



## “Dual Gambit”

### SPF Holds Fourteenth Secretary of Defense Strategic Policy Forum

#### ~ Exercise Summary ~

The Institute for National Strategic Studies’ (INSS) National Strategic Gaming Center (NSGC) conducted *Dual Gambit*, a bioterrorism exercise, for members of the U.S. Senate at the National Defense University (NDU) on November 8th, 2005. The fourteenth in a series of Strategic Policy Forum events, these crisis-simulation exercises, an initiative of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, are designed to give senior government officials insight into the nuance and complexity of policymaking in the current global security environment and to illuminate policy and organizational options for ensuring national security and the pursuit of U.S. interests. Over one hundred Members of Congress have participated in the fourteen events, with many returning for several exercises.

Ambassador Johnnie Carson, Senior Vice President of NDU, welcomed the Senators and Executive Branch officials. The Honorable Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense, opened the forum, emphasizing the real and urgent threat of bioterrorism as well as the relevance of issues addressed in the Dual Gambit exercise to other public health crises, such as pandemic influenza



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Eight Senators participated in this forum along with representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Postal Service, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of Pennsylvania, and the National Defense University. These officials were present to provide the Senators with insights on current

policies, plans, capabilities, and assessments as well as expertise with respect to scenario developments presenting in the exercise. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, the Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness and Subcommittee chair, Senator Burr were also very involved in the planning of exercise and provided invaluable support.

Exercise Dual Gambit provided a forum for information exchange and decision-making in the context of a postulated national security crisis. The exercise sought to examine the strategic implications of a homeland security crisis resulting from bioterror threats and the full range of policy options in response to multiple attacks. Participants examined the gravity, complexity, and difficulty in preparing for and responding to dual pathogen



**The Honorable Robert Wilkie, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs (standing next to Deputy Secretary of Defense England) closed the forum.**

bioterrorism attacks in the United States. Specifically, Dual Gambit examined the Federal government's options in responding to a credible threat warning of a bioterror attack against the homeland and Federal, state and local governments' crisis response actions at the onset of bioterrorism attacks with non-contagious (anthrax) and contagious pathogens (smallpox). Participants noted that the exercise highlighted the need for continued improvements by the government in preparing for and communicating with the public about bioterrorism attacks in particular, and public health Incidents of National Significance in general.

Immediately following the exercise, Senators shared their insights and policy recommendations with the Honorable P. T. Henry, the facilitator of the exercise. Participants noted that Dual Gambit afforded them a better understanding of the capabilities and coordination required to improve

Federal, state, and local governments' ability to prepare for and respond to bioterror attacks, as well as public health crises in general. The Honorable Robert Wilkie, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Defense for Legislative Affairs, officially ended Dual Gambit by noting the past and future utility of crisis-simulation exercises in improving senior government officials' ability to effectively respond to actual events.

#### Additional Information

Several more Strategic Policy Forum exercises are planned. For further information, please contact Col Chris Goggins, USAF, Director, Strategic Policy Forum, at (202) 685-4827, by email at [gogginsc@ndu.edu](mailto:gogginsc@ndu.edu).

You may also consult our webpage for new information on upcoming events by going to <http://www.ndu.edu/INSS/SPF>