



AVISTA CHALLENGE

OPERATION BRIEFING

The Situation

A big cyclone has hit the Mid North Coast of Queensland, and people need help. A community aid package containing four (4) pallets of supplies including food, water, and medicine needs to be moved from Licola, Victoria, on Gunaikurnai Country, to a location in Carnarvon Gorge, Queensland, on Bidjara and Karingbal Country. The area has experienced severe flooding and damage due to a lingering low-pressure system caused by the ex-cyclone.

At the same time, a government official (called a dignitary) also needs to travel from Licola to Carnarvon Gorge with their security officer and a personal aide. Everyone knows this person is visiting, but for security reasons, the exact path they travel must stay a secret.

Once the dignitary safely reaches their destination, the team back at Licola needs to be informed immediately.



What you need to know

You are employed by Southern Systems Group (SSG), a trusted Australian Defence Industry contractor that supports emergency and defence operations. The Defence Industry is not the Army, Navy or Air Force, but companies that provide services for the Australian Defence Force.

You do not have a strict deadline for moving the community aid package, but given the emergency situation, it is important that it gets there as quickly and safely as possible. You will need to estimate how long the journey will take in your plan. You also need to consider how efficiently you are using your resources, and ethical considerations including environmental impacts and cultural sensitivities.

The public know that you are transporting the aid package and the dignitary, but for security reasons it is best that they don't know the exact route you are taking. You will need to factor this into your security and communication plans.

While the cyclone has passed through the area, the weather conditions in the crisis zone are still unsettled. Skies remain overcast, with intermittent rainfall, isolated thunderstorms and ongoing flood risks. The roads leading into the crisis zone are going to be wet and likely flooded. Part of your challenge is to determine how you will check road conditions and decide the best way to move through those areas.



What you need to do

You and your team need to plan how to transport the community aid package and dignitary to the crisis zone in Carnarvon Gorge, Queensland.

When planning how to move the supplies and the dignitary, you need to decide:

- The best, safest and most efficient route and transport method to take;
- How to keep the dignitary and supplies safe while traveling;
- How to track their location along the way;
- How to monitor how the weather has affected roads and airfields;
- The occupations and skills needed to carry out your plan;
- How to communicate securely and reliably;
- Contingencies (back-up plans) for if things go wrong.



Your Response Plan

Your team must create and submit a response plan with your solution to the problem. You can choose one of the formats below. Each format must include the same key information but be presented in a style that suits the audience.

What your response plan must include:

- What needs to be done (objective);
- How the supplies and dignitary will get there (transport plan);
- Safety and security steps;
- Communication and monitoring methods;
- Timeline and estimated duration;
- Contingencies (back-up plans);
- The occupations and skills needed;
- How you will measure success.

Choose one of the following three formats to present your response plan:

1. Incident Control Centre (ICC) Briefing

Audience: Emergency services and operational leaders

Tone: Formal, precise, technical

Present your plan as if you are briefing the Incident Control Centre during an emergency response. Be direct and use clear headings or bullet points. This could be in the form of a written document, or video briefing.

2. Media Briefing

Audience: General public and journalists

Tone: Clear, confident, and reassuring

Write or record a public media statement. Include all necessary information the public should know, as well as clearly marked embargoed content for release after the operation is complete.

3. Internal Strategy Memo (*Southern Systems Group Executives*)

Audience: Company leaders and decision-makers

Tone: Strategic, persuasive, risk-aware

Write a formal internal memo to company executives. Focus on why your plan is the best option to protect the mission, meet goals, and uphold the company's reputation.

Submission Notes

- Must be a single file (PDF or MP4 preferred);
- MAXIMUM length (no minimum):
 - 10 pages for a document
 - 10 slides for a slide deck
 - 5 minutes for a video
- Max file size 5 MB for documents, 25 MB for video;
- Diagrams or visuals welcome (map, timeline, etc.);
- Must address all key aspects of the challenge;
- Include school and team member names;
- All submissions must be sent by a teacher;
- All submissions judged on the same criteria (see rubric);
- If your school does not have the resources to allow submission in these formats, please contact us so that we can discuss an alternative.