

## National Security

### Protecting The Nation - - Home and Abroad



U.S. Department of State

Courtesy: U.S. General Services Administration



U.S. Department of Defense

Courtesy: U.S. Department of Defense

World affairs do not gain much attention from the American public until disaster strikes or armed conflict that involves U.S. participation. In either occurrence, it is the Department of State and the Department of Defense that responds to ensure the homeland is protected through diplomatic or kinetic action. They are interagency partners who pursue peace and stability with their allies, friends, and non-state actors. The United States plays a major role in the international system because of its wealth, military might, collective security agreements and membership in many international organizations. Nations around the world acknowledge it, although some disagree with certain aspects of its foreign policy and capitalistic system.

Exporting democratic values is an art of persuading nations to do or not do something even when it conflicts with their own self interests. It is a dicey, but necessary strategy that affects not only the United States but the world at large, e.g., economics, nuclear proliferation, pandemics, armed conflict, and the quest for natural resources. These are global issues that the United States cannot solve by itself. Therefore, it is dependent on other nations' collective support. Regardless of the strategy, citizens are stakeholders who need to be informed on official U.S. Policy, to include its potential benefits and drawbacks. This is another example why your vote has consequences.