

On Course



Issue 6

An Internal Newsletter for Navy Personnel Command

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Anti-Terrorism /Force Protection Drill

Commander Fleet Forces Command (CFFC) has announced it will conduct a nationwide antiterrorism exercise during the first quarter Fiscal Year 2004. The exercise will be called "Solid Curtain."

The two to three day drill will focus on readiness and a command's ability to react to a terrorist attack. Solid Curtain is planned to include an escalation of the Force Protection Conditions (FPCONs) up through the highest level, known as FPCON DELTA.

During heightened threat conditions, as happened during the attacks on the

World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the most stringent security measures are put in place to protect the forces from terrorist attack. Some of these measures include restricted access to bases, mandatory vehicle searches, watches posted at a single entry/exit point of buildings, and frequent checking of personnel identification as well as searches of briefcases, handbags and other items.

While the focus of this exercise will be on each command's ability to react to a terrorist attack, it will also

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Changeover from EBACS to CAC starts November

By JO1 Teresa J. Frith, NPC Strategic Communications

Beginning in November, Navy Support Activity (NSA) Mid-South Security will begin replacing all the Electronic Badge Access Card System (EBACS) entrance terminals on the inside and outside of all facilities with new readers using the Common Access Card (CAC) smart identification cards.

"The project will begin with the buildings owned by NSA," said James C. Powers, the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) Security Manager. "After those

buildings are completed, they will continue with NPC facilities. NSA will provide a timeline with a tentative schedule, which we expect to see in about a month." The entire project is slated to run through February 2004.

Users will have to carry both types of cards until all affected buildings are switched to the new system because unconverted buildings will maintain the old EBACS system until their turn to be refitted with new

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evaluate its ability to effectively disseminate important information throughout the chain of command.

“Solid Curtain” will allow NAVPERSCOM to assess its ability to rapidly pass information to mission essential personnel (military, civilian, and contractors), as well as its ability to set force protection conditions as notified. If FPCON DELTA is set during normal working hours, departments will be directed to release all non-essential personnel and security measures will

be tightened. If FPCON DELTA is set after hours or on a weekend, word will be passed for only “mission essential” personnel to report to work.

All personnel must provide their chain of command and immediate supervisors with accurate recall information. If the word is passed before/after working hours that FPCON DELTA is being set, each department will be notified to activate its phone tree and word will be passed. Dedicated phone lines, such as the inclement weather line, will be updated by the

NPC Duty Office with a recorded message concerning base closure. It is also important to turn to the local television and radio stations for information concerning NSA Mid-South base closure and re-opening updates.

An effective Force Protection program is an All Hands responsibility. People can do their part by maintaining accurate recall information, being patient and cooperative with security personnel and by staying informed of the latest developments on the force protection situation.

Talking Points: Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Drill

- Command Fleet Forces Command will conduct a nationwide antiterrorism exercise during the first quarter of FY-04 called “Solid Curtain.”
- The exercise is slated to last two or three days and will focus on readiness and a command’s ability to react to a terrorist attack.
- Solid Curtain will include an escalation of Force Protection Conditions (FPCON) up through the highest, known as FPCON Delta.
- During the exercise, the most stringent security measures will be in place including restricted access to the base, mandatory vehicle searches, watches posted at entry/exit points in buildings, frequent ID checks and searches of briefcases, handbags and other items.
- If FPCON Delta is set during normal work hours, departments will be directed to release all non-essential personnel.
- If FPCON Delta is set after hours or on a weekend, word will be passed for only “mission essential” personnel to report to work. If this occurs, each department will be notified to activate its phone tree and word will be passed.
- **All personnel must provide their chain of command and immediate supervisors with accurate recall information.**
- Dedicated phone lines such as the inclement weather line, will be updated by the NPC Duty Office with a recorded message concerning base closure. Local radio and television stations will also carry information regarding NSA Mid-South base closure and re-opening updates.
- Everyone should do their part to make this a smooth and successful operation by maintaining accurate recall information, being patient and cooperative with security personnel and by staying informed of the latest developments on the situation as the exercise progresses.

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CAC readers. As the buildings are refitted, the security system will have to be shut down to install the new card readers. According to Powers, this may require posting a sentry at one designated entry point for the building in order to ensure only authorized personnel have access.

Once the new CAC readers are in place, user data will be transferred from the old system to the new. Users will swipe their CAC card and enter a

PIN number in the same way they gain building access with the EBACS card. The information inside the CAC card’s chip combined with the proper access code will signal the door to open.

All government employees, whether active duty service members or civilians, are currently issued the new CAC identification smart cards. These cards replaced the older style green active duty identification cards and other similar identification cards. Contractors will be issued a slightly

different CAC card that can be used to enter buildings for which they are authorized access. If personnel do not have a CAC identification card, they will need one in order to access the affected buildings.

Stay tuned to future issues of On Course for more information and a timeline for the installation of the new readers.