



“Masked Dragon”

SPF Holds Thirteenth Secretary of Defense Strategic Policy Forum

~ Exercise Summary ~

The Institute for National Strategic Studies’ (INSS) National Strategic Gaming Center (NSGC) conducted *Masked Dragon*, the thirteenth in a series of Strategic Policy Forum exercises, at the National Defense University (NDU) on July 18, 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 thirteen events, with many returning for several exercises.

Lieutenant General Michael Dunn, President of NDU, welcomed the Members of Congress and Executive Branch officials. The Honorable Douglas Feith, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, opened the forum, commending such exercises to the Members as the ‘key to strategic success’ in managing complex regional security challenges such as those posed by North Korea.

Nine 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 State, the Department of Energy, the National Intelligence Council, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the National Defense University. The officials provided the Members with perspective on current policies, plans, and assessments as well as advice with respect to scenario developments presenting in the exercise.

Exercise *Masked Dragon* provided a forum for information exchange and decision-making in the context of a postulated series of escalating crises on the Korean Peninsula. The exercise sought to understand the full range of policy options that could stem the further development and proliferation of nuclear weapons and their associated delivery methods. Specifically, the exercise examined responses to postulated developments in North Korea’s nuclear program, including technology transfer to third parties.



The Hon. Douglas Feith, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, opened the forum.

Participants considered how current policy and future actions could impact achievement of U.S. strategic objectives during each phase of the exercise.



The Hon. Ryan Henry, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, moderated the exercise's concluding session.

Immediately following the exercise, Members of Congress shared their insights and policy recommendations with Hon. C. "Ryan" Henry, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. Participants noted that *Masked Dragon* afforded them a better understanding of the elements of national power that might be applied to counter an escalation of nuclear tension on the Korean Peninsula. Comments from the bipartisan group of Members of Congress focused on the unique opportunity presented by such exercises for enhancing understanding of critical national security issues and frank exchange between the branches of government.

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.

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