

# Senior Manager Course in National and International Security

National Security Studies Program  
The George Washington University

<b>Eligible Grade</b>	GS-15
<b>Program Length</b>	4 weeks
<b>Location</b>	The George Washington University, The Elliott School of International Affairs, Washington, D.C.
<b>Funding</b>	Tuition is centrally funded through Washington Headquarters Service and includes course materials, lodging, and meals. Travel and per diem to and from the school is the responsibility of the nominating organization. Side-trip travel during the course will be funded by Washington Headquarters Service.
<b>Course Dates</b>	March/April 2013 (tentative)
<b>Course Description</b>	<p>The course systematically examines the forces that influence U.S. defense decision-making, the interagency process, the wider policy community, threats in the international arena, and includes numerous site visits and briefings from policy-makers.</p> <p>This course focuses on developing three critical areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foundational Knowledge—through instruction, active learning, interactions with policy makers, briefings, and table-top exercises focused on the security environment</li><li>• Understanding of Defense Key Issues—through instruction, policy briefings, and site visits</li><li>• In-depth knowledge—through analysis of U.S. foreign policy and defense priorities in the 21st century</li></ul>

The course includes a field trip to New York City during which a number of transnational security issues will be analyzed: terrorist threats, disease and international security, the challenge of illegal immigration, and threats to the economy. Participants will fully utilize Washington, D.C., with site visits to the Supreme Court, Congress, the National Security Council, the State Department, media outlets including *The Washington Post* and *Al Jazeera*, and key think tanks and Non-Governmental Organizations. A central case study is used to improve management skills and prepare participants for the culmination of the course, a 2-day simulation exercise, which requires successfully utilizing the substantive expertise and analytical skills developed during the course. During the program participants will have access to a weekend media training program and a Wellness Program and Lifestyle Assessment.

**National Security Studies Program Overview:** The National Security Studies Program provides the senior leadership of the Department of Defense with a rigorous, comprehensive, user-friendly framework for understanding the full range of actors, processes and issues that affect U.S. defense policy-making. Employing a ‘concentric circles’ framework, the program examines the governmental realm, the wider policy community, and the international

environment, and assesses how each affects U.S. national security choices. Each course will involve high-level policy-makers and practitioners who will brief participants about the 'circle' in which they operate.

In addition to providing a comprehensive knowledge base, each course strengthens defense management skills through specially designed skills components. These innovative courses, taught by practitioners, are enhanced by table-top exercises and simulations that put these skills into action.

The National Security Studies Program is offered by two of the strongest security studies programs in the nation: the Elliott School's Security Policy Studies Program and MIT's Security Studies Program. The combined faculties of these schools bring an unrivaled mix of thematic knowledge, regional expertise, practitioner experience, and analytical sophistication to the study of the national security challenges facing the United States.

The National Security Studies Program examines the full range of national and international security problems that defense officials will have to contend with in the 21st century. It analyzes traditional threats as well as new and emerging security issues, providing participants with the tools they will need to understand and manage these problems.

The program is based in Washington, D.C., giving participants incomparable access to key policy-makers and high-level briefings at critical governmental and non-governmental institutions.

**Additional Information**

- **Experience Requirement:** None specified
- **Educational Requirement:** None specified
- **Security Clearance Requirement:** None specified
- Graduate Credit or Degree Earned: Not applicable
- Participants are usually lodged in Washington, D.C. or Northern Virginia
- Due to the course format and agenda, participants geographically located in the National Capital Region are encouraged to stay in arranged lodging along with other participants in order to fully participate in the Program.
- DoD-level Continued Service Agreement (CSA) is required for three times the length of the training period—3 months

**Nomination Process**

Please refer to guidance on the [EDP home page](#). In addition to the DLA nomination and executive sponsorship endorsement documents, the following items must be included in your nomination package to receive consideration:

- 1) Copy of most recent Standard Form 50, Notification of Personnel Action
- 2) [SF 182](#), Authorization, Agreement, and Certification of Training). This training form must accompany the nomination package but will only be processed if the nominee is selected to attend the course.

**Selection Decision**

The DLA Executive Resources Board reviews nominations and makes the initial selection decision. Washington Headquarters Service makes the final decision.

**Web Site**

For additional information, please refer to the National Security Studies Program web page at <http://www.gwu.edu/~nssp/overview.cfm>.