

EDUCATION

Reagan Library's Situation Room Experience gives students taste of a 'crisis'

1/5



Kyle Balzer, center, plays the role of secretary of state, with fellow students from Alta Loma High School as they discuss strategy in the "Situation Room" at the Reagan Library, Thursday, September 29, 2016. The "Situation Room Experience" places students in roles of members of the White House Crisis Management Team or as members of the media as a crisis unfolds ...

Photos: The "Situation Room Experience" at the Reagan Library

By Staff Reports

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The “Situation Room Experience” places students in roles of members of the White House Crisis Management Team or as members of the media as a crisis unfolds involving an assassination attempt on the President of the U.S. (Photo by Michael Owen Baker)

What would it be like to be in a high-stakes global crisis – a “situation”?

Some students got a look on Thursday as they visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

Students from Alta Loma High School in Rancho Cucamonga entered The Situation Room, a new interactive exhibit at the Simi Valley library, re-creating a modern, fictional 90-minute foreign-policy scenario that, according to the library, “challenges participants to deal with an international crisis.”

The Room – dubbed The Situation Room Experience – was designed by a team of teachers, university professors and administrators, tech designers and writers. It placed students in the role of a member of the White House Crisis Management Team or as a key member of the media as a crisis unfolds in real time.

Technology helps drive the experience in a “one-of-kind” gaming environment that simulates the Situation Room from the White House.

And there was a good amount of history involved.

The White House Situation Room has served as the hub for presidential decision-making at times of crisis. It’s where presidents since John F. Kennedy have made difficult decisions.



Students from Alta Loma High School in Rancho Cucamonga participate in the “Situation Room Experience” at the Reagan Library, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016.