

The U.S. Army War College and the ISCNE

For over ten years, the U.S. Army War College has partnered with universities and international relations institutions around the country to present the ISCNE. Designed primarily for graduate students involved in the study of diplomacy and international relations, the ISCNE is a two-day immersion in negotiation designed to allow students to experience:

- Regional Situation Analysis
- Negotiation Techniques
- Strategic Thinking
- Leadership
- Planning and Evaluation
- Decision Making
- Team Building
- Time Management



***The U.S. Army War College
Carlisle Barracks, PA***

For Information Please Contact:

***The Center For Strategic
Leadership***

Ph: 717-245-4512

<http://www.csl.army.mil/>



**The International
Strategic Crisis
Negotiation Exercise
(ISCNE)**

The International Strategic Crisis Negotiation Exercise (ISCNE)

The ISCNE is a two-day experiential learning simulation set ten years into the future against the backdrop of a United Nations summit. The summit has been called to resolve a long-standing and potentially volatile crisis – such as the almost three decade-old frozen conflict involving Nagorno-Karabakh in the South Caucasus region or the long-standing dispute between the Greek and Turkish communities and nations on island of Cyprus. Up to 70 participating students or international relations practitioners are placed into roles as members of a diplomatic mission on one of seven country-teams invited to the summit. The teams are charged by their governments with negotiating an advantageous solution based on their own confidential instructions and publicly and privately held positions. Students work as part of their team to negotiate the best solution in a tough, real-world stalemated crisis.



The ISCNE is a true experiential learning event. The ebb and flow during the exercise is strictly based on student interactions and decisions – nothing is scripted. A well developed and thoughtfully executed negotiation strategy routinely yields a good result, while a less-brilliant plan can be expected to produce a corresponding outcome. Participants are asked to assume new and unfamiliar roles and positions. In these roles they develop negotiation strategies, work through a series of bi- and multilateral negotiation sessions, and write communiqués and press releases as they strive to arrive at a solution. Throughout the process, mentors – career diplomats, senior military officers, regional experts or university faculty – coach and teach the students as they hone their strategic thinking, decision-making and negotiation skills.

The ISCNE engages and educates participants on the processes of team building, strategic thinking and international crisis negotiation. To meet these objectives, the exercise forces participants to wrestle with a regional crisis which has international implications. They are placed in an environment where they must

interact with partner and adversarial nations as well as with non-state actors who have diverse and often irreconcilable positions. Emotions run high during the exercise as participants are drawn-in to the nature of the issues that separate each side while they either strive to lessen those divisions in order to push towards a resolution, or, for some participants, ensure that the status quo is maintained.

At the end of the exercise, despite hours of impassioned negotiation, it is quite probable (and anticipated) that little real progress will have been realized. The learning objectives are for participants to gain experience in the negotiation process and develop an appreciation for the complexity and effort required to achieve strategic objectives. An actual resolution of the crisis *is not* an objective; *experiencing the diplomatic process* of crisis resolution *is* the objective.

