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the gap between On-Site Inspection and Integrated Field Exercise

An Integrated Field Exercise (IFE) is the most advanced training procedure that simulates an on-site inspection (OSI) and is designed to train inspectors, providing hands-on experience of a potential OSI. Once the Treaty enters into force (EIF), conduct of an OSI on a request of an ambiguous event may become a reality and the OSI inspectorate shall have adequate training to deliver the expected outcome. Hence, the IFE in theory shall provide an environment that resembles an OSI. However, the artificiality of an IFE, compared to OSI, is inevitable and cannot be avoided. IFE is privileged for an extended luxury in selecting locations, prior arrangements that could have been done under strict timelines during an OSI, and tolerance on the number of agreed inspectors and inspector assistants as per the CTBT Protocol. Towards directing a pre-determined scenario of an IFE, injects play a prominent and decisive role, which is a necessity, yet partly modify the focus of the inspection team. Though added artificialities and pre-designed injects are important elements to conduct a successful IFE, the degree of deviations has to be mapped out carefully with the right balance that shall not leave an unbridgeable gap between the IFE and the OSI.

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