



"Masked Dragon"

SPF Holds Seventh Secretary of Defense Strategic Policy Forum

~ Exercise Summary ~

The Institute for National Strategic Studies' (INSS) National Strategic Gaming Center (NSGC) held "Masked Dragon", the seventh in a series of Strategic Policy Forum exercises, at the National Defense University (NDU) on March 30, 2004. These crisis-simulation exercises, an initiative of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, are designed to give senior government officials insights into the nuances and complexities of policymaking in the current global security environment and to illuminate policy and organizational options. Ninety-nine members of Congress have participated in one or more of the seven events.

Lt Gen Michael Dunn, NDU President, welcomed Members of Congress and Executive Branch officials. Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz opened "Masked Dragon" stressing the importance of this program to Executive Branch and the need for planning prior to contingencies.



Fourteen Members of Congress participated in the exercise along with the Office of Secretary of Defense and representatives from the Joint Staff, U.S. Pacific Command, the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Intelligence Council, the Department of Energy and the Department of the Treasury, as well as regional experts from the National Defense University's Institute for National Strategic Studies.

Exercise participants examined the gravity, complexity, and difficulty inherent in responding to a series of escalating crises on the Korean Peninsula coincident with ongoing military operations and overseas deployment of U.S. Armed Forces. They specifically examined possible responses to potential North Korean WMD proliferation and nuclear weapons deployment. During each phase of the exercise, participants drew upon current policy and considered all instruments of national power that might be employed to ensure U.S. strategic objectives were met. The participants sought to understand the full range of policy options, and associated consequences, available to the

U.S. in order to stem North Korean development, deployment or transfer to third countries of nuclear weapons or their associated delivery methods.



"Masked Dragon" participants included Mr. Steven Black, DOE, AMB Johnnie Carson, NDU (standing), Rep. Susan Davis (CA), Mr. Don Keyser, DOS, Rep. Jim Leach (IA), Lt. Gen. Michael Dunn, NDU, and Rep. Adam Smith (WA).

After the exercise was completed, Members of Congress briefed Dr. Dale Klein, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, on what they learned and offered their policy recommendations. The exercise provided participants a better understanding of critical national security issues associated with any future escalation of nuclear tension on the Korean Peninsula.

Comments from the bipartisan group of members of Congress focused on the unique educational benefits of such exercises. Below is an example of participant comments:

“Being prepared for a national security crisis means thinking about the unthinkable. In any national security crisis, dozens of agencies have to make quick, coordinated decisions. Today’s crisis simulation allowed me to better understand that decision-making process and to explore response actions and consequences.” – *Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA)*

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/wa02_larsen/pr_040330_maskeddragon.html.

Additional Information

More Strategic Policy Forum exercises are being planned. For further information, please contact Col Chris Goggins, USAF, Director, Strategic Policy Forum, at (202) 685-4827, by email at gogginsc@ndu.edu.