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Curriculum Catalog

Career and Technical Education Series

National Security Careers

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National Security Careers Course Overview

This course discusses careers in national security. It provides you with the history, background, and recent advances in this field. Millions of people work in national security positions, from military enlisted personnel, writers, politicians, photographers, and law enforcement personnel to agents, investigators, scientists, and administrative personnel. Just about any career you can imagine is available in national security.

In Unit 1, students learn that the term national security means much more than just U.S. military, the CIA, or the FBI. National security includes the actions of the president, Congress, law enforcement, and many agencies working together to ensure the safety of the United States and our allies. The unit covers the major departments and agencies responsible for national security. It also presents the history, laws, and policies that guide these groups. In many cases, these laws and policies directly affect the lives of most Americans.

Unit 2 presents the policymakers and agencies that make up the national security bureaucracy. It outlines the national security roles of the president, presidential cabinet and advisors, the 17 national security agencies, and Congress. Oversight and funding are also discussed in this unit.

Unit 3 provides information on the history and national security roles of the U.S. armed forces. It covers the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, National Guard, and Coast Guard. Technological advancements are presented, as well as careers within these branches of the military.

Unit 4 covers intelligence agencies and federal law enforcement. It covers the roles, responsibilities, and legal limitations of intelligence and law enforcement. Intelligence gathering (operations) and analysis are presented, including careers with various intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

Unit 5 discusses national security challenges in the 21st century. Rising threats such as terrorism, rogue nations, and weapons of mass destruction are presented. The unit also explores chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological weapons examples and threats.

Objectives

- Analyze and interpret the theories behind various national security policies.
- Understand the duties of the various career paths in the national security field.
- Recognize and be able to apply the different laws and regulations affecting national security policies.
- Develop the interpersonal, conflict resolution, communication, and critical-thinking skills that are required for successful careers in an ever-changing economic, technological, political, and social environment.
- Understand how various agencies interact to ensure the safety of the United States.
- Demonstrate an understanding of military, intelligence, and law enforcement practices.
- Apply analytical methods to understand the process of gathering and utilizing intelligence to detect threats to national security.
- Understand the evolution of national security in the United States.
- Recognize the importance of technology as part of the overall process of providing national security.
- Develop an appreciation for the variety of roles and responsibilities associated with a career in a national security organization.

Unit 1: Introduction to Legal, Political, and Historical Aspects of National Security		
Assignments		
National Security Careers	1. Course Overview	10. America's Rise as a World Power
	2. What Is National Security?	11. Project: U.S. Rise as World Power After 1898
	3. Laws Guiding National Security	12. The Legacy of the Cold War and War on Terror
	4. Project: National Security Laws Chart	13. Quiz 2: History of National Security Policy and Modern Concerns
	5. Philosophies of National Security	14. Special Project*
	6. Project: Isolationism vs. Interventionism Venn Diagram	15. Test
	7. Quiz 1: Theories, Laws, and Politics of National Security	16. Course Project Part 1: Investigate a National Security Career*
	8. U.S. National Security Policy Before 1898	17. Glossary and Credits
	9. Project: U.S. Diplomacy, Foreign Policy, and National Security Timeline (1607-1898)	

Unit 2: The National Security Bureaucracy		
Assignments		
National Security Careers	1. The Role and Responsibility of the President in National Security	9. Congressional Committees, Oversight, and Appropriations
	2. Project: President's National Security Response Analysis	10. Project: Personal Reaction to Congressional Committee Work
	3. U.S. Executive Departments	11. Declaring War and Authorization for Use of Force
	4. Project: Executive Department National Security Issues and Solutions Chart	12. Quiz 2: The Legislative Branch
	5. Presidential Advisors	13. Special Project*
	6. Quiz 1: The Executive Branch	14. Test
	7. Roles and Responsibilities of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives	15. Course Project Part 2: An Interview of National Security Personnel*
	8. Project: Roles of Congress: Similarities and Differences	16. Glossary and Credits

Unit 3: The Armed Forces		
Assignments		
National Security Careers	1. The U.S. Military	8. Project: The National Guard in Your State
	2. The Impact of Technology on Combat and Non-Combat Operations	9. Roles of the Coast Guard
	3. Project: Military Technologies and Combat Operations	10. Project: Coast Guard Missions Chart
	4. Military Careers and Benefits	11. National Guard and Coast Guard Careers
	5. Project: Personal Military Career Plan	12. Quiz 2: The National Guard, Air National Guard, and Coast Guard
	6. Quiz 1: The United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force	13. Special Project*
	7. History, Organization, and Role of the National Guard	14. Test
	15. Course Project Part 3: National Security Career Chart*	
	16. Glossary and Credits	

Unit 4: Intelligence and Law Enforcement Agencies		
Assignments		
National Security Careers	1. Understanding the Reality of Intelligence Operations	8. Project: Federal Law Enforcement Interview
	2. Project: Film Critique: Spy Movie	9. Federal Law Enforcement Operations
	3. The Impact of Technology on Intelligence Gathering	10. Federal Law Enforcement Career Paths
	4. Project: Declassified Intelligence Technologies Research	11. Project: Federal Law Enforcement Career Plan
	5. Legal Constraints and Accountability of Intelligence Agencies	12. Quiz 2: Law Enforcement Agencies
	6. Quiz 1: Intelligence Agencies	13. Special Project*
	7. Organization of Federal Law Enforcement Agencies	14. Test
	15. Course Project Part 4: Storyboard of a National Security Scenario & Response*	
	16. Glossary and Credits	

Unit 5: National Security Challenges in the 21st Century		
Assignments		
National Security Careers	1. Identifying Terrorist Organizations	10. Project: Nuclear WMD Research
	2. Preventing Acts of Terrorism	11. The Threat of Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, and Radiological (CBNR) Weapons
	3. Project: Reaction to Terrorism Prevention	12. Quiz 2: Weapons of Mass Destruction
	4. Responding to Acts of Terrorism	13. Special Project*
	5. Project: Response to a Terrorist Attack	14. Test
	6. Quiz 1: Terrorism and Non-State Actors	15. Course Project Part 5: Create a Multimedia Presentation*
	7. Understanding the History and Policies Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction	16. Glossary and Credits
	8. Project: WMD: History, Uses, and Regulations	
	9. Recognizing Nuclear Weapons Proliferation	

Unit 6: Course Project, Review, and Exam		
Assignments		
NSC	1. Course Project Part 6: Give a Multimedia Presentation *	2. Review
		3. Exam

(*) Indicates alternative assignment