CASL supports the NDU mission by providing experiential learning through challenging exercises to senior leaders of the Armed Forces and select others. CASL exercises provide leaders opportunities to practice strategic planning by utilizing creativity and collaboration to best address complex international and national security situations in a risk-free learning environment.

CASL provides strategic and high-operational experiential exercises to advance education in national security policy.

For more information about CASL, please use your smartphone to scan the code!

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Originally established in 1984, the Center for Applied Strategic Learning (CASL) supports the National Defense University (NDU) by providing experiential learning opportunities in national security policy and crisis decision-making. CASL develops technologically advanced and innovative exercises that provide experiential learning through strategic learning methodologies for Joint Professional Military Education (JPME). The Center for Applied Strategic Learning:

- Creates and executes strategic and high-operational experiential exercises to advance education in national security policy for government officials, core academic institutions, and outreach audiences.
- Supports JPME programs by teaching innovation, educational technology, gaming and professional development.
- Conducts comprehensive exercises for senior and mid-level leaders that support educational and strategy development to address national and international complex challenges.
- Provides holistic strategic exercises, simulations and lectures in national security policy and crisis decision-making.
- Facilitates experiential learning events, tabletop discussions, and strategy/policy sessions.
- Partners with course developers and faculty on the planning, development and execution of experiential learning within the classroom.
- Conducts research to ensure robust design and content of products, and to advance the field by sharing best practices with peer institutions.
- Operates the Congressman Owen Pickett Wargaming Center on the Norfolk Campus which consists of twenty wargaming suites which can support 20 individual seminar exercises up to a single large 400 person exercise.

CASL OFFERINGS

Games, Seminars, and Exercises: CASL creates interactive educational and analytical experiences that challenge participants’ decision-making abilities by modeling roles, rules, and environments to foster critical analysis of national security issues.

Models and Simulations: CASL builds both conceptual and quantitative logical representations of systems and phenomena to advance understanding. CASL also employs modern technology to represent operations and environments.

Scenarios: CASL designs narratives describing real or counterfactual environments in the past, present or future for educational and analytical purposes.

Facilitation: CASL leads meetings, workshops, and classes to enable robust, fruitful discussions.

CASL SUPPORTS JPME AT THE NDU COLLEGES AND COMPONENTS

As directed, CASL also supports the:

- Joint Staff
- White House
- U.S. Congress
- NATO
- Office of the Secretary of Defense
- Combatant Commands
- Department of State

EXERCISE DESIGN METHODOLOGY

To create an exercise, CASL staff collaborate with exercise partners to identify a concept that requires dynamic testing, develop materials that establish a baseline scenario, draft ‘inject’ actions deployed in the exercise to examine assumptions, test the exercise’s ability to meet its objectives, and execute the event.

WHERE LEADERS NAVIGATE THE FUTURE

VISION
To advance the quality of JPME through experiential learning developed for advanced strategic leadership.

MISSION
To develop experiential learning products and events for NDU in support of the JPME of the U.S. military, civilian leaders, and select others attending NDU.

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