any agency's exercise requirements, level of needed support, and budget constraints while ensuring compliance with all state and federal guidelines and requirements (HSEEP compliant). GP Strategies can design discussion-based (workshops, seminars, and tabletops) and operations-based (drills, functional, and full-scale) exercises from initial concept development, through exercise conduct and to completion and delivery of the After Action Report (AAR). GP Strategies can provide assistance for improvement action support and future exercise program management.

GP Strategies understands an agency's desire to design, develop, and evaluate exercises internally. GP Strategies' approach allows an organization to choose their level of involvement based on internal staff skill sets and availability, allowing GP Strategies to fill the agency's gaps. This approach ensures that exercises are completed successfully and (if desired) in compliance with the HSEEP.

GP Strategies' approach was proven very successful throughout the Department of Homeland Security's Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) Exercise Program. GP Strategies provided technical support to seven Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) designated sites.

Our Approach

OPTION 1

Planning Conference Facilitation

GP Strategies will facilitate Initial, Mid-Term, and Final Planning Conferences. The planning conferences will ensure that the exercise planning process involves the establishment of measurable objectives. All objectives will be linked to the Target Capabilities List (TCL) and the Core Capabilities identified in the National Preparedness Goal, and the scope of play and scenarios are consistent with HSEEP guidelines.

GP Strategies will provide the planning team with read-ahead materials and agendas prior to each conference, and then follow up with formal planning conference minutes, capturing development status and action items discussed during the conference.

OPTION 2

Document Development

GP Strategies will develop and produce all exercise documentation, including, but not limited to, Situation Manuals, Exercise Plans, Controller/Evaluator Handbooks, Master Scenario Events Lists (MSELs), Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEGs), and Exercise Injects. Having GP Strategies develop documentation ensures that it will be produced on time; on budget; (and if needed) in the most recent HSEEP format; and referenced to the TCL, Universal Task List (UTL), Core Capabilities and participating agencies' plans/procedures.

OPTION 3

Controller/Evaluator Training

GP Strategies will provide training to "peer" controllers and evaluators to prepare them for exercise conduct. If an agency desires to utilize peers for exercise control and evaluation, it is paramount that they receive controller/evaluator training to ensure consistency and accuracy throughout exercise play and review. GP Strategies' controller/evaluator training is designed to give a top-level overview of the exercise to include scenario, venues, players, rules, assumptions, and artificialities. GP Strategies will train the evaluation team on the use of the Exercise Evaluation Guidelines (EEGs), best practices of exercise evaluation, and examples of task-oriented observations.



Exercise Experience

GP Strategies has extensive homeland security, emergency management, and public health exercise experience for many diverse clients, including:

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS); Tactical Interoperable Communications Program (TICP)
- Tennessee State-Wide Homeland Security Exercise Program
- Tennessee State-Wide Hospital Pandemic Influenza Exercise Program
- Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- North Dakota State-Wide Pandemic Tabletop Exercise Program
- Omaha (Tri-County) UASI
- Tampa Bay UASI
- Twin Cities UASI
- Miami UASI
- Nashville, Tennessee UASI
- San Francisco UASI and San Francisco Giants
- Pittsburgh UASI - Region 13 Joint Terrorism Task Force
- Connecticut Region 1 Emergency Management
- Providence, Rhode Island and State of Rhode Island
- Global War on Terrorism exercise support for DHS, including full scale, functional, and tabletop exercises
- FEMA National Exercise Program and Regional Exercise Support Program



OPTION 4

Lead Controller and/or Lead Evaluator (Staff Augmentation)

GP Strategies will provide a lead controller and/or a lead evaluator to oversee the exercise and team peers. GP Strategies' exercise team consists of a combination of FEMA Master Exercise Practitioners (MEPs) and HSEEP-certified staff.

GP Strategies' lead controller will coordinate the Simulation Cell (SIMCELL) and staff the SIMCELL with functional controllers to ensure that exercise injects are delivered accurately and that players in each function are given proper direction within the scope of play. GP Strategies' lead evaluator will coordinate with each functional evaluator, ensuring that exercise objectives are being met and evaluated. Following the exercise, the lead evaluator will facilitate an exercise debriefing for the evaluators. At this time, the lead controller will assist the evaluators with their EEG write-ups and collect all evaluation materials to ensure timely and accurate AAR development.

It is the responsibility of the lead controller and evaluator to report exercise progress and ensure that exercise play stays on track. This allows the jurisdictions to stay integrated in exercise control and evaluation while leaving the coordination responsibility to GP Strategies.

OPTION 5

Controller Team and/or Evaluation Team (Staff Augmentation)

In addition to a lead controller and lead evaluator, GP Strategies can provide all of the necessary control and evaluation staff to conduct and evaluate the exercise. This option reduces the support burden on the participating agencies and allows all of their personnel to "play" in the exercise while ensuring competent and experienced staff to control and evaluate the exercise. GP Strategies will provide the necessary EEGs to evaluate the players' actions against the TCL, UTL, Core Capabilities, and agency procedures. GP Strategies will ensure that exercise objectives are met and evaluated in an unbiased fashion. Following the exercise, the lead evaluator will facilitate an exercise debriefing for the evaluators. At that time, the lead will assist the evaluators with their EEG write-ups and collect all evaluation materials to ensure timely and accurate AAR development and reporting.

This option allows the jurisdictions to focus directly on exercise play while assigning exercise control to GP Strategies.

OPTION 6

After Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) Development

GP Strategies will utilize the EEGs, evaluator observations, notes, and timelines to develop an HSEEP-compliant AAR/IP. GP Strategies' methodology includes taking the exercise objectives and associated UTL tasks to provide critical task analyses that can be referenced directly to the Department of Homeland Security TCL and Core Capabilities. GP Strategies will provide evaluation at the task and mission levels to allow for a two-tiered exercise analysis. This option assigns GP Strategies the responsibility of performing a critical third-party analysis while allowing the client to focus on corrective actions.

The AAR will provide an exercise overview, identify key strengths and areas for improvement, include mission- and task-level analyses, incorporate recommendations based upon best practices, and provide an improvement plan matrix in the current HSEEP format. The improvement plan can then be utilized by the agencies/jurisdictions for improvement action purposes. This level of detail, content, and format will provide agencies with the documentation needed to submit exercise materials for state- and federal-level review and approval.



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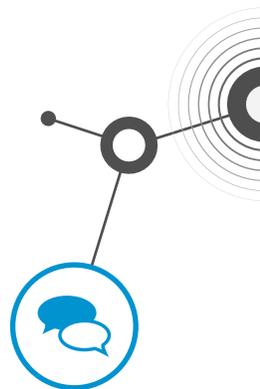
Founded in 1966, GP Strategies is a global performance improvement solutions provider of sales and technical training, e-learning solutions, management consulting and engineering services. GP Strategies' solutions improve the effectiveness of organizations by delivering innovative and superior training, consulting and business improvement services, customized to meet the specific needs of its clients.

GP Strategies at a Glance

Customers include Fortune 500 companies, manufacturing, process and energy industries, and other commercial and government organizations. GP Strategies is headquartered in Columbia, Maryland, USA. Additional information may be found at gpstrategies.com.

GP Strategies Vision and Mission

Our vision is a world where business excellence makes possibilities achievable. Our mission is to enable people and businesses to perform at their highest potential.



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