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Module 5:

NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS

National Service Training Program



NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS

MODULE

05

OVERVIEW

The concept of national security concerns extends beyond protecting territorial boundaries; it involves safeguarding the people's welfare, rights, and overall well-being. Modern national security emphasizes both state protection and human security — ensuring that citizens are free from fear, poverty, disease, and social unrest. It promotes the idea that sustainable peace and stability can be achieved not solely through military defense but through development, good governance, and the equitable distribution of resources.

Threats to national security, both internal and external, pose serious challenges to a nation's stability and progress. Internal threats include insurgency, terrorism, corruption, and social inequality, while external threats involve foreign aggression, cyberattacks, espionage, and transnational crimes. Understanding these threats allows individuals to appreciate the importance of preparedness, cooperation, and civic responsibility in maintaining peace and resilience within the nation.

PRE-ACTIVITY

Read each question carefully and answer based on your understanding or opinion.

1. When you hear the term "national security," what ideas or images come to mind?
2. Why do you think the security of citizens is as important as the security of the country's borders?
3. What situations do you think can threaten a nation's peace and stability?
4. How do you think ordinary citizens like you can contribute to national security?
5. Give one recent issue or event that you believe affected the security of the Philippines. Explain briefly.

Processing Questions:

- Which of your answers show the importance of protecting people and the country at the same time?
- How does this relate to your role as a student and a future professional?

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

1. Explain the concept and scope of national security concerns.
2. Differentiate between internal and external threats to national security.
3. Analyze how human security contributes to national stability and development.
4. Recognize the importance of active citizenship in promoting national security.

TERMINOLOGIES

NATIONAL SECURITY. The protection of a nation's sovereignty and people's welfare from threats that impede peace and development.

INTERNAL THREATS. Dangers within the country, like insurgency and corruption.

EXTERNAL THREATS. Risks from outside, such as invasion or cyberattacks.

INSURGENCY. An armed rebellion or uprising aimed at overthrowing the government.

HUMAN SECURITY. A people-centered approach that ensures individuals are free from fear, poverty, disease, and violence.

CYBERSECURITY. The protection of digital systems and information from unauthorized access, damage, or attacks.

ECONOMIC SECURITY. Assurance of stable income, employment, and access to resources necessary for a decent standard of living.

ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY. Safeguarding of natural resources and ecosystems to support sustainable development and prevent conflict.

LESSON 1:**CONCEPTS ON NATIONAL SECURITY****INTRODUCTION**

National security is the protection of a nation's sovereignty, territory, and people's welfare. It ensures the stability of the government, the safety of its citizens, and the protection of national interests from threats that may come from within or outside the country. In the modern context, national security also includes human security, which focuses on the safety and dignity of individuals, protecting them from poverty, disease, conflict, and environmental degradation.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Traditionally, national security has been viewed primarily as military defense, protecting borders, and maintaining domestic order. Today, it is seen as a comprehensive approach that includes political, economic, social, and environmental dimensions. A secure nation is not only one that can defend itself from invasion but also one where citizens live in peace, have access to basic needs, and trust in their government's ability to protect their rights. Three key ideas guide modern national security:

SECURITY OF PEOPLE, NOT JUST TERRITORY

National security is no longer just about defending borders and maintaining territorial integrity; it is about protecting the well-being of the people who live within those borders

SECURITY OF INDIVIDUALS, NOT JUST NATIONS

Traditional national security frameworks often emphasize the protection of the state or government institutions, but there has been a growing recognition of the need to focus on the security of individuals (human security).

SECURITY THROUGH DEVELOPMENT, NOT THROUGH ARMS.

The idea of achieving security through development instead of solely relying on military might recognizes that sustainable peace and stability come from addressing the root causes of insecurity, rather than just responding to the symptoms through force. Recognizes that addressing poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and lack of opportunity is essential to building a more peaceful and secure world. It is about shifting the focus from militarization to creating the conditions where conflict, extremism, and instability cannot easily take root.

IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY

National security preserves peace and order, promotes progress, and protects the rights and freedoms of citizens. It creates a safe environment where individuals can work, study, and live productively. A strong national security framework also helps the government respond to emergencies, maintain law and order, and defend against both internal and external threats such as terrorism, cyberattacks, and foreign aggression.

KEY POINTS

National security protects a nation's sovereignty, stability, and people's welfare from internal and external threats.

It is not limited to military defense; it also includes economic, political, social, and environmental dimensions.

Modern national security emphasizes the well-being of people as the foundation of a strong and peaceful nation.

Human security is an essential part of national security, it focuses on protecting individuals from poverty, hunger, disease, and violence.

True security comes from development, equality, and justice, not just from weapons or military strength.

A secure nation ensures that citizens live in peace, have access to opportunities, and trust their government's ability to protect them.

REFLECTION

How can national security be strengthened by focusing on the needs and welfare of the people rather than just military defense?

LESSON 1: CONCEPTS ON NATIONAL SECURITY

COMPONENTS OF HUMAN SECURITY

National and human security are essential components of a peaceful, stable, and progressive nation. National security focuses on protecting the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and institutions from both internal and external threats. It ensures that the government can function effectively and that citizens are safe from dangers such as terrorism, corruption, and invasion. In contrast, human security centers on the safety, dignity, and well-being of individuals. It seeks to protect people from chronic threats such as poverty, hunger, disease, and environmental harm.

Modern perspectives on security emphasize that the protection of the state and the protection of individuals are inseparable. A nation cannot be secure if its people live in fear, deprivation, or injustice. Likewise, citizens cannot fully enjoy freedom and prosperity without a stable and secure nation. Therefore, national and human security must work hand in hand to build a just, resilient, and peaceful society.

HUMAN SECURITY

Human security focuses on the protection of individuals and communities in various aspects of life. It ensures freedom from fear and freedom from want, covering the following dimensions:

Economic Security

Protects individuals from financial instability by ensuring access to stable jobs, fair wages, and growth opportunities. When people can meet their needs and live decently, they are less vulnerable to conflict and exploitation.

Food Security

Guarantees that all people have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food. Hunger and malnutrition can weaken a nation's workforce and increase social unrest, making food availability vital to peace and stability.

Health Security

Focuses on protecting people from diseases, pandemics, and biological threats. Access to quality healthcare strengthens national productivity and prevents the collapse of social systems during crises.

Environmental Security

Protects the natural resources that sustain life, including air, water, land, and biodiversity. Environmental degradation, deforestation, and climate change threaten both human life and national stability.

Personal Security

Ensures that individuals are protected from physical harm, violence, and human rights abuses. A society where citizens feel safe encourages participation and social cohesion.

Political Security

Upholds the rights and freedoms of all citizens and guarantees that political systems remain transparent, accountable, and inclusive. When people trust their government, peace and unity are sustained.

KEY POINTS

National and human security are vital in ensuring the safety, stability, and progress of the country and its people.

National security focuses on protecting the nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and institutions from internal and external threats.

Human security emphasizes the protection and well-being of individuals.

Human security has six key dimensions: economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, and political security.

Together, national and human security create a strong foundation for peace and development.

CONCLUSION

National and human security are interdependent. A secure nation protects its citizens, while empowered and peaceful citizens help strengthen the nation. Together, they build a resilient society where peace, development, and human dignity are sustained.

"A strong nation begins with the security and dignity of its people."

LESSON 1: CONCEPTS ON NATIONAL SECURITY

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND)

The DND plays a strategic role in maintaining both national and human security. It safeguards the country against internal and external threats while promoting resilience and preparedness among communities. By balancing defense readiness with civilian welfare, the DND contributes to a holistic approach to security, one that values both protection and peace. Through its agencies, the DND ensures that the nation remains equipped and organized to respond to emergencies, defend its borders, and support sustainable national progress:

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP)

Acts as the military arm of the DND, tasked with protecting the country from external aggression and internal rebellion. It upholds peace and stability through its Army, Navy, and Air Force units.

OFFICE OF THE CIVIL DEFENSE (OCD)

Leads disaster risk reduction and management efforts. It coordinates preparedness, response, and recovery during calamities, ensuring civilian protection.

PHILIPPINE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE (PVAO)

Provides welfare, benefits, and recognition to Filipino veterans and their families for their service to the nation.

GOVERNMENT ARSENAL

Produces and maintains weapons, ammunition, and other defense equipment to ensure self-reliance in national defense logistics.

NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE OF THE PHILIPPINES (NDCP)

Serves as the country's premier institution for advanced studies on defense, security, and strategic leadership, training both civilian and military leaders.

CONCLUSION

the DND acts as the guardian of the nation's sovereignty and stability, ensuring that the Philippines remains strong, prepared, and united. Its comprehensive programs link defense, development, and disaster resilience—reflecting that true security is not only about protecting borders but also about empowering people and strengthening the nation from within.

DEFENDERS OF THE NATION

Create a poster on short bond paper (8.5 x 11 in) that shows how the Department of National Defense (DND) and its agencies protect the nation and promote peace, safety, and development. Use any art materials, include your name and section, and add a short slogan that captures your message. Be creative, meaningful, and clear in your design.

Processing Questions:

1. What message does your poster aim to share?
2. How does it reflect the DND's role in ensuring national and human security?

KEY POINTS

The Department of National Defense (DND) is the lead agency responsible for protecting the nation's sovereignty and ensuring peace and security.

Beyond military defense, the DND also supports peacekeeping, disaster response, and national development.

The DND strengthens national resilience by maintaining the balance between defense and development.

The DND oversees several key agencies: the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP); the Office of Civil Defense (OCD); the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO); the Government Arsenal; and the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP).

the DND acts as the nation's protector and peacekeeper.

How does the DND help protect the country from threats while also promoting peace, development, and the welfare of its citizens?

LESSON 2:**THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY****INTRODUCTION**

Threats to national security are challenges and dangers that endanger a nation's sovereignty, stability, and well-being. These threats may come from within the country (internal threats) or from outside (external threats). Understanding these risks helps citizens recognize their role in protecting the nation and promoting peace, resilience, and unity. National security is not only about defending borders but also about addressing the root causes of insecurity, such as poverty, corruption, and lack of opportunities, that weaken the country's strength and stability.

INTERNAL THREATS

Internal threats originate within the country and disrupt peace, order, and development. These include insurgency, or armed rebellion against the government; terrorism, which spreads fear and violence; corruption, which weakens governance and public trust; and criminal activities such as drug trafficking and smuggling.

- **Insurgency and Internal Conflict** - Armed rebellions or separatist movements seeking to challenge or overthrow the government. These lead to prolonged violence, human rights abuses, and the displacement of communities, disrupting national development.
- **Terrorism** - Violent acts carried out by extremist groups or individuals to instill fear and destabilize societies. It can lead to significant loss of life, damage to property, and disruption of societal functions. Terrorism also breeds fear and division within populations.
- **Criminal Activities** - Domestic organized crime syndicates are involved in activities like drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, human trafficking, and smuggling. These activities undermine law and order, fuel corruption, and weaken governance.
- **Political Instability and Civil Unrest** - Protests, strikes, or large-scale demonstrations that can escalate into violence and political crises. Civil unrest can disrupt economic activities, affect governance, and destabilize the government.
- **Corruption** - Widespread corruption in government institutions undermines public trust and weakens the state's ability to maintain law and order. Corruption facilitates organized crime, weakens economic development, and erodes the rule of law.
- **Poverty** - Extreme poverty and unequal distribution of resources can lead to unrest, crime, and a rise in insurgencies. Discontent among the population due to a lack of opportunities and resources can spark internal conflict.
- **Severe Calamities** - Such as natural disasters including typhoons, earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, and landslides, pose significant internal threats to national security. These calamities can severely disrupt social, economic, and political stability, challenging the government's capacity to protect and provide for its citizens.
- **Health Crisis** - Outbreaks of diseases or pandemics that strain the nation's healthcare system and economy. Large-scale health crises can destabilize communities, leading to panic and social breakdowns.
- **Environmental Degradation** - The depletion of natural resources, deforestation, and pollution can lead to internal migration and resource conflicts. Environmental stress can displace populations and increase the potential for conflicts.

KEY POINTS

Insurgency and Internal Conflict involve armed movements that challenge government authority, leading to violence and displacement.

Terrorism spreads fear through violence, resulting in loss of lives, property damage, and social division.

Criminal Activities such as drug trafficking and smuggling undermine law and order and promote corruption.

Political Instability disrupts governance and economic growth through protests and unrest.

Corruption destroys public trust and weakens government effectiveness.

Poverty and Inequality cause discontent and increase the risk of conflict and crime.

Severe Calamities disrupt stability and strain the government's ability to respond.

Health Crises weaken the healthcare system and create fear and social tension.

Environmental Degradation leads to resource conflict and displacement.

LESSON 2: THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY

EXTERNAL THREATS

External threats are dangers that come from outside a country's borders and can harm its sovereignty, stability, and peace. These threats often involve foreign influence, global conflicts, and transnational crimes that challenge national defense and international relations.

- **Foreign Invasion or Aggression** - Direct military attacks or aggression by another country seeking to occupy or control parts of the nation. Examples are military invasions, border skirmishes, and occupation by foreign forces.
- **Terrorism (International)** - Acts of terrorism perpetrated by foreign groups or individuals, often linked to global terrorist organizations. Examples are bombings, cyberattacks, or violent acts orchestrated by foreign extremist groups like ISIS or Al-Qaeda.
- **Cyberattacks** - Digital assaults launched by foreign governments, criminal groups, or hackers to disrupt critical infrastructure, steal sensitive information, or sow chaos. Cyberattacks can cripple financial systems, electricity grids, and communication networks, compromising national security.
- **Foreign Espionage** - Covert activities by foreign governments aimed at gathering intelligence, influencing national policies, or undermining national interests. Examples are spying, information theft, or influencing elections through disinformation campaigns.
- **Economic Warfare** - Foreign nations or entities may seek to destabilize a country's economy through sanctions, trade wars, or other financial measures. Economic attacks can weaken national industries, devalue the currency, and destabilize markets, affecting national security.
- **Regional Conflicts** - Ongoing conflicts in neighboring countries can spill over into domestic borders, leading to instability.
- **Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs)** - The spread of nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons by hostile states or terrorist groups. The use or threat of WMDs can destabilize entire regions, cause mass casualties, and create widespread fear.
- **Transnational Crime** - Criminal activities that cross borders, such as drug and human trafficking, arms smuggling, and money laundering.

CONCLUSION

Threats to national security, whether internal or external, endanger the nation's peace, stability, and development. They disrupt communities, weaken governance, and challenge the country's ability to protect its people. Addressing these threats requires not only strong defense and effective leadership but also active participation from every citizen in maintaining peace and unity.

National security is not only about protecting borders and institutions; it is also about creating a safe, just, and resilient society where individuals can thrive, free from fear and deprivation. Therefore, addressing national security concerns requires a comprehensive and integrated strategy that prioritizes both the protection of the state and the well-being of its people. Through unity, preparedness, and civic responsibility, the Philippines can build a nation that is secure, progressive, and centered on the welfare of its citizens.

KEY POINTS

Foreign Invasion or Aggression are direct military attacks or attempts by another nation to occupy or control territory.

International Terrorism are violent acts by foreign extremist groups that spread fear and disrupt peace.

Cyberattacks are Digital assaults from foreign entities that target vital systems and steal sensitive information.

Foreign Espionage are secret activities by other states to gather intelligence or influence national policies.

Economic Warfare are efforts by foreign powers to weaken the nation's economy.

Regional Conflicts are instability in nearby countries that may spill over and affect domestic peace.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) are concerned with the spread or use of nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons that cause mass harm.

Transnational Crime are cross-border crimes like drug trafficking, smuggling, and money laundering that threaten security.

"Protecting the nation's borders means little if we fail to defend the peace, dignity, and security of its people."

ACTIVITY: PEACE AND PROTECTION ANALYSIS

VIDEO ANALYSIS:

In this activity, you will watch a short video about real national security issues in the Philippines. After watching the video, think carefully about the threats involved, who is affected, and which state and non-state actors responded. Reflect on how the situation connects to your responsibilities as a citizen, especially the role of youth in prevention, resilience, and reporting. Then, answer the guide questions in 3–5 sentences each, making sure to explain your ideas clearly.

PHILIPPINE ARMY STRUGGLES TO DISLODGE MAUTE FIGHTERS FROM MARAWI



Scan the QR Code or watch through the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHK7_cgD17w



The Philippine army is struggling to dislodge Maute group fighters from their stronghold in the southern city of Marawi. The government says more than 200 members of an ISIL-inspired group have been killed since fighting broke out. Al Jazeera's Jamela Alindogan reports from Marawi.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. What happened during the Marawi siege, and why is it considered a major threat to national security?

2. How did the conflict affect the people and community of Marawi in terms of safety, livelihood, and displacement?

3. What measures did the government and the Philippine Army take to address the Maute group's uprising?

4. What insights about peace, resilience, and unity can be drawn from the nation's response to the crisis?

5. As a student and citizen, how can you help prevent similar threats and strengthen national security in your community?

KEY POINTS

National security ensures the protection of the nation's sovereignty, people, and overall well-being.

It covers political stability, economic strength, environmental safety, and social harmony, not just military defense.

Threats may be internal (terrorism, insurgency, corruption) or external (foreign aggression, territorial disputes).

Emerging threats such as cyberattacks, disinformation, pandemics, and climate change challenge modern security.

The Marawi siege shows how violent extremism weakens peace and national unity.

Safeguarding the nation requires cooperation among government, communities, and citizens.

The youth play a key role by promoting peace, civic awareness, and resilience in their communities.

"National security is not only about defending borders — it is about protecting the people, preserving peace, and empowering citizens to build a stronger nation."

VIDEO ANALYSIS: PHILIPPINE ARMY STRUGGLES TO DISLODGE MAUTE FIGHTERS FROM MARAWI

GUIDELINE OR CRITERIA FOR SCORING

This rubric evaluates your Video Analysis on content accuracy, depth of analysis, application to citizenship, and clarity/organization. Each criterion is scored from 2 to 5 points. Add the four criterion scores to get the total per response (maximum 20 points per question).

Criteria	5-Excellent	4-Proficient	3-Satisfactory	2-Needs Improvement
Content Accuracy	Clearly identifies the national security threats, responses, and impacts with accurate reference to real events and concepts.	Mostly accurate with minor errors or omissions.	Shows partial understanding; identifies some correct points but misses key details.	Limited accuracy; answers are vague and contain several errors.
Depth of Analysis	Demonstrates deep insight; connects the case to broader issues of peace, governance, and resilience.	Shows good analysis with some explanation of implications.	Provides general answers with little depth.	Minimal analysis; mostly restates facts without reflection.
Application to Citizenship	Strongly connects the case to the role of citizens and youth in national security; provides practical and realistic actions.	citizens and youth in protecting rights; gives practical, realistic suggestions. Connects case to citizenship role with some practical ideas.	Mentions general role of citizens but lacks detail.	Weak connection to personal or civic responsibility.
Clarity and Organization	Well-structured, logical, and easy to follow; answers are coherent and within 3–5 sentences each.	Organized and mostly clear; minor issues in flow or length.	Some organization but may be repetitive or slightly unclear.	Disorganized or confusing; answers too short/long

“A nation’s true strength lies not only in its armed forces, but in the unity, vigilance, and courage of its people to protect peace and freedom.”

LEARNING ASSESSMENT: NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS

PART 1: Choose the letter of the best answer. Read each question carefully and analyze the choices provided. Select the letter that corresponds to the most accurate or appropriate answer.

1. National security is primarily concerned with:

- a) The defense of military bases only
- b) The protection of a nation's sovereignty, territory, and people's welfare
- c) The promotion of foreign trade and diplomacy
- d) The expansion of military alliances

2. Which of the following statements best describes human security?

- a) It focuses on building military strength for global dominance.
- b) It emphasizes freedom from fear, poverty, and deprivation for all individuals.
- c) It prioritizes the protection of state institutions over citizens' welfare.
- d) It deals exclusively with economic development.

3. The Department of National Defense (DND) is responsible for:

- a) Creating national economic policies
- b) Managing the country's armed forces and promoting peace and security
- c) Overseeing public education and civic training
- d) Conducting national elections and census

4. Which of the following is an internal threat to national security?

- a) Cyberattacks by foreign groups
- b) Insurgency and armed rebellion within the country
- c) Regional conflicts in other nations
- d) Economic sanctions imposed by foreign governments

5. The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) primarily deals with:

- a) Tax collection and revenue management
- b) Disaster preparedness and response coordination
- c) Agricultural production and food distribution
- d) Election monitoring and governance audits

6. Corruption as an internal threat to national security is dangerous because it:

- a) Strengthens public trust in institutions
- b) Weakens government efficiency and erodes public confidence
- c) Attracts foreign investment and innovation
- d) Promotes transparency and accountability

7. Which of the following best describes foreign espionage?

- a) Armed rebellion within a country
- b) Secret intelligence gathering or interference by another state
- c) Terrorism by domestic extremist groups
- d) Protests by local organizations

8. Economic warfare refers to:

- a) Armed conflict over territorial borders
- b) Efforts to destabilize a nation's economy through sanctions or trade restrictions
- c) Local corruption and bribery
- d) Taxation of multinational companies

9. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has the main duty to:

- a) Enforce civil laws and manage public funds
- b) Defend the nation from external and internal threats
- c) Conduct foreign policy and diplomatic relations
- d) Manage the education system

10. Which statement best expresses the modern view of national security?

- a) It is limited to military strength and defense.
- b) It includes protecting both the state and the well-being of its people.
- c) It disregards environmental and social concerns.
- d) It focuses solely on political stability.

LEARNING ASSESSMENT: NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS

PART 2: Read each statement carefully. Write the correct term or concept in the space provided.

- _____ 1. The protection of a nation's sovereignty and welfare from threats that impede peace and development.
- _____ 2. A people-centered approach that ensures freedom from fear, poverty, and disease.
- _____ 3. Armed rebellion or uprising aimed at overthrowing the government.
- _____ 4. Illegal acts such as drug trafficking and smuggling that undermine governance.
- _____ 5. The agency responsible for implementing national defense policies and ensuring peace.
- _____ 6. The main agency coordinating preparedness and response during calamities.
- _____ 7. The institution that provides welfare and benefits to Filipino veterans.
- _____ 8. Secret activities by another country to gather intelligence or influence national policies.
- _____ 9. The spread of nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons by hostile states or terrorist groups.
- _____ 10. The principle that peace and security can be achieved through equitable development and justice.
- _____ 11. Threats originating within the country that disrupt peace, order, and development.
- _____ 12. Dangers that come from outside a country's borders that threaten sovereignty and stability.
- _____ 13. The assurance of stable income, employment, and access to basic resources.
- _____ 14. The protection of digital systems and information from unauthorized access or damage.
- _____ 15. The idea that true national security is achieved when citizens live in peace, trust their government, and have access to opportunities.

PART 3: Answer each question in at least 5–7 sentences. Reflect on what you have learned from the module and support your answers with examples (5 points for the answer).

1. In the context of national and human security, explain how development, equality, and civic responsibility contribute to peace and stability in the Philippines.
