



Enhancing Chemical Security for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Region

Development of Jordan as a regional hub in chemical safety and security

Introducing Chemical Safety and Security Confidence Building Measures for the Middle East

TABLE-TOP EXERCISE (TTX) - ENHANCING SECURE MOVEMENT OF CHEMICALS THROUGH BORDERS AMONG THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

Introduction

This exercise is a core element of the process of developing the coordination among the Jordanian partners and international/neighboring entities with the focus on preventing misuse of toxic chemicals in transborder context. Therefore the Table Top Exercise (TTX) will test and demonstrate the readiness of Jordan stakeholder to respond to chemical threats and to cooperate with the international partners.

It is necessary to remember however that the field of this exercise is only one among the many where terrorism can and should be tackled. The ongoing efforts in the other areas like: education, industry protection, accident preparedness and victims counselling are equally important.

Objectives

In the case of an act of terrorist nature against targets within chemical industry:

- To develop Jordan capacity and role in responding to incidents where chemicals have been used as terrorists tools
- To develop national organizational and legal stance
- To develop modes of operation
- To develop and promote international cooperation
- To practice a cooperation between industrial and political institutions
- To gain and share organizational experience

Introduction – policy drivers and leading assumptions

The uncontrolled spread of harmful chemicals represents a threat to national and international stability and security. There is an urgent need for countries to undertake efforts to enhance and expand our efforts to introduce effective national controls of chemicals. An essential component of these efforts should be collaboration of partners to prevent in justified cases from entering harmful chemicals into the territory through borders at sea, in the air, and on land. The goal is to work in concert, employing their national capabilities to develop a broad range of legal, diplomatic, economic, and other tools to prevent shipments of such items.

In certain regional setting legislation and cooperation is aimed at putting into effect preparedness for accidental or deliberate releases of chemicals and for mitigating the effects of such release have acquired a trans-border dimension.

Central to these efforts is a proactive schedule of Table Top Exercise (TTX). TTX will enhance the ability of partners to prevent situations concerning of suspicious transfers chemicals to be used as explosives, including Acetone, or for chemical weapons production and conduct joint operations when and where the situation arises, and will demonstrate our resolve and commitment to stem the suspicious trade or flow of such materials.

The TTX is intended to contribute to the wider efforts to address the danger that non-State actors including terrorists may use CBRN weapons/materials. Its specific focus is on the prevention and response to illegal movement of chemicals. This should lead to enhancement of the chemical security culture in Jordan and to assist national stakeholders in preventing the risks associated with accidental or deliberate releases of chemicals, as well as to promote regional/trans-border cooperation in response to incidents involving such events. It will also contribute to increased preparedness against malicious uses of chemicals and against the growing risks associated with terrorism.

This document presents goals, objectives and all details necessary to carry on the Jordan project's TTX.

It is necessary to remember however that the field of this exercise is only one among the many where terrorism can and should be tackled. The ongoing efforts in the other areas like: education, industry protection, accident preparedness and victims counseling are equally important.

The TTX results and lessons learnt are intended to create a template for future training in response to the conjoined occurrence of terrorism and the release/malicious use of chemicals, which can be propagated in other countries of the region.

Methodology of Table-Top Exercise

Among the different elements in the process of development of national response to misuse of chemicals, the table top exercise (TTX) occupies a pivotal role. It enables assessment of

capability after a partial and/or complete preparation and training programs, by evaluating that knowledge, proficiency and adequacy of practices, procedures, emergency plans, communications and critical thinking and decisions processes are supportive of timely and responsive chemical safety and security actions. The TTX's utility extends beyond the local Industry and is inclusive of state, public and other private sector entities where their roles, responsibilities, available resources and capabilities are aligned as an integrated whole. In this regard the TTX is tied to each of the different participant groups and their respective training modules. It allows not only the assessment of knowledge acquired by specific groups but also how the entire community whether local or professional, and its acquired knowledge interacts as a well coordinated whole to avoid risks and respond to chemical safety and security incidents. The TTX requires preparation time and resources by both the host and the participants therefore commitment is essential. The successful TTX has a well planned and relevant scenario, attainable goals and objectives, well informed assumptions, enthusiastic participants, a skilled facilitator and evaluation team and a strong emphasis on the evaluation and the post-exercise processes.

The core of methodology is careful, multiple step by step planning. The TTX planning begins with the introductory/preplanning stage by documenting preliminary information such as basic reasoning for the exercise, general goals and expectations with the exercise briefly described. Additionally exercise Team Leader and a small core management team is established to support initial phase of exercise's preparation. The TTX preparation development is implemented through a series of planning meetings, starting with Concept and

Objectives Meeting establishing TTX Exercise Management Team (EMT), through few working meetings up to Final Planning Meeting:
assignment of the roles and responsibilities for the EMT members and TTX participants,
development of the exercise scenario,
preparation the exercise documentation,
coordination of logistics.

Documentation supporting TTX is continuously developed during planning activities. The most important documents to be developed are the TTX scenario and the Situation Manual, prepared in separate versions for different groups of participants.

Tabletop Exercise Situation Manual (SM) is the main document prepared to support the TTX conduct, contains the set of the exercise's instructions and serves as a reference during exercise conduct.

When the exercise preparation phase is completed, composition of the EMT can be slightly modified to better respond to the demands and requirements of execution and follow up phases of the TTX, but all core EMT members, including EMT Leader, remain in the team.