



“Global Tempest”

SPF Holds Fifteenth Secretary of Defense Strategic Policy Forum

~ Exercise Summary ~

The Institute for National Strategic Studies’ (INSS) National Strategic Gaming Center (NSGC) conducted *Global Tempest*, a pandemic influenza scenario, for members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives at the National Defense University (NDU) on February 7th, 2006. The fifteenth 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 complexity of policymaking in the current global security environment. In addition, they 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 fifteen events, with many returning for several exercises.

Lt Gen Michael Dunn, USAF, President of NDU, welcomed the Members of Congress and Executive Branch officials. The Honorable Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense, opened the forum by emphasizing the importance of exercises such as *Global Tempest* to developing a national capacity responding to public health challenges. He also asserted that these exercises serve as an effective way to study decision-making processes, which are essential to the execution of policies.

Two Senators and eight Representatives participated in this forum along with representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense – Homeland Defense and Health Affairs; the Department of Agriculture; the Department of Homeland Security; the Department of Health and Human Services; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the National Institutes of Health; the Office of the Surgeon General; US Northern Command; the US Agency for International Development, the Department of



NDU President, Lt Gen Michael Dunn, and NDU Senior Vice President, AMB Johnnie Carson, welcome Hon. Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense, to NDU and exercise *Global Tempest*.

Transportation, the Homeland Security Council, and the Joint Staff. State and local perspectives were provided by representatives from the State of Pennsylvania and Montgomery County, Maryland. These officials were present to provide the Members with insights on current policies, plans, capabilities, and assessments, as well as expertise with respect to scenario developments in the exercise.



Del. Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) and National Strategic Gaming Center Director, Col Bruce Lindblom, discuss the exercise.

Global Tempest provided a forum for information exchange and collaborative decision-making in the context of a major transnational public health crisis. The exercise examined responses to the emergence of a potential pandemic flu strain overseas, the presentation of the first cases in the United States, and its eventual development into a full-blown pandemic. Discussion during the exercise considered issues such as the Nation's pandemic preparedness, the communications, surveillance, and detection activities of the U.S. and other countries, as well as their response and containment capabilities. As Rep. Nita Lowey (D-18th, NY) noted, "This exercise was an excellent opportunity to share information across party lines and throughout the Federal Government."

Immediately following the exercise, Members of Congress shared their insights and policy recommendations with Mr. Pete Verga, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense. Participants noted that *Global Tempest* afforded them a better understanding of the transnational nature of pandemic diseases and the domestic impact of international public health issues. They also observed that the exercise highlighted the potential economic impact of a pandemic, the need for continued improvement in cooperation and coordination among Federal departments and agencies, and between Federal, state and local governments.

Overall, the participants found the exercise to be a very valuable experience. "It is critical to our homeland security that the federal government is able to anticipate or detect such a threat, and then if necessary, deter or manage a public health crisis. This was a real learning experience," concluded Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS).

Additional Information:

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

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