**OPTION 1**
NATIONAL SECURITY MEANS SAFEGUARDING THE US

**what could be done**
- Because national security is the most basic function of any government, it should receive the highest priority.
- Build up our military and missile defense capabilities to safeguard against threats from Russia and China.
- Do everything possible to eliminate terror networks around the world, including the use of drone aircraft to monitor and attack terrorist cells.
- Ensure that Afghanistan is stabilized so that is not a safe haven for terrorists.
- Assertively deal with the nuclear threats posed by Iran and North Korea.

**consequences & trade-offs**
- Building up the military and taking an aggressive posture internationally makes it more likely we would respond to a situation with force and potentially trigger a war.
- Russia or China may feel threatened and respond by ramping up their military forces.
- Combatting terrorism may lead the United States into untenable situations, as in Afghanistan, and increasing drone attacks might launch a whole new arms race.
- Our only objective in Afghanistan should be defeating al-Qaeda, rather than trying to make that country a secure democracy.
- Acting assertively toward Iran or North Korea may lead them or the United States to take risky actions that could seriously endanger us.

**OPTION 2**
NATIONAL SECURITY DEPENDS ON PUTTING OUR ECONOMIC HOUSE IN ORDER

**what could be done**
- Cut back on military spending and reduce US military presence around the world.
- Reduce military and nonmilitary assistance to other countries.
- Promote free-trade agreements with other nations as a way of adapting to globalization.
- Coordinate US economic policy with other nations to ensure that the world does not slide into another Great Depression.
- Increase trade with Russia and China as a way of strengthening ties and boosting our economy.

**consequences & trade-offs**
- Russia and China could outstrip us militarily or in global influence. Cutting back on the military will harm many US communities that depend on defense spending.
- Cutting foreign aid in places like Pakistan or Egypt will only make them turn to nations like Iran, China, or Russia that may work against the United States.
- Free trade without worker and environmental protections could cost US jobs and damage the environment. And unrestrained globalization gives more power to multinational banks and corporations.
- The United States could lose its economic autonomy if we coordinate our policies with those of other nations.
- Increasing trade could mean the United States would be helping to finance its own competitors.

**OPTION 3**
NATIONAL SECURITY MEANS RECOGNIZING THAT GLOBAL THREATS ARE OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE

**what could be done**
- Take a leadership role to combat climate change and other environmental threats by actively engaging with other nations while seriously investing in green technology.
- Work more closely with Russia and China to address security concerns in Iran and North Korea.
- Cooperate more closely with other nations to monitor travelers and deter emerging infectious diseases.
- Work with other nations to dramatically reduce and secure nuclear weapons globally.
- Work multilaterally with other nations on security issues, much as the United States did in Desert Storm.

**consequences & trade-offs**
- International agreements to address environmental threats may penalize and cost the United States more than other nations.
- Russia’s and China’s price to cooperate might be very high as their interests may not be the same as ours.
- This would mean that American citizens could be detained by any other nation on suspicion of illness.
- Slashing the US nuclear weapons arsenal may diminish our ability to address security threats.
- We would inevitably give up some influence and prestige around the world if we work with partner nations who likely would use the opportunity to raise their own global profile.

**NOTES & OTHER IDEAS**

**What could be done**
- Cut back on military spending and reduce US military presence around the world.
- Reduce military and nonmilitary assistance to other countries.
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