

Module 6: Foreign Policy

Topic 3 Content: Key Government Agencies

Introduction



Demi Tracy: Thanks for tuning in to WUSG News. This episode will examine the key government agencies that deal with American foreign policy. Our foreign correspondent, Emily Airheart, and foreign policy expert, Terry S. Tate, join us in the studio for another segment of *Global Guide*.

Module 6: Foreign Policy
Topic 3 Content: Key Government Agencies

Global Guide



Emily Airheart: I'm Emily Airheart, and this is *Global Guide*. As Demi said, today's show is going to focus on the government agencies responsible for American foreign policy. I couldn't think of anyone better suited to help us learn about these agencies than my friend, Terry S. Tate. Terry, would you care to share some of your knowledge with our audience?

Module 6: Foreign Policy

Topic 3 Content: Key Government Agencies

Key Government Agencies



Terry S. Tate: It would be my pleasure, Emily. The President of the United States is the chief diplomat responsible for constructing American foreign policy. This is an enormous task and it would be impossible for one man or woman to accomplish it alone. Fortunately, different parts of the federal bureaucracy are devoted to achieving foreign policy goals. Let's examine some of the major contributors.

Module 6: Foreign Policy

Topic 3 Content: Key Government Agencies

Department of State

Department of State



Headquartered: Harry S. Truman Building, Washington, D.C.; maintains all of America's embassies and consulates

Department Head: Secretary of State

Domestic Employees: around 11,000 employees in the Civil Service

International Employees: approximately 13,000 people work in the Foreign Service

Bureaus and Offices: the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL), the Office of Global Women's Issues, etc.

Terry S. Tate: The Department of State is the main foreign policy agency of the U.S. government. As America's chief diplomatic institution, its main duties are coordinating foreign policy and managing international relations. The Department of State is headquartered at the Harry S. Truman Building in Washington, D.C., but it also maintains all of America's embassies and consulates around the world.

The State Department is led by the Secretary of State. This individual is the highest ranking member of the President's Cabinet, and the fourth person in the presidential line of succession. The Secretary of State oversees a large number of domestic and international employees. Around 11,000 of these employees are part of the Civil Service. They work within the United States to help accomplish the State Department's missions. Approximately 13,000 people work for the Foreign Service. Many of these people live and work abroad, helping enact American foreign policy and provide information back to the Department of State. American ambassadors and diplomats are considered to be part of the Foreign Service.

There are also several federal bureaus and offices under the Department of State that focus on specific foreign policy issues. For example, the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) focuses on promoting democratic principles, protecting human rights, and advancing labor rights internationally. The Office of Global Women's Issues is another example, which focuses on empowering women socially, economically, and politically across the globe.

Module 6: Foreign Policy

Topic 3 Content: Key Government Agencies

National Security Council

National Security Council



Established: by the National Security Act of 1947

Responsibilities: advise the President; ensure coordination among diplomatic, military, economic, and intelligence agencies

Structure: part of the EOP; consists of top government officials

Permanent Members: President, Vice President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Director of National Intelligence, White House Chief of Staff, National Security Advisor

Invited Attendees: Secretary of the Treasury, Attorney General, other agency heads, and senior government officials

Terry S. Tate: After the end of World War II, legislators believed that the Department of State would be unable to effectively deal with the potential threat of the U.S.S.R. This led to the passing of the National Security Act of 1947, which was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. One of the provisions of this new legislation was the creation of the National Security Council.

The National Security Council (NSC) is the main forum used by the President when considering matters of foreign policy and national security. Its goal is to advise the Chief Executive and ensure coordination among diplomatic, military, economic, and intelligence agencies. The National Security Council exists within the Executive Office of the President (EOP) and consists of the top government officials involved in American foreign policy. Meetings may include different participants, depending on the topic. Some of the NSC members always in attendance include the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Director of National Intelligence, the White House Chief of Staff, and the National Security Advisor. Depending on the subject matter of the meeting, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, or other agency heads and senior officials may be invited to attend.

Module 6: Foreign Policy

Topic 3 Content: Key Government Agencies

Department of Defense



Terry S. Tate: The National Security Act of 1947 unified the American military into one department. The Department of the Navy and the Department of War, which included the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force, were consolidated into the Department of Defense. This Department is headquartered at the Pentagon, located in Arlington, Virginia and maintains many defense installations and facilities around the world. With around 750,000 civilian personnel, 1.5 million people on active military duty, and nearly 1 million more in the National Guard and National Reserves, the Department of Defense is not only the largest department in the American government, it is also the largest employer in the world. The Secretary of Defense is the head of this huge department and is responsible for supervising U.S. military activities.

As the Commander-in-Chief, the President serves as the head of the U.S. Armed Forces. He or she is assisted by the Secretary of Defense, but also the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Both of these positions have senior advisors of their own. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is considered the highest-ranking military officer in the U.S. Armed Forces, but the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff reports to the Secretary of Defense, as well as to the President. This civilian control is a key element of the United States military.

Module 6: Foreign Policy

Topic 3 Content: Key Government Agencies

Central Intelligence Agency

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

**TOP
SECRET**



Established: by the National Security Act of 1947

Responsibilities: collecting information about foreign nations and performing covert activities to advance foreign policy goals; acts in secret on behalf of the President

Reports to: the Director of National Intelligence; actions are discussed with the NSC and approved by the President

Headquartered: George Bush Center for Intelligence, Langley, Fairfax, Virginia

Objectives: counterintelligence, counterterrorism, cyber intelligence, preventing the spread of WMDs, and informing American leaders of important international events

Terry S. Tate: The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was created by the National Security Act of 1947. It is responsible for collecting important information about foreign nations, and performing covert activities to advance foreign policy goals. It serves no law enforcement function, but is the only agency authorized to act in secret on behalf of the President.

The CIA reports to the Director of National Intelligence, who serves on the National Security Council. Any actions taken by the CIA are discussed with the National Security Council and approved by the President. The CIA is headquartered in the George Bush Center for Intelligence, located in Langley, Fairfax, Virginia. Some of the agency's priorities in modern times include counterintelligence, counterterrorism, cyber intelligence, preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and informing American leaders of important events occurring internationally.

Module 6: Foreign Policy

Topic 3 Content: Key Government Agencies

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)



Established: in 1908 as the Bureau of Investigation; changed its name in 1932

Responsibilities: provides domestic intelligence and security services; serves as the primary federal law enforcement agency under the Department of Justice

Headquartered: J. Edgar Hoover Building, Washington, D.C.

Objectives: protect the U.S. from terrorist attacks, foreign espionage, and international cyber crimes; combat federal crime and public corruption

Terry S. Tate: The Federal Bureau of Investigation, commonly referred to as the FBI, was established in 1908. Originally called the Bureau of Investigation, the agency changed its name in 1932. This organization provides domestic intelligence and security services. It also serves as the primary federal law enforcement agency under the Department of Justice.

Although the FBI maintains over 50 field offices across the country, its headquarters are located in the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington, D.C. Since its creation, the Bureau has been used for various purposes, such as enforcing Prohibition laws, combating organized crime, and investigating civil rights activists. These days the FBI's main objectives are to protect the United States from terrorist attacks, foreign espionage, and international cyber-crimes, as well as combat federal crimes and public corruption.

Module 6: Foreign Policy

Topic 3 Content: Key Government Agencies

Department of Homeland Security

Department of Homeland Security



Established: in 2002 by the Homeland Security Act in response to the September 11th attacks

Headquartered: Nebraska Avenue Complex, Washington, D.C.

Department Head: Secretary of Homeland Security

Responsibilities: prevent terrorism, manage borders and immigration laws, and secure cyberspace

Key Reporting Organizations: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the U.S. Secret Service

Terry S. Tate: After the September 11th attacks, it was clear that terrorism constituted a significant threat to the United States. To help address this growing challenge, the Homeland Security Act was passed in 2002, consolidating several government organizations into a new Cabinet department named the Department of Homeland Security.

Led by the Secretary of Homeland Security, this department focuses on preventing terrorism, managing borders and immigration laws, and securing cyberspace. Some of its key reporting organizations include FEMA, the Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, and the Secret Service.

Module 6: Foreign Policy

Topic 3 Content: Key Government Agencies

Ending of Episode



Demi Tracy: That was great, Terry. Thank you. The National Security Act of 1947 consolidated the military under the Department of Defense, established the National Security Council, and created the CIA. This legislation was passed in response to the perceived threat of the Soviet Union at the beginning of the Cold War, but all of these organizations continue to be major contributors to American foreign policy today. Thanks for watching.