NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC IN A COMPLEX GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

“National Security” commonly refers to “the ability of the state to protect the fundamental values and core interests of a society.” Within the broader objective that cadets be prepared to “defend our nation in air, space, and cyberspace,” this Outcome emphasizes not only the operational, tactical, and technological capabilities necessary to do so but also the broader political context in which military force must be employed. In this context, it is critical that cadets—regardless of academic major—graduate with an understanding of the political, strategic, operational, tactical, and technological dimensions of national security.

USAFA GRADUATES WILL BE ABLE TO:

Recall and discuss the constitutional foundations of the American political and legal system.

Proficiency 1: Describe the values and interests to be protected by national security policy. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.6.2: Government Organization and Processes).

Proficiency 2: Explain the historical and societal foundations of civilian control of the military, and analyze the historical precedents of employing citizen-soldiers in defense of a democratic-republic.

Proficiency 3: Identify the principal strategy and policy tools with which fundamental values and core interests are to be protected.

Proficiency 4: Classify operating features and functions of the national security structure, and identify the different roles of parties within that structure in the formulation of national security strategy. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.6.2: Government Organization and Processes).

Explain the changing nature of the international environment in which our fundamental values and core interests are shaped, reinforced, or threatened.

Proficiency 5: Identify key global issues and explain their impact on the U.S., its values, its interests, and its policies. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.6.3: Global, Regional and Cultural Awareness).

Proficiency 6: Explain how institutions, including governments, cultures, religions, economic and legal systems, and societies shape the national security environment and our relationships with allies, partners, competitors, and adversaries. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.6.3: Global, Regional and Cultural Awareness).

Proficiency 7: Explain how nations use instruments of power (DIME) to support their national interests. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.6.3: Global, Regional and Cultural Awareness).
Identify and explain the historical and contemporary nature of U.S. national security strategy.

Proficiency 8: Describe the historical evolution of U.S. foreign policy and its impact on U.S. national security. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.6.3: Global, Regional and Cultural Awareness).

Proficiency 9: Describe the evolution of U.S. national security strategy in the 20th century, the role of the military profession; explain how U.S. national security strategy is adapting to the complexity of 21st century national security challenges—including in space and cyberspace—and its implications for how the U.S. relates to other international actors.

Proficiency 10: Describe the evolution of strategic theory and technology regarding air, space, and cyberspace, including the development of nuclear weapons.

Explain the implications of contemporary U.S. national security strategy for joint and Air Force strategy, technology, doctrine, policy, force structure, and operational employment.

Proficiency 11: Apply operational and strategic art across the range of military operations; utilize an effects-based approach to operations. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.5.1: Operational and Strategic Art).

Proficiency 12: Recognize the national security implications of non-adversarial crisis response. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.5.3: Non-Adversarial Crisis Response).

Proficiency 13: Describe how changing technologies influence potential areas of conflict and cooperation. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A.2.5.4: Leveraging Technology).

Proficiency 14: Describe the full spectrum of military operations as identified in the concepts of military theory, principles of war, Air Force doctrine, and US strategy. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.5.1: Operational and Strategic Art).

Proficiency 15: Describe the organizational structure and relationships of and between the Air Force, the Department of Defense, Joint Staff, and joint commands, the defense agencies, and other elements of defense structure. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.6.1: Enterprise Structure and Relationships).

Proficiency 16: Describe Air Force capabilities across air, space, and cyberspace and how they relate to and complement other Service capabilities; interpret interdependencies and interoperability across services, agencies, departments, and coalition partners. (Includes the Air Force CELOs listed under sub-competency A2.5.2: Understanding Unit, Air Force, Joint, and Coalition Capabilities).