



**United States National Security Council  
Background Guide**

# Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings delegates

Welcome to the simulation of the Historic United States National Security Council at MUNQSMUN 2017. This letter is intended to indicate what might be discussed in council so that you can get a better idea about what to research, and doesn't function as a substantive or procedural guide. Rest assured, if we as the Executive Board are offering you this assistance, we definitely expect a certain level of debate to be maintained through the 3 days.

The freeze date and time for the committee is August 6, 1990 1200 hrs.

I'm sure the date would ring a bell in everyone's minds. All members are expected to be fully researched on the timeline of events and any confusion regarding the same will not be appreciated by the Executive Board.

Coming on to the most important bit, even though this committee is set in a timeline where events are fairly fast paced, intense and somewhat specific to a particular standoff, one shouldn't forget the general purpose and common responsibility held by all the members of the council, that is to do everything in their power to make the United States the greatest nation on the planet.

Delegates are expected to be clever in their dealings and think strategically on how best we can use and mould the situation at hand in order to further our interests the most in the world, with respect to replacing the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a world superpower.

In depth of knowledge of not only military strategy, but also other fields such as economics and basic political structures will be absolutely critical in the discussions, and all delegates are supposed to be aware of the intricacies of these matters. Other details about how the committee will function have been given in the procedural guide.

Lastly, the events in committee can be a little intimidating sometimes as the Executive Board will have to be strict and even curt at some points in order to keep the pressure high, discussions fast paced and making the experience more authentic. Due to this, we recommend that most people with less than 3-4 MUNs under their belt should avoid this committee. This is purely to make sure that it isn't an unpleasant experience for anybody, and everyone gets a real feel of what such a high pressure job feels like.

We wish you good luck for the conference, and hope that you will live up to our high standards.

Sahil Arora  
President of the United States

Maheep Singh  
Vice President of the United States

# From the Desk of the Honorable President of the United States of America

Respected Office Bearers of the National Security Council,

I welcome you to the NSC Meeting at MUNQSMUN 2017.

First of all, the reason behind this brief is to clarify any doubt on the concept of the council and the structure of proceedings which will be followed.

It is imperative for you to understand that this will be a marked departure from any of the conventional or unconventional MUN committees you may have taken part in. This council will also be different than some of the simulations of some National Security Councils.

Secondly, you are not delegates here. Each of you has a specific portfolio and a person you are role-playing. Therefore, Instead of country research as done by a delegate, you would be expected to research upon your portfolios assigned, your duties and responsibilities and every issue that falls within your jurisdiction. Understanding of the jurisdiction (mandate of the post) is extremely necessary.

All of you need to be well resourced to act as strategists, decision makers, and pragmatic policy executioners, who in times of military coldness or in political deadlocks know what needs to be done and can apply to achieve the best results. However, we are not testing you purely on how the real person in your shoes did during the Bush administration, but how you, as a responsible administrator, justify the position you hold.

**THE SCOPE OF PERFORMANCE GOES FAR BEYOND THE LIMITATIONS YOUR OFFICE OR THE REAL PERSON WHO HELD THAT POST ALLOTTED TO YOU.**

Obviously, since this is not a UN Council, we would not be following the Charter of the United Nations, but we are bound by the Constitution of the United States of America. But knowledge of the international commitments of the USA (ratified treaties and conventions, as well as bilateral or multilateral agreements) as well as National Protocol regarding security situations, emergencies, legal commitments, etc. will be useful in your performance.



## Proof/Evidence in Council

We will be accepting United States Government reports as credible proof. Intelligence reports from allied/NATO nations can also be looked at as holding enough credibility to be considered seriously by the NSC. Burden of Proof reduces greatly from general UN committees because statements from you will be considered fact (if it is regarding an issue that you have jurisdiction over as per your portfolio) and you will be required to present proof only if asked or if you wish to. That said, the Executive Board will appreciate creativity at every stage of the discussion, but not blatant baseless opinions or fawning about your department's capabilities.

## Role of the Executive Board

The Executive Board will be substantively involved with the debate as per the protocol of the NSC. However, we'll be doing so by asking questions to the NSC members and taking decisions that would chart out the direction that debate will head in. **We will not introduce our own solutions to the situation or help you with documentation.**

Here, you are the functioning arm of the United States possessing all the decision making capabilities – Military, Intelligence, Legal, Financial, Diplomatic and Political.

## What is expected of the NSC?

It is imperative to understand that the National Security Council is a very apolitical committee in its internal functioning. Every member of the National Security Council present there has TOP SECRET security clearance as a minimum threshold. **Instead of political leanings, decision making capacity after logical analysis will be appreciated in all its members.** Your goal is not to put each other's opinion down or just criticize them, it is mainly as troubleshooters who will work out a quick and most efficient way to deal with the situation and making sure the United States is not compromising on its integrity or its policy. Indecision is not an option here because you are faced with a situation which is instrumental to protecting the national security and the interests and reputation of the United States of America.

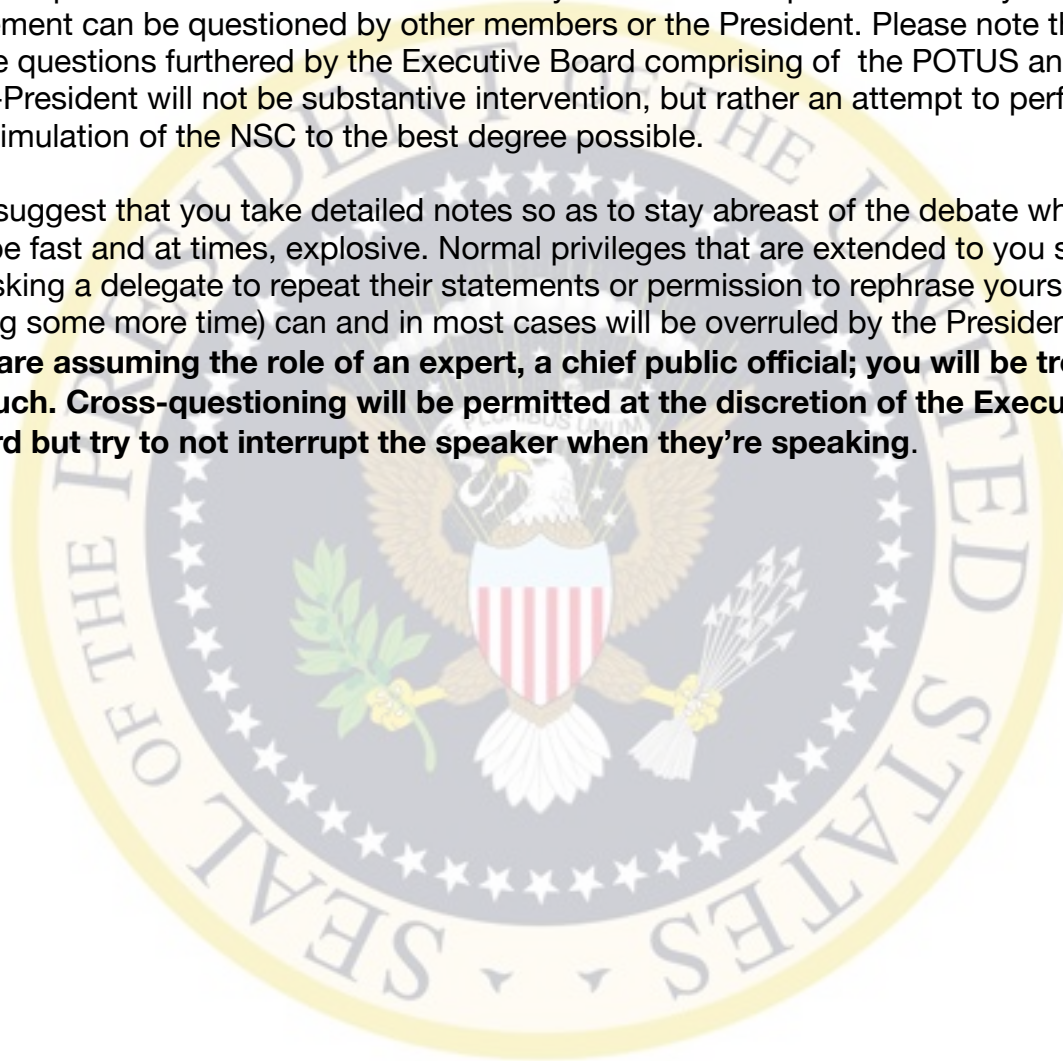
## Flow of Debate and Rules of Procedure

Usually in MUNs, the flow of debate is categorized into Formal (GSL) and Informal (Caucuses). **In the NSC, the atmosphere is more charged and tense, time is of the essence.** Every member should realize that and should not unnecessarily take up time of the NSC. Short, precise statements or questions will be preferred over long-drawn speeches, effectively making discussions sharp, and to the point.

**The debate will begin with a round- robin discussion.** Instead of questioning us on the facts of the matter, questions to what our objectives are and what the limitations would be are welcome. After these questions have provided the NSC with an idea of what is our aim, debate will ensue by a show of placards, where the President will ask each member of the NSC for their recommendations. However, the President may at any time ask a member of the Council to make a statement. There is no specific or default time limit for these speeches, but council members should understand the importance of time and not make elaborate speeches. Either make short recommendations or take a longer amount of time if you're presenting a detailed plan of action. There are no formal yields after the speech but every statement can be questioned by other members or the President. Please note that these questions furthered by the Executive Board comprising of the POTUS and Vice-President will not be substantive intervention, but rather an attempt to perfect the simulation of the NSC to the best degree possible.

We suggest that you take detailed notes so as to stay abreast of the debate which will be fast and at times, explosive. Normal privileges that are extended to you such as asking a delegate to repeat their statements or permission to rephrase yourself (by taking some more time) can and in most cases will be overruled by the President.

**You are assuming the role of an expert, a chief public official; you will be treated as such. Cross-questioning will be permitted at the discretion of the Executive Board but try to not interrupt the speaker when they're speaking.**



Point

**In the NSC**

**Personal Privilege**

Besides walking out of the room, you do not need to take permission for anything else. If you feel like standing up and walking around the room, you can do so. As long as it does not annoy the President.

**Order**

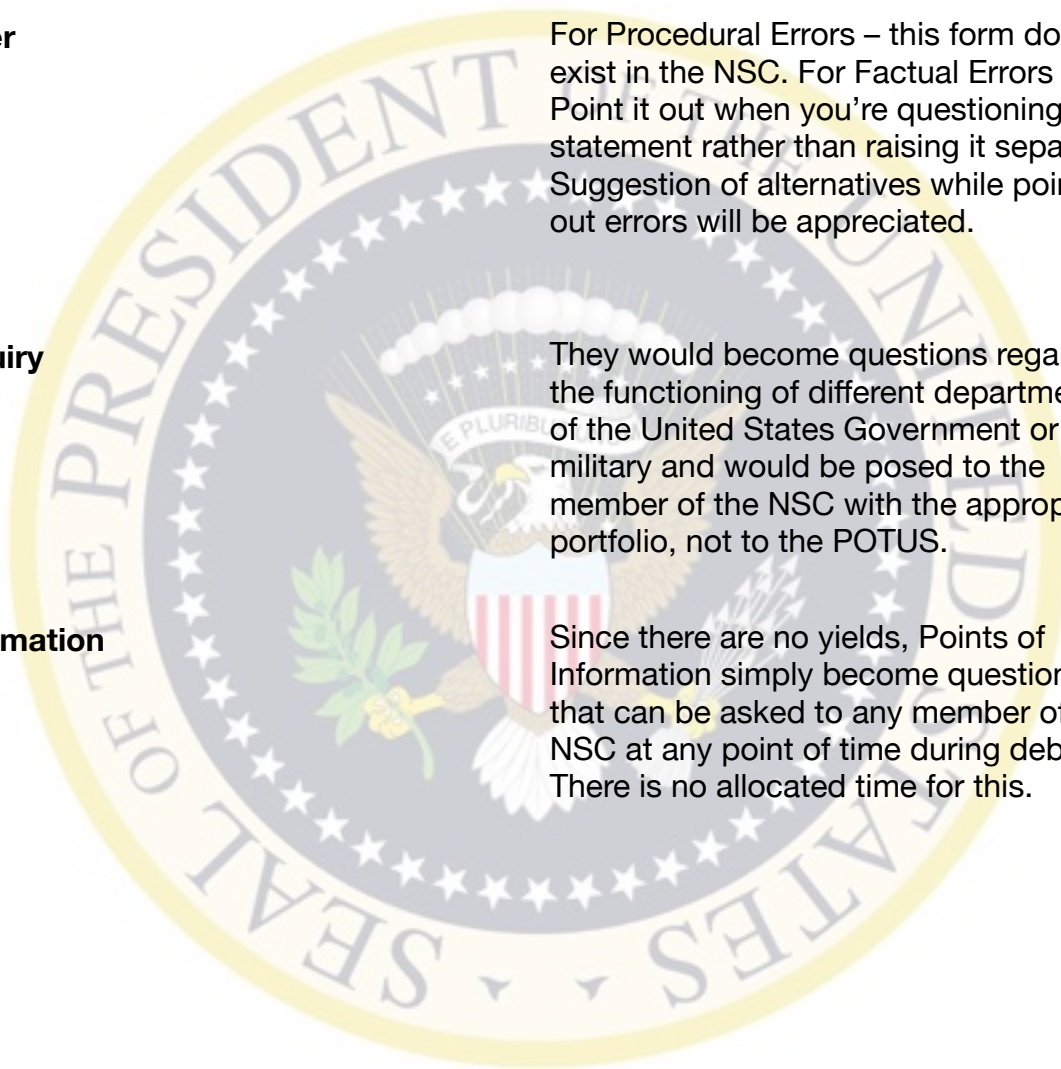
For Procedural Errors – this form doesn't exist in the NSC. For Factual Errors – Point it out when you're questioning a statement rather than raising it separately. Suggestion of alternatives while pointing out errors will be appreciated.

**Enquiry**

They would become questions regarding the functioning of different departments of the United States Government or its military and would be posed to the member of the NSC with the appropriate portfolio, not to the POTUS.

**Information**

Since there are no yields, Points of Information simply become questions that can be asked to any member of the NSC at any point of time during debate. There is no allocated time for this.





## **INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS**

- Informal Consultations are like Unmoderated Caucuses. **Documentation is expected at the end of every informal discussion. A simple summary of the discussion will also do. The same shall not be revealed to the council if the members so wish.**
- No formal motions or voting. A show of placards for Consensus; final decision rests with POTUS.
- Separate documents outlining different **Plans of Action (POAs)** will be submitted to the POTUS. A POA may be submitted at any time, however it must be relevant to what is going on in the council.

There are no formal motions or formal voting. You are free to have a discussion on any matter, as long such discussion is not going against any decision by the President. For example, if the President has called for a discussion on the legal implication of the proposed action for 15 minutes, do not raise another topic at that time, but when the President tells the NSC that the discussion is over, feel free to speak up that you want discussion on another matter. The time for discussion will be decided by the President and there'll be an informal vote in the form of a show of placards for consensus. The final decision rests with the President. However, do not feel that your vote doesn't count.

Members of the NSC can feel free to call for discussion in an informal manner not moderated by the President or the Vice-President. This will not be treated as a break though. Members can work on options in groups to discuss and prepare different parts of the action. This will be like the Unmoderated caucus. One difference would be that documentation would be expected after every such informal discussion. Even if the only thing discussed were questions to the presented options, a list of those questions and possible solutions would suffice. What would be preferable is that the documentation happens on a laptop so that those Plans can be edited immediately following your discussions and no extra time is taken to type it out at the end.

The President may conduct informal discussions with each group about their POAs or ask the Vice President to do so. The President may conduct an informal discussion with an individual NSC member depending on the situation too. But the final decision on selecting a POA will rest on the President.

## ESSENTIALS OF A POA

Plan out each stage of the POA, think of contingencies, clearly mark out each NSC member's role in the POA.

Think of a timeline for each POA alongside these informal discussions, so that the same is ready by the time every group is done discussing their POA with the top brass. The President will then take a decision as to which Plan of Action we would be following and lay down the Rules of the Operation that the NSC will not violate while carrying out their orders. As soon as the decision is taken, discussions on finer points of implementation are supposed to begin; this can be done as moderated by the POTUS, or in groups, or a combination of the two. Please understand that by this time, we would not be looking at any other Plan of Action except the one the POTUS has decreed. The NSC members are expected to plan out proper operational details based on their portfolios and coordinate resources to efficiently carry out the POA. Another task would be to think of contingencies for each part of the POA and plan ahead for possible snags or hiccups.

Pertaining to implementation of proposed POA's, there is a provision for discussion on what is to be declassified to the General Public, other Heads of State or Organizations (NATO, UN, OAS, OPEC, etc.), members of the US Government within US territory and those on foreign soil. **Press Conferences**, wherein members of the NSC will be required to record official statements in a video release, can also be simulated and members of the NSC are required to be prepared for the same. They will be subject to judgment by the Executive Board if at all they are conducted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush", is positioned over the lower right portion of the Great Seal of the United States.

President of the United States of America