Reagan Library’s Situation Room Experience gives students taste of a ‘crisis’
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.