



Golden Phoenix 08

For Immediate Release:
July 7, 2008

Contact Information Below

Local, State and Federal Agencies Team Up For Terrorism Training Event July 21-24

What:

Operation Golden Phoenix 08 is a four-day training event that will allow local, state and federal agencies to join other partners in a simulated response to a mock bio-terrorism attack. The lead agency for Golden Phoenix 08 is U.S. Customs and Border Protection. County of San Diego, City of San Diego and Marine Aircraft Group-46 (Marine Forces Reserve) also have leading roles in this event. The goal is to allow participating agencies to cooperatively practice command, communication and logistical skills used in the response to natural disasters and other emergencies.

When:

July 21 Preliminary Government Agency Preparation

**July 22 Media Availability at Brown Field Airport
9 – 4 p.m.**

***Major Visual Interest and Participant Availability**

Customs and Border Protection, San Diego Sector and Marine Aircraft Group-46 (Marine Forces Reserve) in conjunction with federal, non-government organizations and industry partners will perform a series of operational experiments aimed to examine challenges faced during a multi-agency humanitarian aid response to a disaster.

Marine Corps personnel will simulate a humanitarian relief response for a location outside the continental United States. Visuals will include aviation operations, vehicle and personnel searches, perimeter security, interoperable communications experiments, and logistical support efforts for non-governmental organizations.

July 23 Media Availability at Local Hospitals

San Diego Police Department will practice traffic and crowd control measures around each hospital. Hospital personnel will practice broad scale emergency medical response efforts at each location. Decontamination protocols to be tested at UCSD Hillcrest campus. Marine Corps personnel (non-uniform) involved as mock victims at each location.

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July 23 (continued)

**7 - 8 a.m. UC San Diego Medical Center- Hillcrest, 200 West Arbor Dr.
(Media set up begins at 6:30 a.m.)**

8 - 9 a.m. UC San Diego Medical Center- Thornton Hospital, 9300 Campus Point Dr., La Jolla (Media set up begins at 7:30 am)

Law enforcement agencies will practice security and crowd management, in preparation for a major public health crisis and an influx of patients to UC San Diego Medical Center. Beginning at 7 a.m. at Hillcrest and 8 a.m. at Thornton, visitors to UC San Diego Medical Center will be questioned, briefly, by SDPD at a checkpoint, and directed to appropriate areas. Marines acting as patients will either be treated for their “injuries” or washed down at a decontamination station set up outside, near the Emergency Department. Emergency personnel will be available to explain what is happening and how this training will help in the event of a real emergency.

8 - 10 a.m. Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, 9888 Genesee Ave., La Jolla, at the Emergency Room (Media set up begins at 7:30 a.m.)

***Major visual interest and participant availability**

At approximately 8 a.m., two H-46 military helicopters will land on the helipad at the rear of the hospital, dispatching two dozen law enforcement officers dressed in full decontamination gear. The officers will proceed to the main traffic intersection at the hospital just off of Genesee Avenue, where they will practice traffic and crowd control measures. The San Diego Fire Department will also practice “wash downs” of victims “contaminated” with bio-terrorism materials. Scripps La Jolla will also activate its disaster plan and communication system to evaluate the readiness of its emergency preparedness program.

Spokespeople from the major participants will be available for interviews at Scripps La Jolla. B-roll from the helicopter flight will be available through the Marine Corps.

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