



**Food Security Exercise
FEMA R VI
May 2012
ESF 11 After Action Report (AAR)**



Exercise Summary

On 2nd May 2012, FEMA R VI and surrounding States exercised response to a food security incident that involved contaminated meat, poultry, dairy products and live animals associated with those products. ESF-11 at Region VI was activated with the ESF-11 Coordinator and officials from USDA FSIS, APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) and USDA Office of the Inspector General Emergency Response Team. APHIS VS staff actively participated in Oklahoma and Texas along with their State counterparts. Arkansas and New Mexico conducted Table Top Exercises in lieu of the functional exercise resulting in limited play for APHIS players in those States. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry did participate fully in exercise play but did not have a federal counterpart present for exercise play.

Several Federal agencies participated in exercise play at the FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) including Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense (Defense Coordinating Official), Environmental Protection Agency and several FEMA players. The ESF-11 Coordinator for FEMA Region VI served as USDA Controller and Evaluator. USDA exercise play focused on Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense. Numerous plans and procedures were tested for the participating USDA agencies, through the utilization of 31 injects that tested players to perform actions such as:

- 1) Establishment of a Unified Command at the Incident level.
- 2) Providing the course of action to eliminate the threat.
- 3) Planning and Coordinating the law enforcement investigation
- 4) Detaining meat and poultry at various points in the food chain.
- 5) Knowledge and skills with completed the associated ICS forms and procedures.
- 6) Estimating a general cost estimate.

Lessons Learned

Things that worked well:

1. Interaction between Federal/State animal health personnel was short (app. 3 hrs.) but effective. Responses to injects indicated that the proper discussions were occurring on how to deal with the live animals contaminated with the toxin. Decisions were made to form Unified Command organizations in those States where Federal/State personnel were playing in the exercise as a team.
2. USDA FSIS and OIG were very familiar with their authorities, procedures and protocols to address issues in this type of incident.

Things that could use improvement:

1. More time is needed for this exercise due to incident complexity. The exercise could have easily been three days to fully explore other substantive issues.
2. Some Federal agencies did not engage in exercise planning or exercise play despite numerous attempt at involvement. These agencies did not receive the benefits gained during the planning phase of the exercise or the experience gained during exercise play.