Sample Crisis Simulation

Outline

1. Simulation overview (Topic, Goals, Format)
2. Crisis scenario
3. Explanation of National Security Council responsibilities
4. NSC player roles and planners/control group
5. Key analytical concepts (geopolitical imperatives, strategic objectives, human agency)
6. Other materials – index of terms, maps, and readings

1) Simulation overview

Simulation topic: U.S. response to Tajikistan succession crisis and regional militancy threat

Knowledge-building goals:

- Understand the high-level security, political, and economic dynamics of a succession crisis in Tajikistan and explore how those dynamics could play out
- Understand and demonstrate the strategic objectives/constraints of the U.S. government in Tajikistan and Central Asia and how those relate to the objectives/constraints of other key actors (Tajik government, Tajik opposition, Russia, China, Afghanistan, the Islamic State-Khorasan, and other Central Asian states)
- Understand the role of human agency within the U.S. government and how it factors into the decision-making process of leaders and key officials during a potential civil war/regional militancy crisis

Skills-building goals:

- Intra-team communication
- Intra-team negotiations
- Intra-team decision-making

Format – U.S. National Security Council

2) Crisis scenario:

It is July 2023, and Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon has announced that he will be stepping down after nearly 30 years in power. Rakhmon has called early presidential elections, which are widely expected to be a formality for the long-serving leader to hand power to his son and chosen successor, Rustam Emomali. Opposition and rebel groups in the country’s eastern province of Gorno Badakhshan have begun rioting against this move, and demonstrations are growing and intensifying throughout the country. Russia, which has a military presence in the country, and China, which has major economic and security interests, are publicly voicing their concerns about the succession to Rustam. Militant groups in Afghanistan, with which Tajikistan has a long and porous border, are eyeing the situation to exploit any emerging power vacuum, and reports have come in that an attack has been carried out by the Islamic State-Khorasan.