This course is designed to focus the student both on the policy process and its substance. To that end, we will look at how the national security policymaking process developed from the National Security Act of 1947 through the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 to the present. This will entail a thorough examination of the US interagency process both in theory and how it works in practice. In terms of substance, we will consider the products beginning with the National Security Council Report 68 (NSC-68) and continuing up to the current National Security Strategy of the United States. We will also examine a series of case studies beginning with the 1989 invasion of Panama up to and including the current conflict in Iraq. As a counterpoint to the major cases, we will consider the variety of “low intensity” national security conflicts that have involved the US since the end of World War II.