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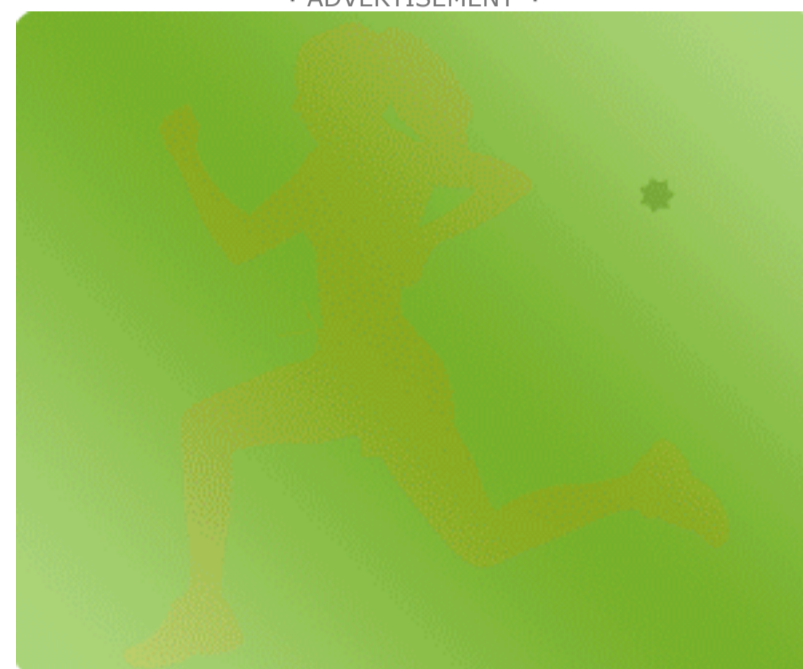


Guam partakes in homeland security effort

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Pacific Daily News
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The scheduled Top Officials 4, or TOPOFF 4, exercises in October will be critical in many regards, a Guam Department of Homeland Security official said yesterday.

Nathan Rodgers, Guam Homeland Security venue director for TOPOFF 4, said in a briefing in Tiyan that the exercise series is about "instilling confidence in the community, and a sense of resiliency."



Rodgers said the exercise also would "enhance the public's confidence in the local and federal governments," and will promote an inter-government alliance.

"We never forget who we're working for," said Rodgers, adding that the 10-day exercise will focus on "preventing, responding and recovering from acts of terrorism."

One of the exercise's main objectives, Rodgers added, would be to apply the acquired knowledge and implement necessary changes from mistakes that might arise along the way.

"It brings a continuity aspect to it so we're not reliving mistakes," he said.

U.S. DHS said approximately 15,000 people from government and private organizations will participate in TOPOFF 4, up from the 10,000 participants in TOPOFF 3.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security describes TOPOFF 4 as a full-scale exercise to involve "thousands of federal, state, territorial and local officials" that will "engage in various activities as part of a robust, full-scale simulated response to a multifaceted threat."

AT A GLANCE

What is the TOPOFF Exercise Series?

The Department of Homeland Security Preparedness Directorate's, National Preparedness Task Force is sponsoring the Top Officials (TOPOFF) exercise series, which is a two-year cycle of seminars, planning events, and exercises designed to strengthen the nation's capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction.

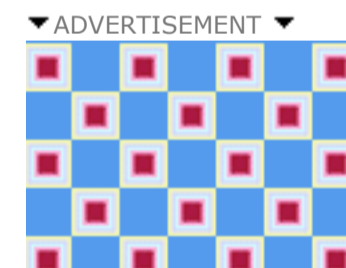
What is TOPOFF 4 and what are its goals?

TOPOFF 4 (T4) is the fourth exercise in the congressionally mandated TOPOFF series. The Federal Executive Branch will conduct the T4 Full Scale Exercise from Oct. 15 to 24. The series is designed to engage top officials from federal, state, territorial and local government departments and agencies, as well as the private sector.

The goals of TOPOFF 4 are to:

- Assess the nation's capability to prevent, respond to, and recover from realistic and threat-based acts of terrorism during a national, biennial exercise series.
- Examine relationships among federal, state, territorial and local jurisdictions and the private sector in response to a realistic and challenging series of integrated geographically dispersed terrorist threats and acts.
- Use performance-based objectives to evaluate the relationships among the various jurisdictions and the private sector.





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