

# GNSI DECISION BRIEF



## Educate as You Operate: Developing National Security Practitioners Strategic Competition

Written by:  
David P. Oakley, PhD  
David H. Ucko, PhD

February 7, 2024



UNIVERSITY of  
**SOUTH FLORIDA**  
Global and National Security Institute





strategies, to plan collaboratively, and to apply a campaigning

PLQGVHW WR FRPSOH[ SUREOHPV 7KLV SLOODU LV WKH DFPH RI WKH  
practitioner's education – it is what allows for concerted action

± EXW LW DOVR UHOLHV RQ WKH IRXQGDWLRQV SURYLGHG LQ WKH ¿UVW  
two pillars. The critical analysis of the world and evaluation

of a threat or challenge provide, in concert with professional

training, the ability to craft strategy accordingly. To engage

in such education alongside a diverse group of U.S. national

security professionals, allies, and partners would further sensitize

SUDFWLWLRQHUV WR WKH H[LVWHQFH RI GLIIHUHQW SHUVSHFWLYHV FUHDW  
bonds between disparate communities, and empower such

QHWZRUNV ZLWK D VXI¿FLHQWO\ FRPPRQ ODQJXDJH 7KLV LV KRZ \RX  
build a national security corps capable of integrated analysis and

action.<sup>vi</sup>

### Final Recommendations

7KUH H¿QDO UHFRPPHQGDWLRQV DUH ZRUWK PHQWLRQLQJ DV GHFLVLRQ

makers consider how to approach national security education

IURP D EURDGHU WKHRUHWLFDO YLHZ 7KH ¿UVW UHFRPPHQGDWLRQ LV WR

diversify the classroom – faculty and students. If the curriculum

aims to bridge traditional academia with skill-based aspects of

professional education, it is imperative for faculty to be similarly

ÀH[LEOH DQG ZHOÓYHUVHG 7R ³OHDUQ DV ZH RSHUDWH ´ LW LV VLPLODUO\  
crucial that students represent all relevant agencies involved

LQ QDWLRQDO VHFUXLW\ D ¿HOG WKDW WRGD\ H[WHQG IDU EH\RQG MXVW

## Decision Points

'U 'D Y L G 2 D N O H \ Academic Director, Global and National Security  
'U 'D Y L G + 8 F N R Professor at National Defense University's College of International  
Security Affairs and Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Global and National Security Institute

\$ F N Q R Z O H G J P H Q W V

---