

WASHINGTON, CSIS ANALYSTS COMMENT ON TOPOFF 2 CSIS Conducted 2001, 2002 Wargames on Bioterrorism, Dirty Bomb

WASHINGTON, May 12, 2003 — CSIS analysts who led a 2001 bioterrorism wargame and a 2002 dirty bomb exercise made the following statements today regarding the TOPOFF 2 homeland security exercises in Seattle and Chicago this week: CSIS analysts made the following statements regarding Colin Powell's presentation to the United Nations:

Philip Anderson, director, CSIS Homeland Security Initiatives (panderson@csis.org; 202-775-3128): "Simulation exercises like the TOPOFF series generate enormous knowledge that allows for the identification of gaps and friction points in crisis response plans and command and control that cannot be identified through any other means short of the 'real thing.' They are the most realistic and cost effective way to prepare relevant stakeholders at every level for the challenges they will face if the nation is attacked again by terrorists determined to inflict mass casualties and widespread disruption. There is in fact no more effective way to prepare for crisis events of the magnitude of 9/11 than realistic simulation exercises where all the relevant players are focused on the same crisis at the same time."

David Heyman, director, CSIS Science and Security Initiatives (dheyman@csis.org; 202-775-3293): "We are operating in an entirely new security environment. Our first line of defense has moved from the battlefields abroad to our streets and cities at home, where we must rely on citizens, police, doctors and firefighters to protect us. TOPOFF 2 will test the unprecedented amount of cooperation among local, state, federal and international officials that is now required to protect our streets and citizens against terrorism."

Amanda Dory, fellow, International Security Program (adory@csis.org; 202-775-3224): "Terrorists seek to undermine Americans' confidence in themselves and in their government. TOPOFF 2 provides a chance to build or diminish that confidence. Media portrayals of successful or disastrous handling of the exercise incidents will resonate with Americans wondering how much national, state, and local government capabilities have improved since the initial exercise in 2000, and more importantly, since 9/11."

Additional Homeland Security Resources. CSIS has conducted several homeland security simulations:

- **"Dirty Bomb" Scenario - Radiological Dispersal Devices:** In March 2002, CSIS led a Crisis Planning Workshop for federal and local officials and emergency personnel from Metropolitan Washington, D.C. The comprehensive tabletop scenario involved a dirty (radiological) bomb explosion near the National Capitol Mall. The scenario addressed recovery issues and the complexities of command, control, and communications between federal, state, and local governments, the private sector, and the general public.
- **"Dark Winter" Simulation Exercise - Bioterrorism:** In the summer of 2001, a group of senior-level officials, including Gov. Frank Keating of Oklahoma, former presidential counselor David Gergen, and former CIA Director James Woolsey, participated in an executive-level CSIS simulation of a U.S. National Security Council meeting in which senior officials reacted to a smallpox attack on the United States. The exercise focused on challenges posed to state and local governments, the role and responsiveness of the federal government, and the likely friction points between federal and state-level responders.

*These are the views of the individuals cited, not of CSIS, which does not take policy positions.
CSIS is an independent, nonpartisan public policy organization.*