

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The article about workshops, “If Only Our Training Could ...” by Brian Schultz and Jeffrey Megargel in the July-August, 2017, issue of *Defense AT&L* magazine, reminded me of the “tabletop exercises” I developed working at the Center for Naval Analyses several years ago—and later as a management consultant.

With actual operators, engineers, logistics specialists and contracting officer representatives (CORs) around the table, we ran scenarios using the product/system in question. As the scenarios unfolded, the operators injected real-world events (based on their own experiences) impacting the operations and the efficacy of the product and/or system. Events involved security (e.g., sniper attacks and chemical and biological weapons sliming of roads, containers or cranes), logistics and port throughput, and personnel-related issues (strikes or other host nation support-related facts of life), just to mention a few. The active participation of operating personnel ensured credibility and focus.

Tabletops also were developed to train teams (often made up of military Reservists) prior to arrival in theater and are a source of potential benefit for CORs, who did not always appreciate the need for timely arrival of specialized repair parts in-theater and/or procurement in large amounts. Tailored checklists (e.g., for facilities hardening) and/or small field training manuals were prepared prior to or as a result of the sessions.

Sincerely,
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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Defense AT&L magazine encourages its readers to comment and contribute in these pages to the ongoing discussion of defense acquisition.

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