



Full-scale, multi-agency mock disaster training exercise to be held at old airport June 22-23

Triennial event to include contingent of observers from U.S. Air Force's Africa Command unit and more than a dozen airport, civic leaders from Nigeria

INDIANAPOLIS—The Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA) will conduct a two-day emergency training exercise at Indianapolis International Airport (IND) Tues., June 22 and Wed., June 23.

The drill is required under the Federal Aviation Administration's Regulation Part 139 every three years to evaluate airport emergency operations plans. Critical functions such as incident command and control, rescue methods and procedures, and triage of injured victims are assessed.

Participants will include individuals and teams from more than 30 mutual aid agencies and organizations in the greater Indianapolis area. About 75 IAA fire, police, security, dispatch, public safety, and other operations personnel will be on hand for their respective assignments during the event. Eighteen (18) individuals will serve as controllers to keep the exercise on schedule. A team of 12 non-participant evaluators, including experts from Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana, will be on hand to document and critique the experience.

More than 125 volunteers of all ages will serve as disaster victims and survivors, complete with theatrical make-up and moulage to create mock wounds and injuries.

MOCK DISASTER SCENARIO

Day 1 (June 22) will focus on accident response; day 2 (June 23) will focus on accident recovery. Recovery will include a mock family assistance center and morgue operations.

At 10 a.m. the FAA air traffic control tower (ATCT) at IND receives a distress call from aircraft captain advising his 737-900 Boeing aircraft has smoke in the cabin. The flight, which originated at JFK with a crew of six (6) and 180 passengers, is bound for Chicago O'Hare (ORD) and has 11,000 lbs. of fuel remaining. Pilot requests emergency landing and is directed to land on runway 14-32. The aircraft is approximately eight (8) minutes out.

At 10:03 a.m. the flight's captain advises ATCT smoke is getting worse. ATCT personnel advise emergency crews to be prepared for imminent landing. By 10:05 the aircraft is in sight. It veers left abruptly but touches down on Runway 14-32 at 10:08 a.m. and is engulfed in flames.

By 10:15 a.m. the fire is under control and first responders are engaged in triage at the scene. Of those individuals on the aircraft, 86 are fatalities, 25 are critically injured, 25 are seriously injured, and 50 are ambulatory.

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PARTNERSHIP WITH VA MEDICAL CENTER

According to Chief Rick Gentry, head of the airport's fire department, both IAA and the Roudebush VA Medical Center have mandates to exercise their respective emergency plans in 2010.

"We decided to join forces with the VA team to maximize our resources and more efficiently and effectively achieve our mutual goals and objectives," Gentry explained. The event marks the first time the two organizations have partnered for a simulated response training. Objectives include:

- Triage, transport, and track victims of a large aircraft disaster at IND to ensure compliance with Part 139.
- Maintain an accurate casualty and patient tracking in the aftermath of the incident.
- Demonstrate communication and coordination between federal coordinating center (FCC) and national disaster medical system (NDMS) hospitals.
- Showcase efficient utilization of mutual aid resources.
- Test activation and performance of the emergency management command structure, following the national incident management system (NIMS) and other protocols.

"Since Roudebush VA Medical Center is the federal coordinating center for Indiana, this is an excellent opportunity to conduct disaster response and training in a coordinated manner for all the national disaster medical system hospitals in the city," added Suzanne Conklin.

NIGERIAN, U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICIALS TO VISIT & OBSERVE

The Indianapolis Airport Authority will host a weeklong visit for 14 airport and civic officials from the Federal Republic of Nigeria and four representatives from the U.S. Air Force's Africa Command unit. More information about the unit, known as the 17 AF, is at www.17af.usafe.af.mil.

According to 17th Air Force Lead Exercise Planner Douglas Kahn, "The 17th AF and U.S. Africa Command engages with nations across Africa to help them build their capacity for air safety and security with the goal of improving bilateral relations. We have a good relationship with our Nigerian partners and believe this trip will provide an outstanding learning opportunity to discuss and compare practices and procedures. Indianapolis has one of the newest, most state-of-the-art airports in the U.S. and local officials are planning an excellent training exercise."

Kahn, his USAF colleagues, and the Nigerian group will meet with and visit police, fire, and special operation units throughout Marion County. They will participate in training opportunities before and after the June 22-23 events, including a roundtable discussion and a "hot wash" debriefing.

The group will visit Grissom Air Reserve Base to learn about the role of the Indiana National Guard and U.S. Air Force Reserve participation in USAF global operations. They will also visit the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and other sites of interest to promote greater understanding of U.S. policies, culture, and history.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis
- Brown Township Fire Department
- Clarian Health
- Decatur Township Fire Department
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Hendricks County Emergency Management
- Hendricks County Sheriff's Department
- Indiana State Police
- Indiana University Hospital

- Indianapolis Airport Authority
- Indianapolis Fire Department
- Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
- Managed Emergency Surge for Healthcare (MESH)
- Marion County Coroner
- Marion County Emergency Management Division
- Marion County Health Department
- Methodist Hospital
- Metropolitan Emergency Communications Agency (MECA)
- Mooresville Fire Department
- Mooresville Police Department
- National Weather Service
- Plainfield Fire Department
- Plainfield Police Department
- Radisson Hospital
- Riley Hospital for Children
- Roudebush VA Medical Center
- St. Francis Hospital–Mooresville
- St. Vincent Hospital–Carmel
- St. Vincent Hospital–Indianapolis
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- Wayne Township Fire Department
- Westview Hospital
- Wishard Ambulance Service

The aircraft used in the simulation will be provided by the Vincennes University Aviation Technology Center. A fire simulation unit owned by Kellogg Community College will also be used in the training.

INTERVIEWS & PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Reporters and photographers may observe the event on June 22 from a designated media area. Escorts to and from this area are required. The major portion of exercise will commence at 10 a.m. and conclude by about 1 p.m. Interviews and photo opportunities with airport officials, U.S. Air Force officials, and a spokesperson for the Nigerian team can be arranged, including:

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| ▪ Mike Medvescek | Chief operating officer (IAA) |
| ▪ Chief Rick Gentry | Head, Airport Fire Department |
| ▪ Major Paula Kurtz | U.S. Air Force USAFE, 17 AF |
| ▪ Douglas Kahn | Lead exercise planner, U.S. Air Force USAFE, 17 AF |
| ▪ Daniel B. Gambo | Deputy Director, Nigerian National Emergency Mgmt. Agency |

Media representatives should report to Gate 10 on Turner Drive near the Indianapolis Jet Center. From High School Road and Sam Jones Expressway, go south on High School. At the stop sign between the Radisson and Crowne Plaza, proceed south to the next stop sign and turn right on Cargo Drive. Gate 10 is just past the Comlux Completion center on the southwest end of the former airport terminal.

Reporters and assignment editors should contact Susan Sullivan by noon on June 21 if they plan to attend. Upon arrival at Gate 10, contact Sullivan for escort and interview facilitation.

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