



DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, CACHAR

A REPORT ON MOCK DRILL **AT SILCHAR AIRPORT**

10th November 2017

Call us at: 03842-239249
Email- ddmacachar@gmail.com

A REPORT ON MOCK DRILL AT SILCHAR AIRPORT

(DATE: 10th NOVEMBER, 2017)

(PLACE: KUMBIRGRAM AIRPORT)

Introduction:

Mock Drills are very much important as they help to understand the level of preparedness and they also help in understanding what are the points on which more emphasis needs to be given. Drills are no longer as simple as pulling a fire alarm and hoping everyone files out of the building in an orderly fashion. Emergency drills are paramount to your emergency preparedness. Running a drill is dependent on several factors: your building type, occupancy, identified risks, and the kind of emergency being tested. Simulating a real event is necessary to polish your disaster plans. "If an organization fails to plan, then it is planning to fail."

Need of the Practice:

Airport is one such place where the safety and security is of utmost importance. Here all sorts of communication routes or networks need to be safeguarded carefully and in this regard the most vulnerable, yet sophisticated aspect is with the Airport. So, keeping this in view and also about the upcoming event-"Namami Barak", this mock drill was planned at Silchar Airport which comes under Udharbond Revenue Circle.

Importance of Silchar Airport:

We all know that day-by-day Silchar is becoming a hub of business and the second largest town in Assam after Guwahati, so the importance of this place is widening day by day. Apart from this, the Silchar Airport is the only airport at South Assam and since the place has connecting routes and boundaries with other country (Bangladesh) and other states (Mizoram, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, others) so the importance of this airport in terms of keen vigilance also rises. The airport here at Silchar is not only the one for use of Civilians but also a Defence Airport, hence it becomes even more important. In this airport both security and safety have to be very strongly and rigidly followed with a proper planning and preparation to combat any sort of disaster which might occur.

Some essentials of any Mock Drill:

We need to work through the process of what an event will entail and what resources we need to bring to bear. Then we anticipate how people are going to go evacuate, where they should go, and how you're going to communicate this to them. A proper planning of all types of involvements and resources is very important.

Emergency Drill Checklist-A drill which is being implemented should have the following

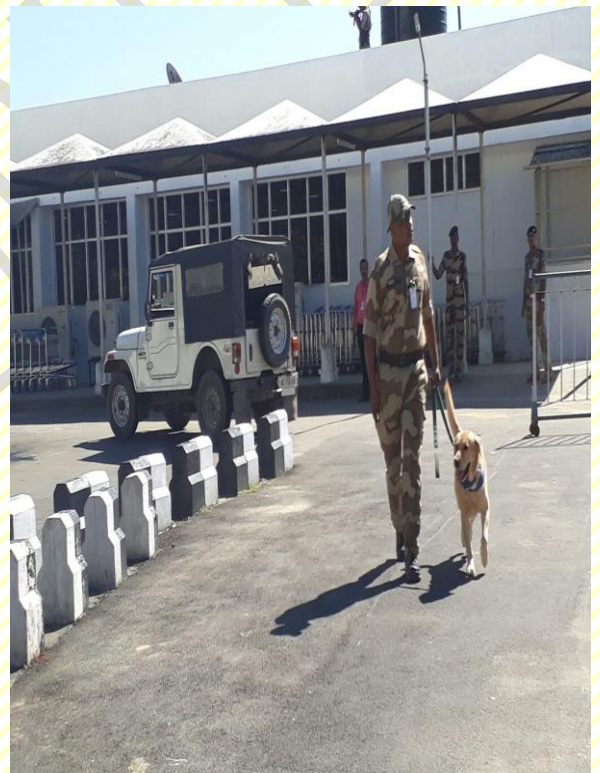
- Communication channels
- Escape routes
- Meeting places

- Emergency lighting and signage
- Flow of traffic
- Coordination of emergency teams
- Comprehension of alerts
- Emergency equipment
- Timing
- Participation

After refining the emergency plans, they should be put to the test by running a full-scale evacuation. Impromptu exercises can simulate a real event, while planned drills can coincide with safety-themed months. Either way, we shouldn't want to make a drill an event. We should make it part of our overall safety program.

A successful drill is dependent on full participation from all occupants. Complacent attitudes during a drill can turn into confusion and risk in a real situation. Here leadership sets a good example to emphasize the importance of drills. While our infrastructure and communication might be strong, if people aren't actually participating, then the drill is failing. We need to have executive buy-in for these evacuations. CEOs, all top employees and others should motivate their employees.

It is generally found that the communication systems are often over-tasked. A flood of information can lead to confusion, particularly if it's hard to decipher. A common failure is basic system overloads. Here some common things to be notices is "Are too many messages being sent? Are people not understanding all the messages? Are they not coming in chronological order? We need to have a layer of many channels, many pathways to talk to people. So, here what is importance, is a strong built strategy which is well communicated.



While a drill tests our emergency procedures, we should also assess how to get the occupants back to their normal routines. Making sure the drill encompasses responding to the aftermath of an event, such as handling communication, resuming business operations, and resetting equipment is also important.

We also need to complete a thorough write-up of a drill, including statistical data. This information can fine-tune our procedures, confirm the need for equipment purchases, and motivate each involved.

Feedback is really how we prepare our occupants and evaluate them from the standpoint of 'How can we do this better?' It lets people know this was not just a one-time event. This is a process and part of our natural routine.

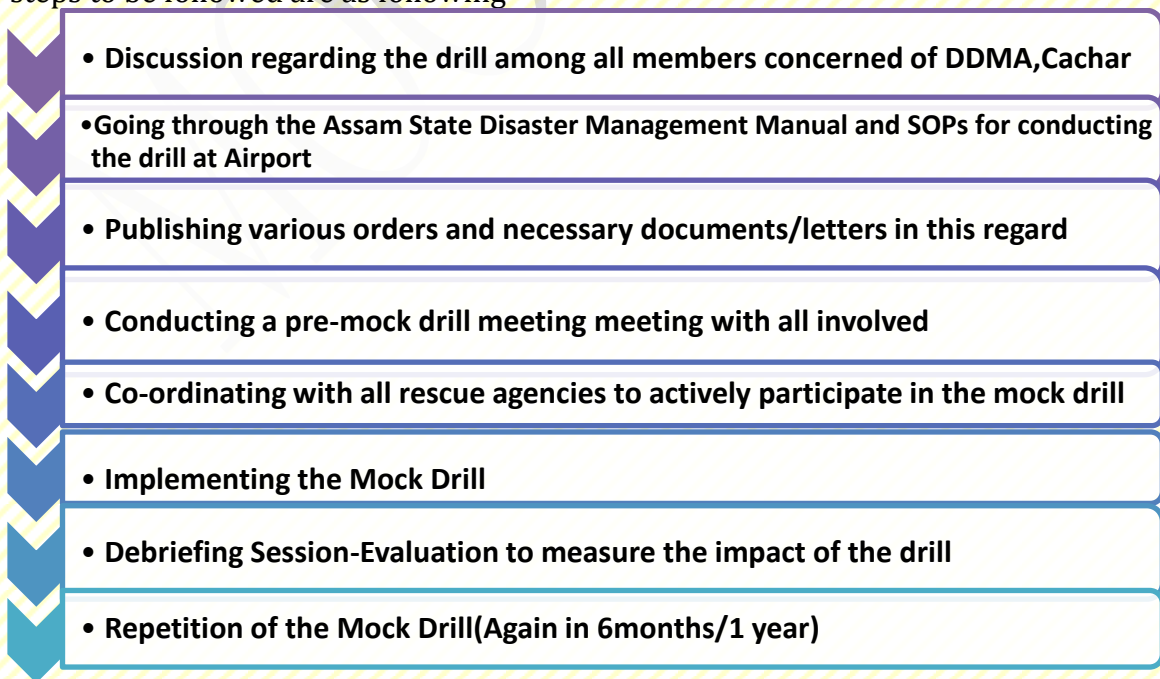
Objectives of the Mock Drill:

Every Drill is conducted keeping certain things in mind. The objectives of the drill are as following-

- Establishing a method of systematic, safe & orderly evacuation.
- Taking the least possible time.
- Locating a safe area using nearest safe exit so as to be safe during real disasters.
- Minimising damage and protecting property.
- Assisting in speedy return to regular practice of faith.
- Communicating accurate facts to the apex institutions and the community.
- Ensuring that the response is timely, effective, responsible and locally-sensitive.
- To reduce anxiety and fear in event of a disaster.
- To Reduce losses that accompany disaster.
- To save lives and vital economic assets by investing in preparedness activities.
- To Reduce cost and period of overall relief.
- To check preparedness level, co-ordination among various stakeholders.
- To check Response mechanism.

Flow Chart of the Mock Drill-The Cycle

For conducting and carrying out the mock drill a process flow-chart that includes steps to be followed are as following-



The Strategy Meeting- (Pre-Mock Drill Meeting):

For establishing good co-ordination among all the agencies involved in the drill and for overall understanding a pre-meeting for strategy finalization was held on 8th of November, 2017 at Silchar Airport, Kumbirgram from 11:00am. The various persons who were present in the meeting were the Director of Silchar Airport; Representative of IAF, Assistant Commander & Inspector, CISF; NDRF Inspector, Fire Station In-charge-Udharbond & Silchar; Police Station in-charge-Udharbond & Silchar, IAF Station Commandant; Nodal Officer of Udharbond from Health Department and SDRF staff. Here the representatives from District Disaster Management Authority & District Administration were Sunandan Endaw (FO, Sonai), Monami Bhattacharjee (FO, Udharbond) and Biprajit Paul Choudhury (FO, Katigora). Here various things were discussed in detail, such-

- Scenario Planning- A detail discussion on what would be the scenario and who will be involved were discussed
- Details about the first respondents from- The entity or agency who would be involved in internal and external response were discussed about
- CISF- The first respondent's role from CISF was discussed in detail.
- District Administration- The control and co-ordination of District Administration was discussed in detail.
- Detail discussion about roles and responsibilities of involved agencies were also discussed.
 - Role of NDRF.
 - Role of SDRF and Fire Station.
 - Role of Assam Police and Traffic.
 - Role of Assam Rifles.
 - Role of Health Department.
- Line up with District Administration Control Room- This point was given importance as this would be the starting point from which various agencies would be deployed. So, here it was discussed that how and who will be liaising with the District Administration Control Room.
- Finalizing time for the mock drill on 10th Nov, 2017- Since the airport would have various incoming and out-going flights, so it was very necessary to decide the time where there would be people but within a certain margin.
- Press Release Discussion- The data or report that would be given to the press about the mock drill was also discussed in detail and here some special emphasis was also given preserving some valuable information which should not be disclosed.
- Documentation necessities to be shared (like detail process, photographs, etc)- It was discussed that the photographs/videos, etc which would be taken by all, would be submitted to DDMA, Cachar after collecting from all ends.



- Suggestive measures from all ends- At the end of the session suggestive measures were invited from all ends. Here the inclusion of Lesson Learnt Session was suggested, and it was also suggested that this sort of drills should be a regular phenomenon.



Agencies Involved for Mock Drill:

The various agencies that will be involved for this mock drill at Airport that was finalised will be having-

- CISF.
- District Disaster Management Authority(DDMA), Cachar.
- Airport Authority of India(AAI).
- Indian Air Force(IAF).
- Assam Rifles.
- Assam Police.
- Health.
- Fire Station & ESS.
- NDRF.
- SDRF.
- Traffic.



Resources or Important Things for completion of the drill:

To conduct the mock drill there must be certain resources which has to function properly. The resources that would be needed for this mock drill are as following-

- Ambulance- To transfer the victims/ affected people to a safe place or medical camp/hospital.
- Medical Camps- To undertake the medical procedures we need to have two set-ups: - the first one being a make shift set-up and the second one at the hospital at Salgonga.

- Incident Command Post- an Incident Command Post to be set up outside the Airport for overall management of the activities.
- Control Room- The control room functioning will be set up at two different places - one at the Airport itself and the other District Administration Office, (DEOC), Cachar.
- Bomb Detecting Squad- A Specialised Squad of army to detect the bomb.
- Sniper Dogs- A Specialised Squad of dogs to detect the bomb.

The Mock Drill:

As part of checking the preparedness to face an emergency, the mock drill was conducted at the Silchar Airport on 10th of October, 2017 from 9:00pm onwards. The mock drill had a pre-planned scenario where a car having two persons (considerably terrorists) inside it would enter the airport campus with bomb and explosives. The car would first be stopped at the main gate and since it did not stop or respond to the security at the gate, so an alert was circulated within the internal agency (CISF) of AAI for further actions. It was then noticed that the terrorist and the internal agencies had a small attack on each other, where one of the terrorists died and the other one went inside a shop which was just located opposite to the Airport. The terrorists also left behind a big bag inside the airport periphery, which was suspected to have explosives.

As soon as this activity started the District Administration was informed through the DEOC for further help. The details of the overall response-rescue operations are as following –

Sl No	Time	Activity
1	9.20am	The Miscreants entered the Airport Compound
2	9.23am	The AAI contacted DEOC, Cachar
3	9.25am	Assam Police Deployed (1- Platoon) by District Administration
4	9.35am	Assam Police Reached the Venue
5	9.40am	The State Police was briefed about the details at ICP.
6	9.42am	Assam Rifles were deployed
7	9.50am	SDRF Deployed
8	9.52am	Assam Rifles reached the venue with their dog squad but without the squad
9	9.55am	SDRF reached the venue
10	9.56am	NDRF deployed
11	10:00am	Medical team was deployed
12	10:05am	NDRF reached the venue
13	10:10am	Medical Team reached the venue

By 10:15am, all rescue agencies and teams reached the venue and they started the rescue operation. Here the first thing that was done was room-intervention of the hidden terrorist. This went for next 1.5 hour and side by side, fire that broke out was also taken care of by SDRF. There were some casualties also and they were managed by Assam Rifles and NDRF. The casualties were handed over to the Health Department Staff who had come up with 3 different ambulances well equipped with all necessary things, doctors, nurses, others. The overall operation was handled by Indian Air Force and CISF. On the other hand, Assam Police and

Traffic looked after the law and order situation in and around the airport. With co-operation received from all ends the drill ended up after a full-course rescue operation of around 3 hours.

The De-Briefing Session:

At the end of the drill, a de-briefing session was held. Here all the agencies who were a part of the drill were present. Here the best practices and some insights were talked about. Here also some of the lacking that was seen from Assam Rifles, who failed to come up with the bomb squad was also discussed. Each one who participated in the smooth functioning of the drill was well-appreciated. At the end of the session, the Director of AAI, Silchar also thanked the District Administration - DDMA for conducting such a wonderful and well-organised mock drill.



Way-Ahead:

At the end of the session, the Director of AAI, Silchar also thanked the District Administration - DDMA for conducting such a wonderful and well-organised mock drill and also emphasised on the fact that such mock drills should be organised either once in a 6 month or at least one in a year, as this helps to test and understand the strength of our own resources.

Some Observations:

- The scenario planning was not matched up with Assam Rifles' activities, as they failed to bring in the Bomb Detecting Squad.
- The role of the Health Department was wonderful, the co-ordination and performance that they projected was well-appreciated by all.
- The SDRF and Fire Station had a very laid-back attitude and the number of person participating from their end was also very poor, where they are one of the most important rescue agencies of this valley.
- The Co-ordination with the DEOC was well established which led to smooth functioning.
- NDRF Team actively participated and showcased their various rescue technique.
- There was full support of all agencies involved.

Media coverage in local print media:

The overall Mock Drill was covered by almost all local papers and news-channels. In each of the cover, they spoke good about this initiative and appreciated it well. Some of the news clips/cuts are as following -

নমামি : বিমান বন্দরের সুরক্ষা পর্যালোচনায় 'মক্‌ড্রিল'



প্রান্তজ্যোতি প্রতিবেদন, শিলচর ১০ নভেম্বর : নমামি বরাকের আগে জেলায় সুরক্ষা ব্যবস্থা এবং জরুরিকালীন অবস্থার মোকাবিলা করতে প্রশাসন কতটুকু তৈরি এসব খতিয়ে দেখতে কাছাড় জেলা প্রশাসন আজ কুস্তীরগ্রাম বিধানবন্দর চত্বরে একই মক্‌ড্রিলের আয়োজন করে। এদিন বিমানবন্দর চত্বরে কৃত্রিম জরুরিকালীন পরিস্থিতি তৈরি করা হয় এবং অবস্থা সামাল দিতে পুলিশ ও অন্যান্য সুরক্ষা বাহিনীদের পাঠানো হয়। মক্‌ড্রিলটি আয়োজনে জেলা প্রশাসনের দুর্ঘোণ মোকাবিলা প্রাধিকরণের সঙ্গে নেশন্যাল ডিমাস্টার রেম্পদ ফোর্স (এনডিআরএফ) ও কুস্তীরগ্রাম বিমানবন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ যোগ দেয়।

মক্‌ড্রিলটির মাধ্যমে বিমানবন্দর বা জেলার অন্যান্য জনবহুল জায়গায় আপাতকালীন পরিস্থিতি

এরপর ছয়ের পাতায়

শিলচর বিমানবন্দরে মক্‌ড্রিলের দৃশ্য। শুক্রবার। ছবি নিজস্ব।

সুরক্ষা পর্যালোচনায় 'মক্‌ড্রিল'

গুলোকে কিভাবে মোকাবিলা করা যায় তা নিয়ে পর্যালোচনা করা হয়। কাছাড় জেলা দুর্ঘোণ মোকাবিলা প্রাধিকরণের আধিকারিক সামিম আহমেদ লস্কর বলেন, নমামির অনুষ্ঠানে দেশ বিদেশ থেকে অতিথিরা আসবেন। আর তাই বিমানবন্দর একটি অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজনীয় বিমানবন্দর বা রেলস্টেশনের মতো জায়গাগুলোর সুরক্ষাব্যবস্থা কড়া করতে প্রশাসন সব ধরনের পদক্ষেপ নিচ্ছে আর এই মক্‌ড্রিল তারই অংশ। এনডিআরএফ এক টিম কমান্ডার মিথিলেশ কুমার বলেন, দুর্ঘোণ মোকাবিলা ব্যবস্থাকে শক্ত করতে প্রায় ৪৫ জনের এক দল শিলচরের অদূরে উধারবন্দ এলাকায় রয়েছে আর দলের মধ্যেই ভালোভাবে প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত। তারা প্রাকৃতিক বা অন্যান্য জরুরি অবস্থায় বাঁপিয়ে পড়বেন। সঙ্গে রয়েছে রাজ্য দুর্ঘোণ মোকাবিলা দল এসডিআরএফ। আসাম রাইফেলস সহ অন্যান্য সুরক্ষা বাহিনী।

Mock drill conducted at Silchar Airport ahead of Namami Barak



A mock drill was conducted at the Silchar Airport this Friday ahead of Namami Barak.

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

Silchar: A mock drill was conducted at the Silchar Airport this Friday by the DDMA along with several other organisations from the region ahead of the Namami Barak river festival.

Apart from the DDMA, the AAI, CISF, Assam Rifles, state police, fire service, health services and IAF personnel also participated in the mock drill. The mock drill was conducted to check the preparedness of the defense personnel in the case of an emergency.

In a conversation with EC, district project officer DDMC Shamin Ahmed Laskar said, "The Namami Barak is ahead of us and we cannot take chances with regards to the security. Thousands of people from all over the world are coming to attend this river festival which would include VIPs like President of India Ram Nath Kovind and VIPs among others. We have conducted this mock drill as a measure to counter sudden attacks."

He further noted that over 300 security personnel from various organisations participated in the mock drill. "The mock drill was carried out from 9am to around 11:30am as a measure to be prepared just in the case of a hijack or a terrorist attack," said NDRF Team Commander S.I. Virendra Nautyal.

"The mock drill was carried out to mobilize all forces. A bomb disposal squad from the Assam Rifles also participated in the mock drill. The airport is currently taken care of by the Airport Security Force (ASF) but we would like all forces to be prepared for the worst of situations," Nautyal emphasized. The mock drill was conducted in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajib Roy and CISF Assistant Commander Mr. Dayal.

The Conclusion:

After the completion of such a successful mock drill, the thing that we should also keep in mind is that "the more we involve ourselves in preparedness activities, the more we are protecting ourselves to be prepared for a disaster. Those drills should be organised frequently as more frequencies will certainly help to build in the understanding and necessity of combating a disaster of any sort.

PREPARED BY:

(Monami Bhattacharjee)
Field Officer(DM)

(Shamim Ahmed Laskar)
District project Officer, DDMA,
Silchar, Cachar

Approved

(Rajib Roy, ACS)
ADM & CEO,
DDMA, Cachar.

(Dr. Lakshmanan. S., IAS)
Deputy Commissioner & Chairman.
DDMA, Cachar.