Latest developments in planetary defense

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Abstract. Near Earth Objects (NEOs) are asteroids and comets whose orbits bring them close to Earth's orbit and pose a collision possibility. Findings and recommendations from studies, conferences, exercises and workshops on defending Earth from NEO impact threats call for developing decision supporting tools, increasing public awareness and education about the NEO threat, and identifying NEO deflection options and design techniques that would be used to mitigate collision threats. The presentation will give an update on developments in planetary defense, including the hazards posed by Near Earth Objects (NEOs) and methods for deflecting or disrupting a hazardous NEO. This talk gives an overview of the latest developments in planetary defense reported at the 4th IAA Planetary Defense Conference held in April 2015 in Frascati, Italy. It describes a tabletop exercise that was held at that event where participants simulated the decision-making process for developing deflection and civil defense responses to a hypothetical asteroid threat, and includes an overview of a physics based NEO Deflection App developed for NASA HQ. This interactive web based App is accessible on NASA/JPL website at: http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov/nda/.