TEMPLATE

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*Note to Students: This is an example template. It contains generic ‘placeholder’ language that is intended as a guide, and that will* ***not*** *be in your NSS document. You may use this document to organize for your final response to the President, but you do not need to do so. There is no uniform structure for NSC recommendations, and so you have significant latitude on how to best communicate the NSC view. Keep in mind, however, that your NSS will be more persuasive if it includes data, graphics, and authoritative references whenever possible. Also note that the grading rubric includes a component for the use of external source documents.*

*Whatever structure you adopt for the final document, the it must contain all essential components identified in the assignment.*

A National Approach to Confronting the Growing Threat of Cyber Attacks

National Security Council (NSC) Recommendations

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# **Executive Summary**

*[Provide a concise overview of the problem, and broadly the goals of this policy. For example:]*

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Vivamus a tellus. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Proin pharetra nonummy pede. Mauris et orci. Aenean nec lorem….

**A New American Approach to Cyber Security.**

*[Next, identify and discuss the specific dimensions or “pillars” of the policy you are recommending. This is where you summarize each component of the broader policy. The goal is to provide the President a direct and accessible overview of the problem and the actionable components. For example:]*

A rapidly evolving cyber security environment requires a new set of policies designed to protect the American people and advance US interests abroad. The United States faces imminent and dangerous threats from the emerging environment of malicious cyberattacks. Figure 1 depicts the dramatic increase in cyber threats by domestic and international actors…

Figure 1. Malicious Code Threats in the United States according to Symantec.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

The cornerstones of the new American approach are as follows….

Deterrence

A core element of cyber security is to deter malicious attacks through deterrence. Because the nature of cyber threats varies, the US must deploy two kinds of deterrence: Deterrence by threat of punishment and deterrence by denial.

* *Deterrence by Threat of Punishment:* Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Maecenas porttitor congue massa...
* *Deterrence by Denial:*Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Proin pharetra nonummy pede….

Transparency

The issue of cybersecurity is exceptionally complex. To confront this issue, we encourage cooperation among both the private and public sectors to ensure transparency, and the creation of new international institutions for sharing information…

*[additional topics as needed]*

# **Defining the Nature of Threats**

*[In this section you define the specific threats that are most important to the NSC. These are the cyber security challenges that your policy will address. To be persuasive, this section should include data and authorities reports whenever possible.]*

While the number of cybersecurity threats continues to increase, there are XX specific concerns that present an imminent danger to our national security. These include the activities Russia and the People’s Republic of China. In addition, non-state can both attack the US from afar and radicalize individuals living in the US with the goal of conducting terrorist attacks

## Russia

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## People’s Republic of China

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## Non-State Actors

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* *Threats from Abroad:* Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Proin pharetra nonummy pede.
* *Domestic Radicalizaiton:* Maecenas porttitor congue massa. Fusce posuere, magna sed pulvinar ultricies, purus lectus malesuada libero, sit amet commodo magna

Additional Threats Addressed by this Policy

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# **Policies and Priorities**

[Next describe in detail the NSC’s specific recommendations. Be sure to both explain the policy and how it addresses the one or more of the threats noted above. Some policies will simultaneously address multiple problems. That is a good thing, and you will want to highlight this fact.]

1. Deterrence
2. Transparency
3. Securitization of Assets
4. Intergovernmental Organization
5. Offensive Strategy
6. Defensive Strategy
7. Increase Data Collection and Surveillance

**Conclusion**

*[Zoom back out, provide an overview, and add any additional information that you believe is relevant. For example, you can offer suggestions about what to do first, about differences of opinion withing the NSC, or about what to do after the policy is implemented. E.g.]*

* Our country faces imminent threats in the form of …
* This policy recommends a comprehensive multi-pronged approach that includes….
* While each component of this policy is critical to the overall success of the new American approach to cyber security, we recommend that the following policies should be adopted first…

**References**