IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

A guide to improvement planning

Planning to Improve

- Improvement Planning starts with exercise design
 - Write an evaluation guide (EEG) that will capture pertinent information
 - Select (or train) evaluators who can proficiently observe players and properly document outcomes in the EEG
- After conducting an exercise be sure to complete the hot wash
 - Designate one or more person to document the discussion
 - Following the group hot wash conduct a brief evaluator/controller meeting where you can discuss the exercise and review the EEGs to ensure they are complete and ask any clarifying questions

Improvement Planning Planning to Improve

- Compile all hot wash notes and EEGs
- Fill out the AAR
 - The improvement plan in your AAR should include any and all relevant information from EEGs and hot wash notes

A Master Improvement Plan

- Develop a master Improvement Plan (IP) or Improvement Plan Matrix (IP Matrix).
 - A single document that summarizes the AAR's from all previous exercise and real-world events for efficient review of improvement needs
 - Decide what format you want your IP or IP Matrix in and develop it
 - Narrative style, word doc, excel table, etc.

A Master Improvement Plan

Here is a sample of the IP Matrix ADEM uses; this example is filled in with information from the AAR used in the AAR training video on the ADEM website (this example does not include the ADEM cover page)

A Master Improvement Plan

- After completing each AAR fill out the master IP or IP Matrix with the information in your AAR/IP
 - Update your master IP or IP Matrix regularly
 - Completion of corrective action
 - Change of corrective action
 - Status change in corrective action process
 - Change of point of contact

- Should include, at a minimum:
 - Core Capability
 - Area for improvement
 - Corrective action
 - Point of contact
 - Start date
 - Actual completion date

- Other elements to consider including:
 - Exercise name
 - Exercise conduct date(s)
 - Objective
 - Analysis (brief sentence; how the area for improvement prevented a full capability)
 - Reference
 - Capability element

- Other elements to consider including continued:
 - Primary responsible organization
 - Projected completion date
 - Section for additional comments
 - Section for initialing once completed

- Consider using color coding to track corrective action status
 - For example, Not started, in progress, complete, overdue, pending.
- Determine a prioritization guide for completing corrective actions
- Include a cover/instruction sheet
 - Good reminder for you; continuity in the event you are unavailable
 - Can include the legend for the color coding (if relevant)
 - Can include the prioritization guide (if relevant)

- Select dates and set calendar reminders to review the IP or IP Matrix quarterly and complete a master review yearly
- Don't forget to follow these steps and include information from real-world events
 - Completing an AAR for real-world events and adding the information to your IP or IP Matrix is imperative to ensuring your local jurisdiction is prepared