

Gregory, G., van Veldhuizen, N., Webb, P., Oldaker, J., Campbell, R., & Andrewartha, R. (n.d.). *Exercise 'Nutcracker'*. Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry and Fishing.

Commonwealth of Australia

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EXERCISE

NUTCRACKER

EXERCISE WRITING TEAM

Graham Gregory	DPIF
Neil Van Veldhuizen	Tasmania Police
Paul Webb	TASES
John Oldaker	TFGA
Rick Campbell	DPIF
Rod Andrewartha	DPIF

COPY No OF

EXERCISE NUTCRACKER

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

REFERENCES

- . AUSVETPLAN
- . Tasmanian Exotic Disease Operational Plans and Resources Manual (TOM)
- . Stock Act 1932
- . Tasmanian Exotic Animal Disease Plan

INTRODUCTION

1. Exercise "NUTCRACKER" is an operational exercise designed to practice exotic animal disease control procedures at all control levels.
2. Field activities will be limited to those required to properly exercise command, coordination and information collection activities.
3. Mustering and inspection of livestock will not be conducted. Disinfection procedures, other than personal disinfection on and off properties, will not be carried out.
4. The exercise will be conducted during December 1993 in an rural area remote from major DPIF offices. It is anticipated that the LDCC will be established in the immediate area of the exercise. The SDCHQ will be established in Hobart. Field activities will be confined mainly to a small area around the initial infection however isolated field visits may be required in other areas of the State.
5. The following organisations will be participating in the exercise:
 - a. DPIF
 - b. Tasmania Police
 - c. TASES
 - d. TF&GA

Other organisations will be invited to send observers.

AIM

6. To test and evaluate the effectiveness of AUSVETPLAN and Tasmanian Operational Plans and Resources Manual (TOM).
7. To test the ability of trained staff to effectively handle an exotic disease emergency, to assess the effectiveness of training.

8. To familiarise the general community on the impact of an exotic disease.

OBJECTIVES

9. To test the despatch of field staff for surveillance and tracing, and to test the two way communication of information.

10. To test paper flow paths and other communications within and between IP's, LDCC, AHL and SDCHQ.

11. To test the inter-organisation communications and cooperation and the Command and Control system.

12. To test and upgrade State Alert and Operational Job Cards and the Tasmanian Operational Plans and Resources Manual.

13. To test and make suggestions to improve AUSVETPLAN Manuals.

14. To train staff in various roles within the organisational structure for the control of an exotic disease.

15. To test the establishment of an LDCC.

EXERCISE FORMAT

17. An exercise format has been developed that will require the activation of an LDCC in a remote area and the SDCHQ in Hobart. Field staff will be deployed from the LDCC but their role in the field will be restricted to the gathering of information sufficient to complete appropriate ANEMIS forms for delivery to the LDCC.

18. The diagnostic team will not be dispatched to the initial suspect property, however, the availability of staff to form the team should be checked.

19. During the course of the exercise samples will be dispatched to AHL Mt Pleasant.

20. Commonwealth involvement through CCEAD will occur in real time in the exercise, however DPIEVETPLAN will be exercised on this scenario at a time unrelated to this exercise.

21. Background intelligence (General Idea) and pre-exercise information (Special Idea) are shown in Annex A and B.

22. The sequence of events in relation to the activation of the disease response is shown in Annex C. The exercise is designed to be free-flowing and as far as possible all actions that would normally be taken within the control centres will take place. Mobilisation of resources in the field will be limited to a restricted number of surveillance teams and IP Managers. Outside agencies will be contacted for the provision of information only.

23. The exercise will commence with information fed into the normal DPIF reporting system. The exercise will be conducted over a four day period within the normal working week.

24. The exercise will operate in real time, however some support materials may be pre-assembled in the area.

25. The exercise will be restricted to normal working hours with a debrief at the end of each day. Field staff may need to work outside normal PS hours to check cows during milking. The exercise will not break for lunch, section managers will be responsible for ensuring staff are fed.

26. Operational staff within the exercise will be contacted and instructed to proceed to the appropriate point as part of the exercise. Staff will receive no prior instruction to attend at a specific time. Suitable accommodation will be arranged before the exercise for the anticipated number of staff to be called in.

27. The layout of the LDCC and SDCHQ are at the Controller's and Chief SDCHQ's discretion but no costly alterations to facilities will be authorised.

28. Installation of additional telephone lines will only be permitted with permission of the exercise Director however it is not expected that they will be needed.

29. Staff responding to the exercise will be requested to observe normal speed limits. Any police vehicles involved will not use visual or audible warning devices.

ADMINISTRATION

30. **Location.** The location of the LDCC and SDCHQ will be at the discretion of the Controller and Chief SDCHQ. A suitable site for the LDCC has been booked and the Controller will be encouraged to use it. It is anticipated that the SDCHQ will be on 4th. Floor of the Marine Board Building.

31. **Personnel.** Personnel with a directing staff role are listed in Annex D with their responsibilities identified.

32. **Exercise briefing.** Exercise participants will not be specifically briefed on aspects of the exercise before it occurs. Briefing on the situation as people are called up is an aspect of AUSVETPLAN that is to be evaluated during the exercise.

33. As people enter the exercise they will be briefed on the requirement of the exercise eg. the need for exercise only stamps. Briefing information on the exercise will include finishing date for the exercise and details of the extent of field activity allowed (see Annex E).

34. The CVO, Manager SDCHQ and Controller LDCC will be briefed on the exercise at the commencement of the exercise.

35. Exercise directing staff at the Laboratory and SDCHQ will have a final briefing on the friday before the exercise commences. Exercise directing staff for LDCC will have a final briefing at the start of the exercise.

36. Prior to the exercise a general circular will be sent to all DPIF staff advising that in the near future an exercise will be held and emphasising that all messages associated with the exercise will be stamped EXERCISE ONLY, and all voice transmissions prefaced by EXERCISE NUTCRACKER. Any real exotic animal disease occurrence in December 1993 should be prefaced by "This is an AUTHENTIC report". (Annex F)

37. Outside organisations that could be effected by the exercise will be briefed on the exercise before it commences.

38. **Operational briefing.** Managers tasking staff to the field will be required to brief staff on operational and exercise requirements.

39. **Exercise debriefing.** Debriefing will be carried out during the course of the exercise and at the end of the exercise. A debrief involving all participants will be conducted at the LDCC and SDCHQ at the completion of the exercise. Debriefing will initially be by section followed by a general debrief. (Annex G)

40. The directing staff will call a halt to the exercise and hold an exercise debrief at any time during the course of the exercise when it becomes necessary.

41. **Operational debriefing.** Operational debriefing of field teams shall be conducted by appropriate operational staff on the return of teams to the LDCC. Other operational debriefs will be at the discretion of the Controller and managers.

42. **Costs.** Each participating organisation will bear its own costs incurred in the exercise including travel and accommodation. DPIF costs and the costs of meals will come from EXANDIS funds.

VISITORS/OBSERVERS

43. Visitors will be invited from a number of organisations to observe activities within the exercise. Public relations staff within the exercise centre will attend to these visitors for those aspects of their visit that would occur in an authentic operation. At other times visitors will be escorted by an appropriate person on the directing staff.

PUBLIC RELATIONS / MEDIA

44. Management of the media during the exercise will be the responsibility of the media liaison staff within the control centres. Any assistance on aspects relating to the management of the exercise itself will be provided by the Media/Visitor Liaison person on the Directing Staff.

45. All local media outlets will be briefed before the exercise on the fact that the exercise will be occurring, that it is only an exercise, and that they will be able to become involved in the exercise.

EXERCISE MANAGEMENT

46. **Directing Staff.** The directing staff for the exercise and their responsibilities are set out in Annex D

47. **Identification.** Directing staff and visitors will be identified by coloured name-tags. Exercise participants will be identified by any method determined within the exercise.

48. All written material produced in the exercise will be stamped **EXERCISE ONLY**. This stamp will be applied to each page, and will be applied before any material is transmitted by facsimile.

49. All radio and telephone transmissions will be prefaced with the term **EXERCISE NUTCRACKER**.

50. ANY MESSAGES RELATING TO REAL DISEASE INCIDENTS WILL BE PREFACED **"AUTHENTIC"**.

AUTHORISATION

51. The Secretary, Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (Mr S Balcombe) has authorised the conducting of this exercise.

CONTACT ADVICE

52. All enquiries relating to the exercise should be directed to :

Rod Andrewartha
Senior Veterinary Officer (Exotic Disease)
Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
PO Box 96
OATLANDS TAS 7120

Telephone (002) 541 333
Facsimile (002) 541 578

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G.G. Gregory
Principal Veterinary Officer
Exercise Director.

ANNEXES

- A** General Idea
- B** Special Idea
- C** Sequence of events
- D** Directing Staff
- E** Exercise briefing sheet.
- F** General circular & Letter to Directors
- G** Exercise programme
- H** Debriefing guidelines
- I** Mt Pleasant Laboratory
- J** Instructions to Direct Participants

DISTRIBUTION.

Full set of annexes

- 1 R Andrewartha
- 2 C Midgley
- 3 G Gregory
- 4 R Sandy
- 5 N Van Veldhuizen
- 6 P Webb
- 7 J Oldaker
- 8 R Campbell
- 9
- 10

Annexes ADEFH (Observers)

- 11 Ray Johnson NSW
- 12 Fiona Spurling SA
- 13 Neil Tweddle FDU
- 14

Annexes DFH (DPIF management)

- 15 D Witt
- 16 B Ryan
- 17 S Balcombe
- 18 C Mucha
- 19
- 20

ANNEX A

EXERCISE NUTCRACKER

GENERAL IDEA

The Circular Head area of Tasmania is in the extreme North West corner of the State. It is a rural area where principal industries include in dairy, beef production (mainly fattening), vegetable growing, fishing and timber production. The area is reasonably isolated from the rest of the state with only one road entering the area.

The principal town in the area is Smithton with a population of 3,500.

The dairy industry in the Circular Head area supplies four dairy factories:

Cadbury's	Burnie,
Lactos	Burnie,
UMT	Edith Creek,
UMT	Wynyard.

Burnie and Wynyard are outside the Circular Head area.

An export abattoir is located at Smithton slaughtering up to 300 cattle per day. An abattoir supplying the local market is located at Stanley.

Livestock sales take place each second Monday at the Smithton Saleyards.

ANNEX B
EXERCISE NUTCRACKER
SPECIFIC IDEA

EXOTIC DISEASE EXERCISE -

Scenario

An extremist environmental group, Economic Terrorists Against Cattle (ETAC) have begun operations in the Circular Head area. They are a group of radicals who use the economy as a weapon in their fight for an environmental revolution, especially with regard to agricultural industries.

This organisation has two basic aims.

1. Cessation of the slaughter of cattle for human consumption.
2. The conversion of all people to vegetarians.

The group has about 200 members and is based at Liffey, near Launceston.

The leader of the group, Brian Unwin Lewis Larson (BULL) is 33 years old, a former Agricultural Officer, who specialised in exotic disease control in Sudan. Until 6 months ago Larson was employed as an Agricultural Officer at the Cressy Research Station. He was dismissed for carrying out unauthorised experiments and his present whereabouts is unknown. He has no known family in Tasmania, but has strong links with ETAC Worldwide.

During the evening of Friday, 3 December 1992 at the Circular Head Showgrounds at Stanley, cattle exhibited at the show were sprayed with an aerosol containing Rinderpest virus, by a member of ETAC.

Over the following week a private vet has seen a large number of cases of cattle off feed and off milk. Their concern was reported to DPIF staff on Saturday 11 December. One differential diagnosis of the condition, is Rinderpest.

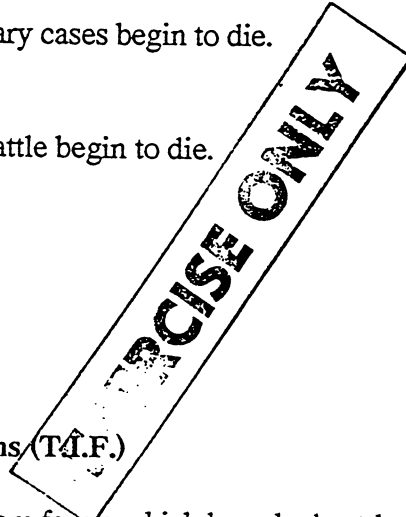
Main Disease Scenario

Friday, Dec 3	Cattle at Circular Head Show infected with Rinderpest virus.
Saturday, Dec 4	Circular Head Show, DPIF display on exotic disease.
Tuesday Dec 7	Fever, reduced appetite, reduced milk yield, listless, shedding virus.
Wednesday Dec 8	<p>Tanker picks up infected milk and infects rest of tanker run. T I F - Tanker Infected Farms.</p> <p>Circular Head Council Meeting - 10 am S'ton, Address meeting.</p>
Thursday Dec 9	Lesions in mouths of primary cases, ie those infected at C H Show.
Saturday Dec 11	<p>1st cases have diarrhoea.</p> <p>2nd cases, fever, reduced milk production, shedding virus.</p> <p>S'ton Vet rings 24 hr No. in L'ton because of concern over number of cases and distribution.</p>
Sunday Dec 12	<p>Diagnostic team sent to C.H., samples sent by plane from S'ton to AAHL (Geelong)</p> <p>Samples went astray and did not arrive at AAHL until Monday 13.</p> <p>T.I.F., Clinical signs (↓milk ↑temp) shedding virus.</p>
Monday Dec 13	<p>Alert Phase 9 - 11.30 am - Deaths of cattle on 1st farms, secondary cases start scouring.</p> <p>S'ton sale, infected animals yarded.</p> <p>Establish LDCC at S'ton Council Chambers.</p> <p>11am - Confirmation from AAHL of Rinderpest.</p> <p>Operational Phase.</p>

Tuesday Dec 14 Mouth lesions in T.I.Fs.
Ransom notes sent to C.V.O. (posted)

Wednesday Dec 15 Ransom note received by C.V.O.
Secondary cases begin to die.

Thursday Dec 16 T.I.F. cattle begin to die.



Peripheral Scenarios

1. Tanker Infected Farms (T.I.F.)

Tanker collects milk from farms which have had cattle at C.H. Show and which are now shedding virus (Wed 8th). Aerosol from tanker infects cattle on remainder of tanker run.

Will be able to determine which farms when know exhibitors at C.H. show.

Because virus readily destroyed by pasteurisation, milk is OK once it reaches the factory.

2. Saleyard Infections

Assume animals from infected farms sent to Smithton Sale, that is either exhibitors at C.H. Show or T.I. Farms, on Monday 13th. In contact animals, those in adjoining pens and cattle which travelled in a common cattle truck.

Outcome would be infected animals going to other farms and abattoirs.

The extent of saleyard infections will only be able to be determined after consultation with Stock Agents after the sale on Monday 13th.

3. Abattoir Infections

Some animals may go to abattoirs for direct slaughter. Those animals would not present a problem once dead as the virus would be destroyed by the falling pH of the meat. Unwashed truck may represent a limited risk to subsequent stock carried on the same day. May also infect farms on the way to the abattoir, if animals are collected from more than one farm.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO LDCC CONTROLLER

1. Phone call to 24 hr No. on Saturday, 11 December from S'ton Vet Clinic about the number of cases of sudden cessation of milk production, fever, listlessness and inappetence in cattle. Also on Friday 10 December, cattle were seen with erosive lesions in the mouth.
2. Diagnostic team sent to C H area, from Mt Pleasant labs, on Sunday 12 December, samples have been submitted to AAHL for Rinderpest determination.
3. "Alert Phase" staff contacted and advised to be in Smithton by 10 am Monday, 13 December.
4. LDCC - to be set up in Circular Head Council Chambers.
5. Accommodation is available for staff at "The Dovecote" in Stanley.
6. List of caterers available to provide meals for staff.
7. All exercise correspondence and telephone calls to be prefixed with "Nut Case".
8. Genuine calls or information to be prefixed with the words; "This is an authentic call".

EXERCISE ONLY

ANNEX C
EXERCISE NUTCRACKER
SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The exercise involves an outbreak of Rinderpest in the Circular Head Area. It is anticipated that the LDCC will be established at the Smithton Council Chambers and this venue has already been booked.

The exercise will commence with information fed into the normal DPIF reporting system by R Andrewartha masquerading as a private Veterinary Practitioner at 10:00 am Sunday 12 December.

It is anticipated that the main response and establishment of the LDCC will commence on Monday 13 December and the exercise will end on Thursday 16 December.

Sunday 12 December

9:00 Call to A/H number by R Andrewartha reporting disease.

Monday 13 December

11:00 AAHL confirms Rinderpest

Wednesday 15 December

10:00 Extortion letter confirming source arrives with
 CVO

Exercise Time-line

Saturday 4th December	–	C.H. Show, display.
Sunday 5th December	–	
Monday 6th December	–	Farmer participant visits.
Tuesday 7th December	–	Farmer participant visits.
Wednesday 8th December	– –	C.H. Council Meeting, Writing Group Meeting. C.H. <i>Chronicle</i> article. <i>Advocate</i> article.
Thursday 9th December	–	Visits to other participants, e.g. factories etc.
Friday, 10th December	–	Meeting with stock agents at Elliott.
Saturday 11th December	–	
Sunday 12th December	– – –	All hours Launceston number rung. Alert phone. Diagnostic team to Smithton.
Monday 13th December	– – – – – – – –	Begin establishment of LDCC in Smithton Council Chambers & SDCHQ in Hobart. Notification of diagnosis 11.00 a.m. Operational phone. Troops begin to arrive. Tracing of dangerous contact properties begins. Some farm visits (one or two) Infected area defined. Smithton cattle sale, infected stock yarded.
Tuesday 14th December	– – – – –	Full scale tracing. Farm visits. Afternoon, C.H. Show identified as source. Dairy factories contacted. Spot infection at Bracknell identified.

Wednesday 15th December

- Ransom note received in Hobart.
- Gate control on IPs.
- Valuation of IP.
- Saleyard and stock carrier tracing.
- Tanker infections identified.

Thursday 16th December

- Begin to get idea of extent and rate of spread of disease.
- Now able to predict potential IPs and action taken to minimise spread.
- PM rings the final bell.
- Pack up and most people go home.

Disease Time-line

Friday 3rd December	–	Animals at C.H. Show infected by aerosol spray.
Saturday 4th December		
Sunday 5th December		
Monday 6th December		
Tuesday 7th December	–	Infected animals have temperature and are listless. Milking cows off milk.
	–	Milk tanker infects other farms.
	–	In-contact animals infected.
Wednesday 8th December	–	Further tanker infections.
	–	Show cattle listless, high temperatures, cows off milk.
Thursday 9th December	–	First mouth lesions appear in show cattle, animals salivating, high temperatures.
Friday 10th December	–	Show cattle still salivating, more mouth lesions. Purulent nasal and ocular discharge, vaginal lesions.
Saturday 11th December	–	Show cattle have diarrhoea and a range of fresh and resolving mouth lesions. Animals losing weight.
	–	First of in-contact and tanker-infected cattle show signs of listlessness and increased temperatures.
	–	Further tanker infections.
Sunday 12th December	–	More in-contact and tanker-infected animals affected, reduced milk production, listless and high temperatures.
	–	Show cattle very sick, diarrhoea with blood and necrotic epitheliums, animals prostrate. Prevalent nasal and ocular discharge.

- Monday 13th December
- Deaths of some show cattle, balance very sick.
 - In-contact and tanker-infected cattle salivating and have few mouth ulcers, increased temperatures.
 - Infected cattle to Smithton sale—all go for slaughter.
- Tuesday 14th December
- Deaths of show cattle continue.
 - In-contact and tanker-infected cattle salivating; purulent nasal and ocular discharge. Necrotic lesions in mouth, vagina and external nares, high temperatures.
- Wednesday 15th December
- All show cattle have died.
 - In-contact and tanker-infected cattle have profuse watery diarrhoea, salivating, necrotic lesions in mouth, nose and vagina, temperatures dropping in some animals.
 - Second round of tanker-infected cattle begin showing early clinical signs.
- Thursday, 16th December
- Deaths of in-contact and tanker-infected cattle. Full range of symptoms in these animals.
 - Second round tanker-infected cattle ill with high temperatures.

ANNEX D

EXERCISE NUTCRACKER

DIRECTING STAFF

1. EXERCISE DIRECTOR

Graham Gregory Principal Veterinary Officer DPIF

2. EXERCISE ADMINISTRATOR

Rod Andrewartha

3. EXERCISE CO-ORDINATORS

Neil Van Veldhuizen	Tasmania Police
Paul Webb	TASES
John Oldaker	TFGA
Rick Campbell	DPIF
Rod Andrewartha	DPIF

4. SCENARIO CO-ORDINATOR

Rick Campbell
Neil Van Veldhuizen

5. MEDIA/VISITOR LIAISON

Paul Webb

6. UMPIRES

LDCC	Rod Andrewartha Graham Gregory Paul Webb John Oldaker Norm Harrison (SES)
SDCHQ	Rupert Sandy (SES)
AHL	Bruce Jackson

ANNEX E

EXERCISE NUTCRACKER

EXERCISE BRIEFING SHEET

Welcome to Exercise NUTCRACKER.

Exercise "NUTCRACKER" is an operational exercise designed to practice exotic animal disease control procedures at all control levels.

Field activities will be limited to those required to properly exercise command, coordination and information collection activities.

The exercise directing staff would like you to treat this exercise as a real event however there are obviously limitations to the extent of activities in the field.

- Surveillance teams will be dispatched and will be expected to fill in ANEMIS forms.
- Mustering and inspection of livestock will NOT be conducted. The only exception to this is where prior arrangements have been made with the property so that it can be used as a valuation exercise.
- Disinfection procedures, other than personal disinfection on and off properties, will not be carried out.
- Infected Premises Managers may be dispatched. They will stay at the farm gate unless the owner is happy for them to interview him/her etc. If possible assessment of appropriate burial site etc will be made.
- Road blocks / check points will not be established, however staff may be dispatched to the site of a road block to observe the level of traffic flow and assess how a road block would function.
- It is expected that information will need to be obtained from outside organisations. A list of organisations advised of the exercise will be provided. Before contacting organisations not on this list please get clearance from the exercise director.
- If staff from outside organisations eg valuers, become involved in the exercise they may require payment. Such payment will be processed by administration in the exercise but will need to be approved by G Gregory. Payment will be derived from EXANDIS funds.

IMPORTANT

All written material produced in the exercise will be stamped **EXERCISE ONLY**. This stamp will be applied to each page, and will be applied before any material is transmitted by facsimile.

All radio and telephone transmissions will be prefaced with the term **EXERCISE NUTCRACKER**.

ANY MESSAGES RELATING TO REAL DISEASE INCIDENTS WILL BE PREFACED **"AUTHENTIC"**.

When calling up any additional staff to the exercise please inform them that the exercise is to conclude on Thursday 26 November and that they should bring sufficient clothing and money to last for that time. Meals and accommodation will be provided.

FIELD STAFF.

For all premises visits you will be expected to fill in ANEMIS 1.

Please ensure that at the start and end of each visit you emphasise that the visit is part of an exercise and that no disease outbreak has actually occurred.

As in most cases animals will not be mustered and inspected, at the point where you would normally proceed to check the animals you should inform the farmer that:

- In a real situation you would now ask to inspect their stock.
- Ask the farmer if they have been briefed to be involved in the exercise.

If the farmer has not been briefed then thank them and leave.

If the farmer has been briefed then you have found a Suspect Property. The farmer will then give you the information he has been provided with showing the condition of stock and lesions present.



Department of
Primary Industry
and Fisheries
Tasmania

ANNEX F
EXERCISE NUTCRACKER



GPO BOX 192B HOBART TASMANIA 7001
TELEPHONE: (002) 338011 • FAX: (002) 341335

From the Secretary

3 November 1993

EXERCISE NUTCASE

General Circular 21/93

EXOTIC DISEASE EXERCISE

At some time during the period 6 to 17 December 1993 an exotic disease exercise will be held to test and evaluate the establishment and control of Department's response to an exotic disease of animals.

I can not be more specific about the actual date of the exercise as an objective of the exercise is to evaluate the call up of staff during the initial response period.

Whilst the exercise is on all messages associated with the exercise will be stamped EXERCISE ONLY, and all voice transmissions (phone and radio) prefixed by EXERCISE NUTCASE.

ANY REAL EXOTIC ANIMAL DISEASE OCCURRENCE IN DECEMBER 1993 WILL BE PREFIXED BY 'AUTHENTIC'.

All staff who have had any training in aspects of exotic disease control, especially those involved in Exercise Deep Pocket last year, should assume that they may be involved in this exercise and are asked not to make any major work commitments, such as running field days, for the period 6 - 17 December 1993.

(S L Balcombe)
SECRETARY

ANNEX F
EXERCISE NUTCRACKER

29 October 1993

TO THE DIRECTORS

EXOTIC ANIMAL DISEASE EXERCISE

Please note the attached circular to all staff concerning an exercise to be held in December to test our preparedness to control an exotic disease of animals.

I anticipate that up to 50 staff members from various Branches may be involved, either at Hobart or in the Local Disease Control Centre. They may be required to live away from home for up to 4 days.

All travelling expenses for this exercise will be funded by a special trust fund account.

I fully endorse this exercise and request that you ensure that any of your staff who are called to assist are readily available.

S L Balcombe
SECRETARY

ANNEX G
EXERCISE NUTCRACKER
EXERCISE PROGRAM

10 DECEMBER

Briefing of exercise directing staff in Hobart and Mt Pleasant Laboratory.

12 DECEMBER

Disease report phoned in on after hours number.
Call to be made at 9:00 am by R Andrewartha and to incorporate exercise briefing details.

13 DECEMBER

8:30 - 5:00	Exercise
8:30	Briefing of Exercise directing staff.
9:00	Directing staff to brief Controller and Manager SDCHQ
12:45	Directing Staff meeting to check if it is necessary to call a halt and have a debrief.
4:45 - 5:00	Directing staff debrief
5:00 - 5:30	General debrief.
5:30 - 5:45	Directing staff debrief.

14 DECEMBER

8:30 - 5:00	Exercise
12:45	Directing Staff meeting to check if it is necessary to call a halt and have a debrief.
4:45 - 5:00	Directing staff debrief
5:00 - 5:30	General debrief.
5:30 - 5:45	Directing staff debrief.

15 DECEMBER

8:30 - 5:00 Exercise

12:45 Directing Staff meeting to check if it is
necessary to call a halt and have a debrief.

4:45 - 5:00 Directing staff debrief

5:00 - 5:30 General debrief.

5:30 - 5:45 Directing staff debrief.

16 DECEMBER

8:30 - 12:00 Exercise

12:30 - 1:00 Section debrief

1:00 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 General debrief

3:00 Exercise concludes.

ANNEX H

EXERCISE NUTCRACKER

DEBRIEFING GUIDELINES

During this debrief you are asked to consider the following topics. Please feel free to comment on other areas as will.

Elect a scribe to record your comments noting your section on the top.

COMMUNICATION

- Effectiveness of communication within and between control centres and field activities.
- Adequacy of briefings and debriefings within the control operation.
- Could you keep track of information and access it when required?

ACCOMMODATION

- Were the sites of the LDCC and SDCHQ appropriate?
- Did you have sufficient space?
- Did you have sufficient access to other sections?
- Was there sufficient equipment?

STAFF

- Could the staff available handle the job?
- Where more staff needed? In what roles?

DOCUMENTATION

- Did AUSVETPLAN and job cards provide sufficient information fo you to be able to perform your function? If not, suggest areas for improvement.
- Could you follow the forms etc used in the exercise? If not, suggest improvements.

TRAINING

- Please detail further training that you feel is required in the area you were working in.

EXERCISE

- Was the exercise appropriate? Please comment on the length of the exercise and it's "reality".
- Please complete exercise critique.

ANNEX I

EXERCISE NUTCRACKER

MT PLEASANT LABORATORY

To test the ability of the laboratory to trace samples and undertake decontamination, a number of samples of material that may have been collected from animals with Rinderpest will be submitted to the lab from IP's and other properties in the area in the week before the outbreak is detected, and during the exercise.

SAMPLES: History; scouring cows.
Faeces for faecal culture
Bloods for pepsinogen

Copy of advice note to be kept so that lab accounts can be modified so that no account is sent to the owner.

Samples to be submitted through local practitioners.

Five or six samples to be submitted in week before exercise from properties that will become IP's.

Have practitioner send in samples during exercise requesting rule out of Rinderpest.

COPY No OF

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2. Field activities will be limited to those required to properly exercise command, coordination and information collection activities.
3. Mustering and inspection of livestock will not be conducted. Disinfection procedures, other than personal disinfection on and off properties, will not be carried out.
4. The exercise will be conducted during December 1993 in an rural area remote from major DPIF offices. It is anticipated that the LDCC will be established in the immediate area of the exercise. The SDCHQ will be established in Hobart. Field activities will be confined mainly to a small area around the initial infection however isolated field visits may be required in other areas of the State.
5. The following organisations will be participating in the exercise:
 - a. DPIF
 - b. Tasmania Police
 - c. TASES
 - d. TF&GA

Other organisations will be invited to send observers.

AIM

6. To test and evaluate the effectiveness of AUSVETPLAN and Tasmanian Operational Plans and Resources Manual (TOM).
7. To test the ability of trained staff to effectively handle an exotic disease emergency, to assess the effectiveness of training.

8. To familiarise the general community on the impact of an exotic disease.

OBJECTIVES

9. To test the despatch of field staff for surveillance and tracing, and to test the two way communication of information.

10. To test paper flow paths and other communications within and between IP's, LDCC, AHL and SDCHQ.

11. To test the inter-organisation communications and cooperation and the Command and Control system.

12. To test and upgrade State Alert and Operational Job Cards and the Tasmanian Operational Plans and Resources Manual.

13. To test and make suggestions to improve AUSVETPLAN Manuals.

14. To train staff in various roles within the organisational structure for the control of an exotic disease.

15 To test the establishment of an LDCC.

EXERCISE FORMAT

17. An exercise format has been developed that will require the activation of an LDCC in a remote area and the SDCHQ in Hobart. Field staff will be deployed from the LDCC but their role in the field will be restricted to the gathering of information sufficient to complete appropriate ANEMIS forms for delivery to the LDCC.

18. The diagnostic team will not be dispatched to the initial suspect property, however, the availability of staff to form the team should be checked.

19. During the course of the exercise samples will be dispatched to AHL Mt Pleasant.

20. Commonwealth involvement through CCEAD will occur in real time in the exercise, however DPIEVETPLAN will be exercised on this scenario at a time unrelated to this exercise.

21. Background intelligence (General Idea) and pre-exercise information (Special Idea) are shown in Annex A and B.

22. The sequence of events in relation to the activation of the disease response is shown in Annex C. The exercise is designed to be free-flowing and as far as possible all actions that would normally be taken within the control centres will take place. Mobilisation of resources in the field will be limited to a restricted number of surveillance teams and IP Managers.

Outside agencies will be contacted for the provision of information only.

23. The exercise will commence with information fed into the normal DPIF reporting system. The exercise will be conducted over a four day period within the normal working week.

24. The exercise will operate in real time, however some support materials may be pre-assembled in the area.

25. The exercise will be restricted to normal working hours with a debrief at the end of each day. Field staff may need to work outside normal PS hours to check cows during milking. The exercise will not break for lunch, section managers will be responsible for ensuring staff are fed.

26. Operational staff within the exercise will be contacted and instructed to proceed to the appropriate point as part of the exercise. Staff will receive no prior instruction to attend at a specific time. Suitable accommodation will be arranged before the exercise for the anticipated number of staff to be called in.

27. The layout of the LDCC and SDCHQ are at the Controller's and Chief SDCHQ's discretion but no costly alterations to facilities will be authorised.

28. Installation of additional telephone lines will only be permitted with permission of the exercise Director however it is not expected that they will be needed.

29. Staff responding to the exercise will be requested to observe normal speed limits. Any police vehicles involved will not use visual or audible warning devices.

ADMINISTRATION

30. **Location.** The location of the LDCC and SDCHQ will be at the discretion of the Controller and Chief SDCHQ. A suitable site for the LDCC has been booked and the Controller will be encouraged to use it. It is anticipated that the SDCHQ will be on 4th. Floor of the Marine Board Building.

31. **Personnel.** Personnel with a directing staff role are listed in Annex D with their responsibilities identified.

32. **Exercise briefing.** Exercise participants will not be specifically briefed on aspects of the exercise before it occurs. Briefing on the situation as people are called up is an aspect of AUSVETPLAN that is to be evaluated during the exercise.

33. As people enter the exercise they will be briefed on the requirement of the exercise eg. the need for exercise only stamps. Briefing information on the exercise will include finishing date for the exercise and details of the extent of field activity allowed (see Annex E).

34. The CVO, Manager SDCHQ and Controller LDCC will be briefed on the exercise at the commencement of the exercise.

35. Exercise directing staff at the Laboratory and SDCHQ will have a final briefing on the friday before the exercise commences. Exercise directing staff for LDCC will have a final briefing at the start of the exercise.

36. Prior to the exercise a general circular will be sent to all DPIF staff advising that in the near future an exercise will be held and emphasising that all messages associated with the exercise will be stamped EXERCISE ONLY, and all voice transmissions prefaced by EXERCISE NUTCRACKER. Any real exotic animal disease occurrence in December 1993 should be prefaced by "This is an AUTHENTIC report". (Annex F)

37. Outside organisations that could be effected by the exercise will be briefed on the exercise before it commences.

38. **Operational briefing.** Managers tasking staff to the field will be required to brief staff on operational and exercise requirements.

39. **Exercise debriefing.** Debriefing will be carried out during the course of the exercise and at the end of the exercise. A debrief involving all participants will be conducted at the LDCC and SDCHQ at the completion of the exercise. Debriefing will initially be by section followed by a general debrief. (Annex G)

40. The directing staff will call a halt to the exercise and hold an exercise debrief at any time during the course of the exercise when it becomes necessary.

41. **Operational debriefing.** Operational debriefing of field teams shall be conducted by appropriate operational staff on the return of teams to the LDCC. Other operational debriefs will be at the discretion of the Controller and managers.

42. **Costs.** Each participating organisation will bear its own costs incurred in the exercise including travel and accommodation. DPIF costs and the costs of meals will come from EXANDIS funds.

VISITORS/OBSERVERS

43. Visitors will be invited from a number of organisations to observe activities within the exercise. Public relations staff within the exercise centre will attend to these visitors for those aspects of their visit that would occur in an authentic operation. At other times visitors will be escorted by an appropriate person on the directing staff.

PUBLIC RELATIONS / MEDIA

44. Management of the media during the exercise will be the responsibility of the media liaison staff within the control centres. Any assistance on aspects relating to the management of the exercise itself will be provided by the Media/Visitor Liaison person on the Directing Staff.

45. All local media outlets will be briefed before the exercise on the fact that the exercise will be occurring, that it is only an exercise, and that they will be able to become involved in the exercise.

EXERCISE MANAGEMENT

46. **Directing Staff.** The directing staff for the exercise and their responsibilities are set out in Annex D

47. **Identification.** Directing staff and visitors will be identified by coloured name-tags. Exercise participants will be identified by any method determined within the exercise.

48. All written material produced in the exercise will be stamped **EXERCISE ONLY**. This stamp will be applied to each page, and will be applied before any material is transmitted by facsimile.

49. All radio and telephone transmissions will be prefaced with the term **EXERCISE NUTCRACKER**.

50. ANY MESSAGES RELATING TO REAL DISEASE INCIDENTS WILL BE PREFACED **"AUTHENTIC"**.

AUTHORISATION

51. The Secretary, Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (Mr S Balcombe) has authorised the conducting of this exercise.

CONTACT ADVICE

52. All enquiries relating to the exercise should be directed to :

Rod Andrewartha
Senior Veterinary Officer (Exotic Disease)
Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
PO Box 96
OATLANDS TAS 7120

Telephone (002) 541 333
Facsimile (002) 541 578

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G.G. Gregory
Principal Veterinary Officer
Exercise Director.