**The White House**

**National Security Meeting**

**Friday, November 20, 2015**

**8:00 am**

**Given the tragic events in Paris one week ago, and the mounting evidence that this and earlier attacks were organized and directed by ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), the President requests your recommendations on the following issues related the threat ISIL represents to the national security of the United States.**

**Please keep your comments succinct and to the point; your comments will be limited to 2 minutes. Expect questions from the President and his advisors.**

* **Should the US continue the administration’s “containment” approach?**
* **Should the US commit US ground troops to Syria/Iraq; if so, under what conditions?**
* **How should the administration respond to those States ( largely Republican governors) that have announced they will not accept Syrian refugees.**

**President and his advisors (6 roles)**

**President Barack Obama –** he must make the final decision at the end of the day

**White House Chief of Staff** [Denis McDonough](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/staff/denis-mcdonough) - president’s personal advisor on political issues

**National Security Advisor, Susan Rice –**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/author/ambassador-susan-rice>

**Vice President of the United States**, [Joseph R. Biden](https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-biden) – foreign policy expert

**White Press Secretary –** expert at dealing with the media

**White House Counsel –** advises president on the Constitutionality and legality of actions

**Presenters (10 roles)**

**Director of the CIA**, Director Brennan

**Department of State**, Secretary John Kerry, [state.gov](http://www.state.gov/)

**Department of Defense**, Secretary Ashton Carter, [defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov/)

**Department of Energy**, Secretary Ernest Moniz, [energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov/)  
   
**Department of Homeland Security**, Secretary Jeh Johnson, [dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov/)

**United States Mission to the United Nations**, Ambassador Samantha Power, [usun.state.gov](http://usun.state.gov/)

**United States Mission to NATO, Ambassador Douglass E. Lute** <http://nato.usmission.gov/>

**Council of Economic Advisers**, Chairman Jason Furman, [whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cea](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/cea/)

**Senate Select Committee on Intelligence**, <http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/> - representing the interests of Congress

Richard Burr, R, NC Chair

Diane Feinstein, D, CA Vice Chair

**Roles-**

All: learn about the issues AND your perspective on them. Know your role.

All: make a nameplate

President and his advisors – write out your perspective on the three issues. Discuss and question.

Presenters- provide comments to the president and write out your brief notes

**Meeting format-**

Presenters present their recommendations – 25 minutes

President and advisors then discuss recommendations – 20 minutes

President announces his / her decision – 5 minutes

**Make sure to address the president as Mr. President!**