



State of California – Military Department
California Cadet Corps

CURRICULUM ON MILITARY KNOWLEDGE

Strand M9: US Armed Forces

Level 11

This Strand is composed of the following components:

- A. Purpose of the Military Branches**
- B. Trends in the US Military
- C. History of the Military Branches



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A. Purpose of the Military Branches

Standard #2: Students learn duty, service, and responsibility as a citizen of their school, their community, the State of California, and the United States.

OBJECTIVES

DESIRED OUTCOME (Self-Mastery)

Cadets learn the purpose and function of each of the US Armed Services and how they contribute to the defense of the United States. Cadets will be able to:

1. Explain the purpose of the United States Army
2. Explain the purpose of the United States Air Force
3. Explain the purpose of the United States Navy
4. Explain the purpose of the United States Marine Corps
5. Explain the purpose of the United States Coast Guard
6. Explain the purpose of the United States Space Force
7. Explain the purpose of the California National Guard



A1. US Army Purpose

Hold the Land. The stated mission of the United States Army is to deploy, fight and win our nation's wars by providing ready, prompt and sustained, land dominance by Army forces across the full spectrum of conflict as part of the joint force. (Army, 2018)



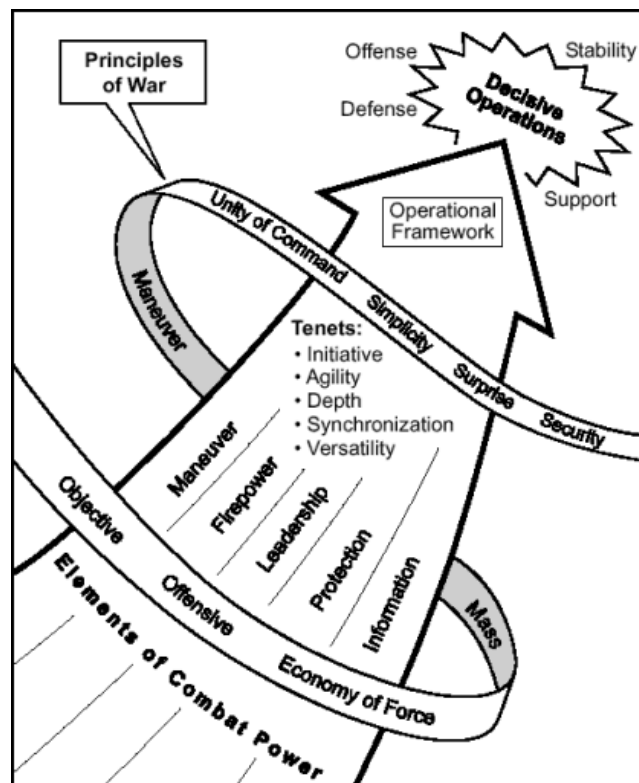
That's a mouthful - what does it mean? Let's break it down;

"To deploy, fight and win our Nation's wars" is pretty simple. The Army goes where they're needed and fights wars.

"Providing ready, prompt and sustained land dominance": The Army is in charge of the land-based part of war. We'll talk more of the other parts - air, sea, and cyber, later. The Army controls the land, and through that control, dominates the place where they're fighting.

It is said that you can't win a war solely from the air; it has been tried over and over, but if you can't hold the land, you can't win the war. "Land dominance" implies just that - being able to dominate, or control, the land you're occupying.

The land dominance must be sustained - it can't be temporary. That's part of the Army's mission, and differentiates the Army mission from the Marine Corps mission. The Marines go into battle as a short-term weapon; the Army goes into battle on a long-term basis with the mission of "sustaining the land dominance" - or keeping control of the land.



“Across the full spectrum of conflict”: War is not as simple as it used to be, when Roman legions or Revolutionary War armies lined up against each other on the front line and fought it out. In addition to usually involving land, sea, and air operations, the US Army uses the elements of combat power - Maneuver, Firepower, Leadership, Protection, and Information - to overwhelm the enemy and win. This involves the combat arms of Infantry, Armor, Field Artillery, Aviation, Air Defense, Engineers, and Special Forces using their skills to attack the enemy. It involves support units providing protection or security, logistics, and services to the fighting forces. And it involves intelligence and cyber forces getting into the minds and systems of the enemy to create opportunities to exploit them. The “spectrum of conflict” is no longer just a field where a bunch of soldiers fight each other. War involves “full spectrum operations” - again, involving land, sea, air, cyber, intelligence, political operations that overwhelm an enemy.

“As part of the joint force”: The Army doesn’t fight wars by itself. Our military consists of Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines (and Coast Guard during some combat operations), and they train and fight together to deliver overwhelming power to defeat our enemies. “Joint Operations” are operations involving at least two of our military services. The US Army is committed to working with the other services to win wars. This hasn’t come easy. The services have always competed for resources and relevance. There have been many examples of services acting in their own best interest, and not working together to effectively defeat the enemy. This started changing in the 1990’s, when joint operations became more accepted. All the services acknowledge the need to work together to support the common objective.

The Army is composed of three components:

- The **Active Army**, sometimes known as the **Regular Army**
 - Soldiers and Units who work for the Army as their fulltime job
- The **Army Reserve**
 - Soldiers and Units who work for the Army part-time, training in case they are called up to serve the Army fulltime in cases of emergency
- The **Army National Guard**
 - Soldiers and Units who work for their State Governor, but who train to the same standards of the Army and Reserve, who can be called up to serve the Army fulltime in cases of emergency. They also work for the state during emergencies.

The Army does a lot more than fight our nation’s wars. Sometimes they’re called to battle emergencies within the United States, like border issues, emergency response to natural disasters like hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and wildfires (the National Guard does these types of missions all the time as part of their duty, but even the Active Army sometimes gets called to help out our citizens during emergencies). They do a lot of non-combat missions overseas, from exercises where they might work with other countries’ military forces, to peacekeeping operations to goodwill tours. The Army has units all over the world, and that helps the US project its power as a world leader. The main purpose of the Army when they’re not fighting wars is to train so that they’re ready when called upon.

A2. US Air Force Purpose

The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight and win in air, space, and cyberspace.

Air Force capabilities give the US options over any distance, against any enemy. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world." (Force, 2018)



Building on the discussion of the "spectrum of conflict" we started in Lesson A1, the Air Force provides lethal capabilities from the air. Not all air capabilities are in the Air Force - the Navy, Army, Marines, and Coast Guard all have their own air power. But those forces are mostly dedicated to supporting the missions of their service, whether it's ground support aviation in the Army and Marines or the Navy's air capabilities. The difference is that air power is the primary mission of the Air Force, while it is more of a supporting mission in the other services.

The Air Force has many types of planes: fighters, bombers, transport (cargo and passengers), tankers (refueling), command & control platforms, attack (provides close air support to ground operations), electronic warfare platforms, reconnaissance & surveillance, search & rescue, unmanned aircraft (drones), helicopters, and aircraft that do multiple missions, like fighter-bombers. They also have strategic missiles and a large part of the nation's nuclear capability. Each of these systems provide a capability that contributes to our military's air power. We are able to dominate the air during combat operations due to our diverse technology, sufficient quantity of aircraft and airmen, quality of both equipment and training, and ability to reach out and put these capabilities anywhere in the world.

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information. Airmen support the overall cyber mission, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures. Air Forces Cyber establishes, operates, maintains and defends Air Force networks to ensure warfighters can maintain the information advantage as U.S. forces prosecute military operations around the world. They lead the Air Force cyber mission, and they are critical players in the Joint cyber mission as well.

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace.

The Air Force consists of four components:

- The Active Air Force
- The Air Force Reserve
- The Air National Guard
- Space Force

The four components of the Air Force are integrated and work together to accomplish the Air Force mission. They are supported by the **Civil Air Patrol**, a civilian auxiliary of the Air Force chartered by Congress to perform emergency services missions (including search and rescue and disaster relief), aerospace education for youth and the general public, and cadet programs for teenage youth. In addition, CAP has recently been tasked with homeland security and courier service missions. CAP also

performs non-auxiliary missions for various governmental and private agencies, such as local law enforcement and the American Red Cross.

A3. US Navy Purpose

The mission of the United States Navy is to recruit, train, equip, and organize to deliver combat ready Naval forces to win conflicts and wars while maintaining security and deterrence through sustained forward presence. (Navy, 2018)



The Navy trains its officers and sailors all the time to be ready to engage in battle as necessary, with the best equipment in the world. Their capability ranges from aircraft to surface ships to submarines to cyber (information warfare), and all work together to own the world's seas.

In addition to maintaining dominance on the seas - in effect, keeping the seas free for everyone to use (or everyone that WE want to allow to travel the seas), the Navy brings great capability to transport large amounts of equipment and materiel to distant battlefields. When it comes to the vast amount of equipment and supplies it takes to sustain combat operations, ships are still the best method of transport. Even combining all the transport planes of the Air Force and the civilian cargo fleet, we don't have enough aircraft to bring everything needed to a battle zone. The Navy and civilian merchant ships are still needed to deliver equipment and supplies, and the security of those transports must be maintained.

The Navy has always been a major component of the desire and necessity to project a military presence around the world. While some of this comes in the form of land bases, the power offered by a fleet of naval ships can be delivered to any coastal area, and the air component of naval operations extends its fighting arm well inland. The Navy rotates its battle groups to provide a constant presence, and deterrence, in areas where other nations are threatening the United States in some way.

The deterrence factor provided by our submarine fleet cannot be overestimated. Our submarines' ability to launch ballistic missiles, even nuclear armed missiles, from any ocean on earth, has played a major role in deterrence for decades. Our enemies may or may not be able to take out our ground-based ICBM missile silos before they could launch, but they cannot take out our submarine-based missiles. This has prevented any potential adversary from starting a nuclear war with the United States.

The Navy consists of two components (if you consider the Marine Corps a separate component of the Navy):

- The Active Navy
- The Navy Reserve

There are two organizations that are not part of the US Armed Forces, but are considered US *Uniformed Services*: The US Merchant Marine and the Public Health Service.

The **Merchant Marines** are a mix of about 300 federally and civilian owned ships that carry passengers and cargo. They are not warships, but they are available to augment the US Navy when needed. Merchant Marine officers may be commissioned as Strategic Sealift Officers in the US Navy Reserve.

They serve as an available strategic asset to the Navy, but don't perform training or duty in the same way a Naval Reservist does. The US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point is considered one of the five US military academies, and one of seven maritime academies (one of which is the California State University Maritime Academy in Vallejo, north of San Francisco). Graduates of the maritime academies may receive a commission in the US Navy Reserve, and usually go to sea as captains, mates, and pilots on civilian ships. The Military Sealift Command is an arm of the Navy, carrying cargo in over 100 ships on missions supporting the US military services. MSC ships are manned by merchant mariners. The USNS hospital ships Comfort and Mercy, activated to provide additional hospital capabilities to Los Angeles and New York during the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 are part of this force. (Navy, US Navy's Military Sealift Command, 2020)



The **US Public Health Service**, headed by the Assistant Secretary for Health and the US Surgeon General, consists of about 6500 medical professionals. Its mission is "to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of our Nation." (USPHS, 2020) As America's uniformed service of public health professionals, the Commissioned Corps provides medical service in over 20 federal departments or agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control, the US Bureau of Prisons, the Indian Health Service, the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Homeland Security. They wear a uniform similar to the Navy uniform and use naval type ranks.



A4. US Marine Corps Purpose

The Marine Corps defends the people of the United States at home and abroad. To do that, we make Marines who win our nation's battles and return as quality citizens.

The Marine Corps is the land arm of the Navy. They are stationed all over the world, guarding US Embassies and on naval ships and bases. Generally, the Marine Corps has been easily deployable, and used as a quick reaction force that can go into battle quickly and decisively. They are not designed for long-term occupation of land, though they can adapt to that mission when necessary.



Because of their forward deployment and ability to jump into a fight, Marines have been involved in many small battles around the world, especially in past centuries. They are known for their participation in fighting on the Barbary Coast (Tripoli - now known as Libya), in Mexico (Chapultepec), and China (1920's to 1941), among others. They have served as "the tip of the sword" in American diplomacy.

During World War II, the Marines contributed greatly to the war effort in the Pacific Theater. The war in the Pacific consisted mainly of "island hopping" - seizing strategic islands and skipping over other islands that weren't deemed strategic. The Marines performed their classic role during this time, of getting in, fighting hard and winning, and moving on. Generally, the Army had the longer term mission of securing the islands after the fighting was mostly over.

The Marines have a reputation as fighters who don't give up, who fight ferociously, and who fight to win. They are not a large force, but they make up for their size by their attitude.

The Marine Corps consists of two components;

- The Active Marine Corps
- The Marine Corps Reserve

A5. US Coast Guard Purpose

The mission of the United States Coast Guard is to ensure our Nation's maritime safety, security and stewardship. (Guard, US Coast Guard, 2018)

The U.S. Coast Guard has the enduring responsibility to safeguard the American people and promote our security in a complex and persistently-evolving maritime environment. They are a military service, a law enforcement organization, a regulatory agency, a first responder, and a member of the intelligence community. With unique authorities, broad jurisdiction, flexible operational capabilities, and an expansive network of domestic and international partnerships, the Coast Guard advances national security, economic prosperity, and global maritime influence. (Guard, Coast Guard Strategic Plan 2018-2022, 2018)



The Coast Guard is one of the five US military services, but throughout much of their history, including today, they have not fallen under the Department of Defense. They are currently part of the

Department of Homeland Security, and have fallen under the Department of Transportation, Treasury Department, and Department of the Navy.

The United States Coast Guard carries out three basic roles, which are further subdivided into eleven statutory missions. The three roles are:

- Maritime safety
- Maritime security
- Maritime stewardship

The eleven missions are divided into

- homeland security missions and
- ★ non-homeland security missions

- Ports, Waterway & Coastal Security
- Drug Interdiction
- ★ Aids to Navigation
- ★ Search and Rescue
- ★ Living Marine Resources
- ★ Marine Safety
- Defense Readiness
- Migrant Interdiction
- ★ Marine Environmental Protection
- ★ Ice Operations (ice breaking)
- Other Law Enforcement

Coast Guard units each perform more than one kind of mission – sometimes on the same day. They are America’s Maritime Guardians, saving lives and deterring complex threats – from disrupting transnational crime and terrorism, to preventing cyber threats to our ports, to addressing the impact of human activity in the polar-regions as ice caps recede. The missions are described here: (Academy, 2018)

Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security: Protect people and property in the U.S. Maritime Transportation System by preventing, disrupting and responding to terrorist attacks, sabotage, espionage or subversive acts.

Drug Interdiction: Deter and disrupt the illegal drug market, dismantle transnational organized crime and prevent these threats from reaching U.S. shores. The USCG coordinates closely with other federal agencies and allied partners within a six-million-square-mile area known as the transit zone.

Aids to Navigation: Mark the nation's Marine Transportation System, including waterways and ports. Maintain 50,000 electronic and visual aids and provide traffic management services to keep mariners and boaters safe.

Search and Rescue: Prevent loss of life or injury and minimize property loss at sea by rendering aid to those in distress. Search and Rescue is one of the Coast Guard’s oldest missions.

Living Marine Resources: Enforce U.S. and international laws and treaties to conserve living marine resources and their habitat, including endangered and protected species and locales.

Marine Safety: Prevent accidents and property losses by establishing maritime standards, conducting inspections and investigations, partnering with boating safety organizations and licensing U.S. mariners.

Defense Readiness: Support the national military strategy and Department of Defense movement and operations by securing airspace in Washington, DC; conducting intercept operations; and in-theater environmental protection, force protection and port control.

Migrant Interdiction: Promote safe, legal and orderly migration operations by enforcing U.S. immigration laws, upholding international conventions against human smuggling and repatriating undocumented migrants.

Marine Environmental Protection: Reduce the risk of harm to the marine ecosystem by developing and enforcing regulations to avert the introduction of invasive species, prevent and respond to oil spills and hazardous substance discharges and stop unauthorized ocean dumping.

Ice Operations: Break ice in the Great Lakes and Northeast to facilitate commerce and protect communities in emergency situations. Conduct research and resupply the McMurdo Station research center in Antarctica, and maintain year-round access to the planet's polar regions using Polar Icebreakers.

Other Law Enforcement: Protect the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from encroachments by foreign fishing vessels and enforce agreements to reduce illegal fishing. The U.S. exercises sovereign rights over all resources in the EEZ, which encompasses more than 4.5 million square miles of waters within 200 miles of the U.S. coastline.

The Coast Guard consists of two components:

- The Active Coast Guard
- The Coast Guard Reserve

The Coast Guard also is supported by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a volunteer organization that exists to support all USCG missions except roles that require "direct" law enforcement or military engagement.

A6. US Space Force



The U.S. Space Force (USSF) is a new branch of the Armed Forces. It was established on December 20, 2019 with enactment of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act and will be stood-up over the next 18 months. The USSF was established within the Department of the Air Force, meaning the Secretary of the Air Force has overall responsibility for the USSF, under the guidance and direction of the Secretary of Defense. Additionally, a four-star general known as the Chief of Space Operations (CSO) serves as the senior military member of the USSF. The CSO is a full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This works like the Marine Corps being a separate branch, but still under the Department of the Navy.

Mission: The USSF is a military service that organizes, trains, and equips space forces in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint force. USSF responsibilities include developing military space professionals, acquiring military space systems, maturing the military doctrine for space power, and organizing space forces to present to our Combatant Commands.

Office of the Chief of Space Operations: The Chief of Space Operations, U.S. Space Force, serves as the principal uniformed adviser to the Secretary of the Air Force on Space Force activities. The CSO presides over the Office of the Chief of Space Operations, transmits plans and recommendations to the Secretary of the Air Force and acts as the Secretary's agent in carrying them out.



Space Force Organization: The USSF Headquarters and Office of the CSO are in the Pentagon, just like the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. This staff will focus on establishing a fully-functioning headquarters; preparing to execute the full scope of its organize, train, and equip responsibilities; and, in conjunction with the U.S. Air Force, developing a detailed plan to transfer forces into the U.S. Space Force. As a new military service, the U.S. Space Force will leverage the Department of the Air Force for more than 75 percent of its enabling functions to significantly reduce cost and avoid duplication. The Department of the Air Force will provide support functions that includes logistics, base operating support, civilian personnel management, business systems, IT support, audit agencies, etc.

People: Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) was redesignated as the USSF as an initial step in establishing the USSF. Military members that were assigned to AFSPC have now been assigned to the USSF but remain Airmen within the U.S. Air Force. Appropriate Air Force space-related personnel will transfer into the Space Force and become Space Force service members in a deliberate manner over the next 18 months. Over time, the Department of Defense (DOD) vision is to consolidate space missions from across the Armed Forces into the USSF, as appropriate and consistent with law.

Space Capabilities: The new, independent U.S. Space Force will maintain and enhance the competitive edge of the DOD in space while adapting to new strategic challenges.

Spacelift operations at the East and West Coast launch bases provide services, facilities and range safety control for the conduct of DOD, NASA and commercial space launches. Through the command and control of all DOD satellites, satellite operators provide force-multiplying effects – continuous global coverage, low vulnerability and autonomous operations. Satellites provide essential in-theater secure communications, weather and navigational data for ground, air and fleet operations and threat warning.

Ground-based and space-based systems monitor ballistic missile launches around the world to guard against a surprise missile attack on North America. A global network of space surveillance sensors provide vital information on the location of satellites and space debris for the nation and the world. Maintaining space superiority is an emerging capability required to protect U.S. space assets from hostile attacks. (US Space Force, 2019)

A7. California National Guard

As the parent organization of the California Cadet Corps, it is important to understand the purpose, roles, and structure of the California National Guard.

The California National Guard is a federally funded California military force, part of the National Guard of the United States. It consists of:

- The California Army National Guard
- The California Air National Guard
- The California State Military Reserve
- The California Youth and Community Programs Task Force



The **California Army National Guard** is one of the largest state Guards in the US, with major units stationed in armories all around California. They perform many Army missions: Infantry, Field Artillery, Intelligence, Military Police, Transportation, Quartermaster, Engineer, Aviation, and others. Soldiers in the Army National Guard generally train with their unit one weekend a month and during two weeks of annual training once a year (that can be unit training or individual training, depending on the unit, the needs of the individual to get qualified, and the needs of the Army).



Army National Guardsmen may be called to duty by the Governor to respond to disasters in the state (wildfires, floods, earthquake response, riots, etc.), and their unit may be called to duty by the President if the Army needs them to perform their federal mission. The largest organization in the California Army National Guard is the 40th Infantry Division, whose headquarters is at Joint Force Training Base (JFTB) Los Alamitos, CA.



The **California Air National Guard** consists of five Wings at bases throughout California:

- 129th Air Rescue Wing - Mountain View
- 144th Fighter Wing - Fresno
- 146th Airlift Wing - Channel Islands
- 163rd Attack Wing - March Joint Air Reserve Base
- 195th Wing - Beale Air Force Base



The California Air National Guard is a more consolidated force, as the wings operate fairly autonomously, and comprehensively, from their base. They provide support to the emergency response mission alongside the California Army National Guard, and also work closely with their Air Force affiliations to support the needs of the Air Force force as necessary.





The **California State Guard (CSG)**, formerly known as the **California State Military Reserve (CSMR)** is a mostly volunteer force that supports the California National Guard and the state of California. Soldiers, airmen, and maritime component members work with National Guard units to fill holes and provide expertise, support, and manpower as needed, especially in training situations and in state emergencies. The CSG generally does not go outside the state of California, but serves as a backup to the Guard and a force multiplier. CSG members volunteer their services most of the time, but are paid by the state when they are called up to respond to state emergencies.

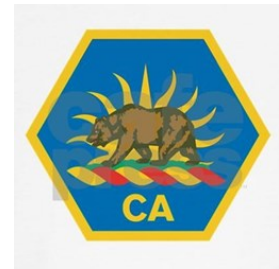


Photo By Crystal Housman CSMR

The **Youth and Community Programs Task Force (YCPTF)** is an office within the Joint Force Headquarters that provides command, oversight, resources, and coordination with the California National Guard to the various youth programs run by the California Military Department. YCPTF oversees:

- The Youth ChalleNGe Programs (Grizzly, Sunburst, Discovery)
- STARBASE (Science and Technology Academics Reinforcing Base Aviation and Space Exploration)
- **The California Cadet Corps**
- Funded Military Institutes supported by the Military Department
 - California Military Institute
 - Oakland Military Institute
 - Porterville Military Academy

The Three Missions of the California National Guard:

Federal



State



Community



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