

Text of the National Security Video that you will soon be watching:

Mr. President, As your National Security advisors, it is our responsibility to provide you with up-to-date information about situations in the world that may present a risk to the safety of the United States, or, to the well-being of human rights everywhere. With that in mind, over the past few months, a group called ISIS- *or the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria*—has grown to become the largest terrorist network in the Middle East. Starting as a splinter group of Al Qaeda during the Iraq War, ISIS is now a well-armed, violent, extremist organization whose goal is to establish a global Islamic state based upon strict religious law. This belief system includes a hatred of democracy, individual liberty, and respect and tolerance of different faiths.

In fact, ISIS is known for terrorizing religious minorities throughout the region, including Christians, Yazidis, Kurds, and Shiite Muslims. Other mass killings of innocent civilians have been widespread, with over a thousand murdered—with many more forced to flee for their lives. What is equally disturbing is ISIS's treatment of women, with hundreds of young girls forced into marriage or face death. Recently, the world was also shocked to see the murder of American journalist James Foley.

During the past year, ISIS has spread rapidly throughout eastern Syria and Iraq, controlling an area of close to 13,000 square miles. It has conquered Mosul and other significant Iraqi cities, grabbing two billion dollars in cash from looted bank accounts, as well as income from oil and gas fields. According to the Huffington Post, It has formed a terrorist army with an estimated 30,000 - 50,000 fighters and is now armed with tanks and weapons stolen from the Iraqi army.

Likewise, because of its sophisticated use of social media and propaganda, ISIS has had over 2,000 Westerners join their cause, including over 200 Americans with passports. It is a group that not only poses a significant threat to human rights around the world, but to the security of our nation here at home.

Mr. President, at this point, we kindly ask that you and the other members of the security team answer the questions on the worksheet that follows. Once everyone is finished, you can open up the floor for discussion and debate. **Teachers,** your job is to pick a student to be the President, then serve as their Chief of Staff, facilitating the discussion and making sure everyone is involved. After listening to the group, the President will then be asked to choose two courses of action that he or she feels are best. Good luck.

Step #3: Taking Action (10 minutes)

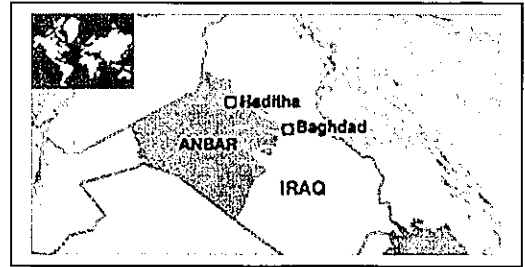
Using the checklist below—as well as your knowledge of world affairs—***each advisor should check three options that they feel the United States should take on ISIS***, ranking them in order with a “1” going to the best option, to an “8” that represents the worst option. After completing this worksheet, the Chief of Staff should open the floor for discussion, culminating with the President choosing his or her top three:

- _____ The President should speak out at a press conference to expose the situation to the world.
- _____ Air drop humanitarian assistance such as food, blankets, medicine, to the minority groups that are being threatened, as well as aid the refugees who have escaped.
- _____ Take direct military action as ISIS poses a terrorist threat that could eventually attack the United States. This would include American airstrikes and/or drone strikes on ISIS training camps, weapons, and leaders.
- _____ Take economic action against ISIS by freezing its access to international banks and limiting trade, which will curtail its access to money and weapons.
- _____ Arm moderate rebels with ammunition, machine guns, and other equipment who might help fight against ISIS. These rebels would be supported by American Special Forces and advisers.
- _____ Propose an International Conference with the United Nations to help coordinate, train, equip, and finance an alliance of countries in the Middle East to contain and defeat ISIS. (The United States will hold the presidency of the UN Security Council and could use that position to lead a coalition against ISIS.)
- _____ Monitor and watch—as the situation presents too many risks. Once our military is there, we will be obligated to stay longer.
- _____ Do nothing—there are many who feel that intervening would only cause more problems, especially when our own country faces many issues at home.

US Military Launches Airstrikes Against ISIS

To Prevent Terror Group From Capturing Vital Iraqi Dam

CBS News Website, September 8th, 2014



The U.S. military said Sunday it launched airstrikes around Haditha Dam in western Iraq, targeting Islamic State of Iraq and Syria insurgents there for the first time in a move to prevent the group from capturing the vital dam. On Friday and Saturday, the U.S. used a mix of attack aircraft, fighter jets and drones to conduct two airstrikes around Irbil. The strikes hit trucks and armored vehicles. The airstrikes are aimed at protecting U.S. personnel and facilities, as well protecting critical infrastructure and aiding refugees fleeing the militants. The strikes represented a broadening of the U.S. campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (also known as ISIS) militants, moving the military operations closer to the border of Syria, where the group also has been operating.

Rear Admiral John Kirby, tells CBS News that intelligence in the last several weeks showed ISIS was bringing in equipment and weapons to “further threaten the dam”, including “light vehicles, tactical vehicles, some weapons systems and perhaps even artillery.” Additionally, Kirby said that if ISIS were to release a flood from the dam, it would “go all the way down to Baghdad, particularly the airport, where we have personnel and facilities.”

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said that if the dam were to fall into the militant’s hands “or if that dam would be destroyed, the damage that that would cause would be very significant and it would put a significant additional risk in Iraq” including U.S. interests there. U.S. officials have expressed concerns that militants could flood Baghdad and other large swaths of the country if they control the dams, killing thousands and destroying large parts of the country. It also would give ISIS control over electricity, which they could use to strengthen their control over residents. Earlier this year, ISIS gained control of the Fallujah Dam on the Euphrates River and the militants used it as a weapon, opening it to flood downriver when government forces moved in on the city.

Water is a precious commodity or item in Iraq, a largely desert country of 32.5 million people. The decline of water levels in the Euphrates River over recent years has led to electricity shortages in towns south of Baghdad, where steam-powered generators depend entirely on water levels.

Understanding what you read:

Please answer the following in complete sentences...

1) According to the article, what did the United States military recently do in Iraq? How were these attacks run or organized?

2) According to Rear Admiral Kirby, what was ISIS doing to threaten the dam at Haditha?

3) Examining the evidence presented, *describe three reasons why the military feels that protecting the dam is important.*

A) _____

B) _____

C) _____
