

# EES

## Exercise Evaluation System

The Exercise Evaluation System (EES) software application and web site were created to meet the needs of security and planning officials for exercise planning and evaluation. The system was successfully deployed for multiple PortSTEP exercises at US ports. PortSTEP was used to plan, design, implement and evaluate exercises using a consistent process and methodology to establish clear objectives, attainable desired outcomes and critical paths for attaining those outcomes.

Exercise planners use the EES software in the planning stages. Evaluators use it during exercises to capture player actions, complete Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEG's) and submit issue write-ups for inclusion in the After Action Report (AAR). The port planner automatically generates a draft AAR containing all of the data from the exercise and uploads the information to a database.

### Developing Objectives, Planned Paths and Desired Outcomes

During exercise planning, planners establish a handful of exercise objectives. The EES software contains a database of exercise objectives that can be used as-is or adapted to fit the needs of the local port community and desired outcomes for each objective are established. Finally, the planned path – steps or procedures to be followed by the players – are generated. Paths may be operating procedures to be tested during the exercise or a set of questions for the facilitator to ask during the exercise to drive discussion in a desired direction.

The image displays two overlapping screenshots of the EES software interface. The background screenshot shows the 'Objective Selection' screen, which includes a table of objectives and a sidebar with navigation options like 'Exercise Attributes', 'Objective Selection', 'Document Selection', and 'Package Creation'. The foreground screenshot shows the 'Planning Mode' for a specific exercise, titled 'C:\MSA\XMSU\workshop\Pittsburgh\Pittsburgh.exe'. This screen features a tree view of exercise components (e.g., Awareness, Notifications, Situation Assessment, Intelligence Sharing, Prevention, Communications, Staff and Resource Mobilization, NIMS ICS, Security Measures, Mitigation Response, Recovery) and a central area for defining objectives and desired outcomes. A flowchart illustrates the process: 'Facilitator briefly describe NIMS ICS features of UC to bring participants to common level of understanding' leads to 'Discuss appropriate membership for the UC', which leads to 'Discuss when, in the Prevention phase, the UC should be formed', which finally leads to 'Discuss where the UC would convene and the location of an ICP'. An 'Updating Log Entry' window is also visible, containing handwritten notes: '0915 - M.ms briefed ATX overview - Aim goals of PortSTEP - SSL brief - TSI - one of 40 ports to conduct a PortSTEP (MSRAM - Risk Assessment Tool) replace PSRAT SCOME - ATX involving AMSC agencies + 13 regional counties'. An 'Export Objectives To Evaluator' button is located at the bottom of the planning mode window.

