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JPost.com » Israel » Article

Jun 2, 2009 0:44 | Updated Jun 2, 2009 23:52

Sirens sound across Israel in home front drill

By YAAKOV LAPPIN

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Article's topics: Home Front, War Drill

The Turning Point 3 national civil defense drill entered its third day on Tuesday, and began a phase that saw IDF [Home Front](#) Command personnel, the government, and local authorities respond to a host of simulated emergency situations on the ground.

The drill directors labeled Tuesday as the 13th day of a multi-front war in which barrages of conventional and unconventional missiles were being fired at the home front.

According to one of the scenarios, IDF troops have entered Syria, and the missile barrages are becoming more intense as Israeli ground forces advance deeper into Syrian territory.

"This scenario is based on experiences in the Second Lebanon War," a security official told [The Jerusalem Post](#) on Tuesday evening, noting that Hizbullah kept up its rocket attacks as the army pushed into Lebanon in 2006.

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COL. GILI SHENHAR
IDF Home Command

00:00

Home Front official on Turning Point 3

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In another scenario simulated on Tuesday, a passenger ship carrying an enormous bomb has docked in Ashdod. "It had a very large bomb which could explode and paralyze

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frantry units

Ashdod Port," the official said.

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"We had to prevent that from happening."

At 11 a.m., air raid sirens rang out across the country, prompting people to make their way to designated safe rooms for 10 minutes, while schoolchildren were led to bombshelters and shown a 20-minute film on safety procedures.

A series of glitches marked the siren drill, however, with the Home Front Command receiving many complaints from people around the country who did not hear the alert. Others struggled to enter bombshelters in time.

But uncovering such problems was precisely the reason why the exercise was held, the security official said.

"We know many citizens didn't hear the drill. We've had calls to report this, including in areas we thought the sirens were working. This is the purpose of the drill," he said.

While some members of the public refrained from taking part in the drill, the official said that many people did play an active part and sought safety upon hearing the siren. "Overall, we are very pleased with the participation. A special emphasis was placed on the evacuation of disabled children to bombshelters, which is not a simple operation. We also tested beeper warnings for the hearing impaired," he said.

On Wednesday, a new program aimed at helping people who have been stranded in bombshelters for extended period of times will be simulated in Haifa. In Kiryat Gat, Home Front Command officials will practice rescuing trapped and injured people from a wrecked building in the afternoon.

Many of the dozens of scenarios being simulated this week have been kept secret by drill planning committees, which are headed by Maj.-Gen. (res.) Ze'ev Livne, who led the Home Front Command when it was created in February 1992 following the First Gulf War, and Maj.-Gen. (res.) Yair Naveh, a former OC Home Front Command and OC Central Command.

The committees, based at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, spent months planning the

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scenarios, and used an army Intranet system to pass the emergency situations on to other drill participants over the past week.

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- 27. Louie Knight 7**
Pamela - (06/02/2009 19:25)
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- 24. #5 david**
h bil - (06/02/2009 18:55)
- 23. That what drill are about....looking for weaknes in the system.**
Joe Blow - USA (06/02/2009 18:04)
- 22. #4**
Ross - Canada (06/02/2009 17:55)
- 21. #16**
Ross - Canada (06/02/2009 17:53)
- 20. If you did not hear the siren - what to do**
Comfort - Israel (06/02/2009 17:30)
- 19. #4: ignorant of israel**
david - (06/02/2009 16:55)
- 18. end is near**
chuck - canada (06/02/2009 16:32)
- 17. Didn't hear anything - make the siren louder**
Shuli - Israel (06/02/2009 16:15)
- 16. I wish Israel never be attacked and work things out peacefully with Palestinians**
Ernest - USA (06/02/2009 15:44)
- 15. I hope never to see Israel have to go through a real drill.**
Ernest - USA (06/02/2009 15:38)
- 14. siren no hear**
kate - oz (06/02/2009 15:20)
- 13. #1 and #2**
Ross - Canada (06/02/2009 15:19)
- 12. #2 Sirens**
Jason - (06/02/2009 15:19)
- 11. Jerusalem**

Yosef D - (06/02/2009 15:05)

10. Contact the Home Front and tell them of the concerns you have outlined.

Ste - (06/02/2009 14:53)

9. they are kidding right?

Raz Tel-Chai - Israel (06/02/2009 14:53)

8. "Home front drills" (in the USA)?

LaGrande - USA (06/02/2009 14:39)

7. What?

Louie Knight - Aberystwyth / UK (06/02/2009 14:18)

6. All Roads/Drills Do Lead To Iran & By Extension To Hizbullah & Hamas

Adina Kutnicki - Israel,new olah (06/02/2009 14:10)

5. siren volume

david cashdan - Israel (06/02/2009 14:03)

4. always works...

szordin - Turkey (06/02/2009 13:59)

3. This War NEVER Stops BECAUSE there is nothing ON EARTH ABLE TO MATCH {IT} and TO MEET the HIGHEST REQUIREMENTS EVER to CATCH UP with {IT}, and it goes ON and ON with nobody dying {now} - (06/02/2009 13:59)

2. sirens

Deborah - Israel (06/02/2009 12:17)

1. didnt even hear it

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