



SIMULEX 2009

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Five minutes remain in the simulation exercise. In a desperate act for international attention, one Near East country conducts a nuclear test with its last remaining nuclear warhead. Meanwhile, another Near East country negotiates the return of a key piece of territory long occupied by another power in exchange for restricting the actions of a rogue terrorist organization. SIMULEX 2009 ends. Held annually at the Tufts University Graduate School of International Affairs, SIMULEX 2009 marks the 35th anniversary of the Fletcher School's crisis and consequence management exercise.

The Fletcher School's SIMULEX is supported by a United States Army War College (USAWC) Center for Strategic Leadership (CSL) control team, Senior Service College Fellows Program (SSCFP) mentors, The University of Maryland's Center for International Development and Conflict Management, other government agencies, national level simulation centers and sister services to provide a whole of government approach to the simulation exercise. Of note, the University of Maryland supports the project with its International Communication and Negotiation Simulations (ICONS) Project. ICONS Project runs a web-based application called ICONSnet to immerse the students in the roles of decision-makers tasked with resolving contentious issues. All communications and negotiations are conducted through ICONSnet allowing the USAWC control team to efficiently direct the simulation and, if necessary, for students to participate from geographically dispersed locations. The numerous and talented agencies support SIMULEX to become a complex experiential learning exercise for the graduate students of the International Security Studies (ISS) and International Business master's degree programs of study.



Professor Robert Pfaltzgraff, Ph.D., authored this year's SIMULEX scenario based on an escalating Near East crisis in which students role-played nation-state and non-state actors including the United States, Iran, Israel, EU/NATO, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Hamas, Hezbollah, and Al Qaeda. This year's SIMULEX touched upon numerous issue areas: the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the threat of electromagnetic



pulse weapons, military forces, information technology and the limits of geography in time and space. Such complexity combined to create a realistic crisis management scenario. Additionally, the simulation scenario, which projects a conflict environment into the future while anchored in history and current events, required player participants to think and act through the decision making process as the situation escalated.

Professor Douglas B. Campbell, Director of CSL and senior controller for SIMULEX 2009, summarized “The students are given the opportunity to develop their country’s strategic objectives and then attempt to pursue achieving them over the course of a three-move, two-day scenario.” SIMULEX thus becomes the graduate students’ practical exercise pushing the students to pursue their strategic objectives while negotiating a rapidly changing international security environment scenario given tight time constraints. In summary, the combination of the U.S. Army War College’s expertise, the University of Maryland’s ICONSnet and the Fletcher School’s realistic scenario provide a world-class practical exercise in international conflict resolution at the strategic level.



The U.S. Army’s unique role in university exercises and simulations allow for future diplomats and leaders of international government organizations and non-profit organizations to see the Armed Forces role and capabilities in national security strategy and the development of policy. The Center for Strategic Leadership at the United States Army War College expects to continue its close relationship with Tufts University and is prepared to engage with other universities seeking realistic experiential learning in national security issues conducted at the strategic level of leadership.

This and other CSL publications may be found on the USAWC/CSL web site at: <http://www.csl.army.mil>.

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