



# US Special Defense Council



Afghanistan, December 2001

This crisis committee offers delegates an opportunity to use the authorities of high-level positions in the United States Department of State and Department of Defense in order to shape post-invasion Afghanistan in a way different to the approach taken in history, which has arguably failed.

Delegates will be given the positions and names of decision-makers relevant to the invasion, such as Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, and Secretary of State, Colin Powell. Despite the name of the role which a delegate will assume, delegates are expected to research the historical situation of Afghanistan in 2001 and prior and provide and debate policy recommendations that **may not necessarily represent** the opinions or policies of the character. However, delegates will enjoy all the power that the title of their character will provide.

Delegates are expected to consider policies for statebuilding in the post-invasion environment. The background guide sets out general headings under which more specific objectives are listed. These headings are “sustainable security institutions, preventing a counter-insurgency, economic recovery, human rights development, rule of law reform, and democratization.” Delegates are expected to arrive in the committee with an idea of how institution development should occur in these specific areas, and the limitations and capabilities of the American mission vis-à-vis these areas. A set of policy papers that address each of these issues will be the ultimate goal of the committee.

Given this massive task of developing a full-spectrum statebuilding policy, delegates will be presented with supplemental reports and presentations from advisors, private think tanks, and NGOs (provided by crisis and conference staff). As well, this is a crisis committee, and while developing policy, the committee will be asked to pass directives that mitigate the crisis situations and maintain stability in Afghanistan. Necessarily, this committee will be a demanding, challenging and enlightening experience, portraying the difficulties of peacebuilding and statebuilding from an intervenor’s perspective. It will allow delegates to live in the shoes of a high-level authority, and expose them to the dilemmas faced in developing strategic policies while engaging in crisis management at the same time.

