

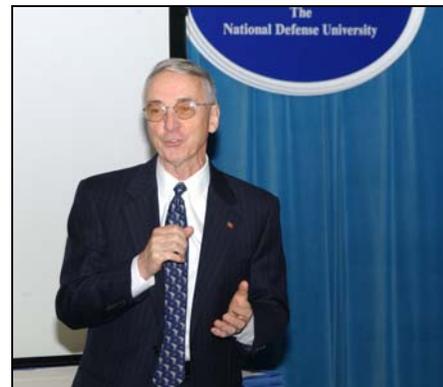


“Impending Storm”

SPF Holds Twelfth Secretary of Defense Strategic Policy Forum ~ Exercise Summary ~

The Institute for National Strategic Studies’ (INSS) National Strategic Gaming Center (NSGC) conducted “Impending Storm”, the twelfth in a series of Strategic Policy Forum exercises, at the National Defense University (NDU) on June 21, 2005. 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 twelve events, with many returning for several exercises.

Ambassador Johnnie Carson, Senior Vice President of NDU, welcomed the Members of Congress and Executive Branch officials. The Honorable Gordon England, Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense, opened the forum, noting that exercises such as these have made an enormous impact in improving the security of the United States.



Hon. Gordon England, Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense provided the opening remarks for the Forum.

Five Members of Congress 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 Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Agriculture. The officials provided the Members with perspective on current policies, plans, and assessments as well as advice with respect to scenario developments presented in the exercise.



Vice Admiral Terry Cross, Vice Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, discussing the Congressional insights during the “hotwash” discussion, concluding the exercise.

In “Impending Storm,” exercise participants examined the issues and options that U.S. policy makers would need to consider when dealing with a terrorist threat warning, and later a series of attacks against the nation's maritime transportation infrastructure. As the exercise proceeded, participants examined the key elements of a strategy to speed response and recovery while improving security to prevent and

deter future attacks. Further, they discussed the importance of developing a clear, concise, and consistent public message in order to keep Americans informed of not only the threat, but also the actions the government is taking to protect them.

At the conclusion of the exercise, the Honorable Paul McHale, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Vice Admiral Terry Cross, Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, moderated a plenary review session during which Members offered the insights that they had gained over the course of the exercise. The exercise provided participants with a better understanding of the complexity of creating effective security plans to protect the transportation infrastructure from terrorist threats.



Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-7th NC) and Mr. Jonathan Fleming (DHS) participate in exercise "Impending Storm" at NDU.

Comments from the Members focused on the need for greater transparency as it relates to ships destined for American ports. While it was recognized that the process continues to improve, further steps are needed to ensure that terrorists cannot use ships as a vehicle or conduit for attacks.

Further, Members conveyed their concerns about the potential impact of such threats on the local and

national economies. It was recognized, however, that it would likely be necessary to endure some temporary economic dislocation while the crisis is being resolved. They stressed the need to minimize the duration of these interruptions.

Additional Information

Several more Strategic Policy Forum exercises are planned for 2005. 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 check our webpage for information on upcoming events by going to <http://www.ndu.edu/INSS/SPF>