

Interview Summary Form

Interview Details

Interviewee Name: ADM Allen Date: 9/02/10 Time: 10:00am
 Interviewee Title: National Incident Commander Interviewee Job Location: Washington, DC
 Interviewer Name(s): Team Interview Location: Washington, DC

Interview Questions

Initial Question1:

What was your job/role and how did it evolve during the DEEPWATER HORIZON Incident? Please describe your overall vision of the NIC. What were the major factors going into the SONS declaration and the establishment of the NIC? What prompted the establishment of the Interagency Support Group? What was your relationship with BP?

Focus Area: Role of the NIC	Question 1: Moore	What transpired leading up to the official establishment of the NIC on May 1 st ?
Focus Area: Political Demands	Question 2: Parker	Once the NIC was established, what were your expectations and guidance from higher levels? Were you able to have dialogue with the White House? What directives did you receive from the White House and what was your interaction with the White House staff? Were you able to discuss the directives or where they provided as "marching orders"? (Reference tripling the response.)
Focus Area: Role of the Secretary of DHS under HSPD-5	Question 3: Rufe	What was the involvement of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of DHS in your response organization? Was there any friction between the role of the PFO and the role of the NIC?
Focus Area: Integration of the National Response Framework (NRF) Organizational Structure	Question 4: Joves	How can the NCP be rationalized with the NRF, the Stafford Act and States (or even Parishes) acting under their own emergency authorities?
Focus Area: External Communications	Question 5: House	We understand that the public had misconceptions related to the response, including who was in charge, and it seemed that the responders were always playing catch up? Can you comment?
Focus Area: Political Demands	Question 6: Cunningham	How can you possibly prepare or deal with an event recognizing this has huge exposure at high levels? Recognizing an incident of this size will always include huge exposure and pressure at the highest levels, how do you incorporate this into the exercise and preparedness programs?
Focus Area: Role of the NIC	Question 7: Dietrick	The cornerstone of any response is a viable RP. What if this particular RP had shut the doors and said that we will see you in court, how would this response have been different? Would you have changed anything in your strategy?
Focus Area: Quantification & Worst Case Discharge	Question 9: O'Neil	How did the variations in the flow rate impact your response to spill?
Focus Area: Political Demands	Question 10: Pollock	How did state and local involvement play out during this incident?
Focus Area: Application of Lessons Learned from prior spill responses and exercise programs (NPREP/SONS)	Question 11: Behler	In your opinion, were the different levels of government adequately resourced, funded, and prepared prior to this spill? What are your thoughts of improving overall preparedness and response?

Final Question 1:	What were the top 2 “best practice(s)” during this incident, from your perspective?
Final Question 2:	What do you assess to be the top 2 “areas needing improvement” (or downright “failures”) from your perspective, and do you have any related recommendations regarding these areas?
Final Question 3:	Is there anything else we should know?
Final Question 4:	Who else should we interview?

Notes