

Lesson 10

US National Security Architecture and the Interagency Process

Readings:

1. David Aidekman, The National Security Act of 1947: Background, History, and Politics. Unpublished memorandum. (Harvard-Stanford Preventive Defense Project, October 26, 1999): 1-3
2. David Aidekman, The Goldwater-Nichols Act: History, Background, and Politics. Unpublished memorandum. (Harvard-Stanford Preventive Defense Project, October 20, 1999): 1-3.
3. Chris Hornbarger, National Security Act of 1947: Creation and Persistent Criticisms. Unpublished memorandum. (Harvard-Stanford Preventive Defense Project, February 21, 2000): 1-6.
4. John Deutch, Arnold Kanter; and Brent Scowcroft, with Chris Hornbarger. [*Strengthening the National Security Interagency Process*](#), Chapter 10 in Ashton P. Carter and John P. White, eds., *Keeping the Edge: Managing Defense for the Future*, edited by Ashton B. Carter and John P. White (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2000): 265-284.

Study Questions:

1. What were the primary reasons behind the National Security Act of 1947 and the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986?
2. What difficulties or challenges did proponents of both Acts face? How did the military services contribute to or impede the reforms? What compromises were made as a result?
3. How complex was the integration of the military services, as accomplished by both the National Security Act and Goldwater-Nichols? How long has the integration taken?
4. What lessons might we draw from both reform efforts? What lessons might not apply to the current situation? (We will revisit these questions when we examine the two significant acts of institutional reform legislation since 9/11: the Homeland Security Act of 2002, and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.)