BACKGROUND MEMO
from the
Executive Committee

OVERVIEW:
Every spring, the Josef Korbel School of International Studies holds a real-time crisis simulation involving students, faculty, and participants from the Air Force Academy. The Crisis Engagement and Negotiation Exercise (CENEX) places students into teams, confronts them with a true to life crisis, and requires rapid response diplomacy to avert conflict. The simulation is organized and created by a student-run Executive Committee each year.

EVENT ACTIVITIES
The event opens on Friday, when all participants are invited to a wine and cheese reception at the Korbel School. As part of the reception, CENEX invites a speaker to give a keynote address on diplomacy in emergency situations. In 2012 the speaker was Ambassador Gary A. Grappo of the U.S. State Department, in 2013 it was Foreign Service Officer Christopher Klein.

The simulation itself begins on Saturday morning, and lasts all day. Each team is provided with a background document prior to the day of play and is encouraged to divide into individual cabinet level roles. Background documents provided to each team give information on the current foreign and domestic affairs of their state or organization at the time of the crisis (which is typically one or two years in the future). Upon arriving Saturday morning, the teams are assembled together in order to reveal Move 1. Move 1 propagates an immediate crisis which the teams must then respond to throughout the day.
**CRISIS SCENARIOS**

The scenario changes every year, but in 2012, teams were divided into Pakistan, India, China, the United States, Violent Non-State Organization (VNSO), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). On Saturday morning, teams were informed in Move 1 that a massive earthquake had struck the Kashmir region, with cross-boundary humanitarian consequences. In addition, Baloch separatists, possibly with the help of Indian intelligence, used the confusion to attack Gwadar Port in southern Pakistan.

Teams were then required to split into their respective rooms and respond to the humanitarian crisis and the terrorist attack in a manner consistent with their interests. Teams must rely on secret negotiations, backchannel messages, public statements, and their military, economic, intelligence, and knowledge assets to further their national or collective goals.

**REALISTIC MANEUVERS**

CENEX brings in expert consultants to serve as ‘Controls’ for every team. Before making an official move (for example, allowing U.S. intelligence into Chinese territory), the Control will approve the move or veto it as infeasible. As the central monitors of the crisis’ progression, the controls, along with communications monitors and a Master Controller, track each team's work and preserve the realism of the scenario.

Midway through the day, controllers introduce an additional element to the crisis through “Move II”. Move II builds on the events of the day since Move I, and challenges the teams to adapt their strategy to an unexpected element in the crisis. During the 2011 scenario, Move II saw the defection of a North Korean pilot to the South and escalated naval patrols by China in the area around Taiwan.
By design, CENEX puts teams on track for a fast paced, high tension day of navigating the diplomatic arena. Teams must do all they can to find solutions to the crisis without resorting to armed conflict, as the objective of CENEX is primarily on negotiation and diplomacy. Participants are frequently reminded to avoid the fate of the 2011 CENEX day of play, which descended into nuclear war.

For more information on CENEX, view our website at www.du.edu/korbel/cenex
Facebook: facebook.com/cenex2013