

Table top exercise and meeting on multi-domain deterrence

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The Lab's Office of Defense Coordination recently hosted over 70 visitors for a table top exercise and a meeting on multi-domain deterrence.

The Lab's Office of Defense Coordination (ODC) hosted more than 70 visitors on Oct. 25, including Brig. Gen. Christopher A. Coffelt, deputy director, Nuclear Operations (J3N) at U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM); Robert H. Gromoll Jr., acting deputy assistant secretary for Nuclear Affairs (ISN/NA), Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation at U.S. Department of State; and international alliance partners. Other organizations represented included NNSA, Sandia and Savannah River National Laboratories, Naval Postgraduate School, Naval War College, RAND, Institute for Defense Analysis, University of California and U.S. Air Force School for Advanced Nuclear Deterrence Studies (SANDS).

The visitors were joined by Laboratory leadership and staff to explore the challenges and opportunities presented by applications of multiple warfighting domains -- conventional, nuclear, cyberspace and space -- to deter and respond to threats to U.S. national security.

After a welcome and Laboratory overview by Lab Deputy Director Tom Gioconda and briefings on cyberspace and deterrence, an unclassified Table Top Exercise (TTX) was conducted using four increasingly challenging vignettes focused on North Korea that were prepared by staff from USSTRATCOM Directorate of Plans and Policy (J5).

Vignettes included graphics, video and narration to set the stage for guided discussion on redlines and thresholds, response options and restoration of deterrence following different levels of adversary aggression. The TTX was followed with a day-long classified meeting on Oct. 26 to further discuss observations from the TTX, to review other wargames and TTXs that are relevant to multi-domain deterrence and to receive briefings on current and emerging threats.

Proceedings from the unclassified TTX will be summarized in a paper to be released by ODC later this year.