



U. S. Department of Homeland Security

Office for Domestic Preparedness

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TO: All State Administrative Agency Points of Contact
All State Homeland Security Directors
All State Exercise Points of Contacts

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Director

SUBJECT: Cross Border Exercise Support Initiative

States and territories with international borders or international open-water borders are presented with unique needs and issues with regard to policy, coordination, and preparedness measures to prevent, respond to and recover from terrorist incidents. Issues range from cross border support operations and control of international border such as quarantine of multi-national citizens to illegal entry into the United States bypassing existing immigration controls.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office for Domestic Preparedness (USDHS/ODP), recognizes the need to strengthen a state's capability to execute its sovereign responsibilities and to encourage follow-up joint cross-border prevention, recovery, and response activities in new or existing training, mutual support planning, and exercises activities. To meet this need, ODP will provide state and territorial jurisdictions the opportunity to receive direct exercise support to conduct cross-border exercises that will focus on prevention and preparedness activities that support the national strategy and/or federally approved State Homeland Security Strategy goals and objectives.

The following eligible states and territories will receive letters from their assigned Exercise Program Manager along with a *Cross Border Exercise Guidance* packet of information detailing the program's purpose, requirements, and exercise activities:

Alaska, American Samoa, California, Florida, Guam, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands and Vermont.

Cross Border exercise activities will conform to exercise guidance found in the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). If you have any questions about this please contact your Exercise Program Manager or the ODP Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk at 1-800-368-6498.