



**JUSTICE LEAGUE/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE**

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Florida State University

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Regional Training Conference XX

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Superheroes have long been present in the population of the U.S.; upon the realization that they were “different,” many went to great lengths to hide their superhero abilities from the rest of the world. However, during the beginnings of the Cold War, in 1945 the United States government launched its first program to identify and study these exceptional individuals. As knowledge and awareness of superheroes grew, so did the feeling that those who possessed such incredible abilities should use them towards benefiting society. Out of the Cold War’s increased patriotism came a generation of people with special abilities working not just as ordinary citizens but as heroes; and as superheroes emerged in the U.S., around the world those with special powers began to step forward. As a product of Cold War times, the bureaucracy and handlings of superheroes reflected the paranoia and fear of not only a nuclear war but one with superheroes as weapons as well. During this period the acceptance of superheroes grew, but so did the monitoring and government interference in the lives of those who were recognized as being superheroes. As the civil rights movement in the 1960s launched, superheroes joined in calling for increased rights and there began to become a clear political divide between those who would allow superheroes to use their powers on their own terms (albeit in a legal manner) and those who feared the risks of giving superheroes too much leeway.

The U.S. government’s attitude towards superheroes has been one that has run hot and cold, depending on the administration. Those with the most conservative base of voters have typically supported more regulation of those with superpowers, preferring the government to have the ability to monitor these exceptional people. The arguments towards increased regulation rely on the framework that views superheroes as illegal, unlicensed vigilantes operating of their own accord. The more moderate of voters generally supports keeping track of who has superpowers, but more or less leaving them alone to lead normal lives with minimal governmental interference – and then there are those who argue that requiring anyone to register with a government database is an infringement of their civil rights.

Those with superpowers are not all superheroes in the traditional sense of the word; however, for the purposes of this background guide, all those with superpowers will be called “superheroes”. The population of the United States is estimated to contain anywhere from 500 to 2,000 superheroes – the exact number is unknown due to underreporting. While only a minute fraction of the overall population of the United States, superheroes represent an important minority group because of the incredible talents they possess.

The administration today has sought increased regulation of superheroes, believing that monitoring the activities and whereabouts of those with exceptional powers is of vital concern to national security. The resurgence of the Criminal Syndicate America has only underscored the administration’s claims that superheroes gone rogue represent a potentially unstoppable threat to security and stability. With re-election on the horizon, the administration is determined to show that its policies are the right ones and win a second term. The controversial Superhero Registration Act has strong support from the administration and a

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significant percent of voters; however, there is also equally large opposition, with people arguing that such an Act would be counterproductive and serve to hinder superheroes, who by and large have proven to be effective and trustworthy.

While keeping this in mind, the members of the National Security Council all have differing stances on the issue of superheroes.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURE – NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

This committee will proceed in a typical crisis committee fashion. Delegates will have portfolio powers specific to their individual role and will have the ability to send both private and collective communiqués and directives. Delegates can also communicate and interact with delegates in the Justice League Committee. Any group action will require a 2/3 majority vote.

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PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES – LEX LUTHOR

Lex Luthor won the most recent election on a platform of technologic reform and promises to increase security and stability through increased regulation of superheroes. His win was not a landslide, though, and the re-election is not guaranteed. Spending part of his adolescence in Smallville, Kansas, Lex Luthor came into contact with Clark Kent, although their friendship faded. Prior to his election to president, Lex Luthor was the CEO of LexCorp, which he founded based on his own research of extraterrestrial life. The company continues to run successfully without Luthor's presence – it is now under the supervision of Talia al Ghul, the estranged daughter of supervillain Ra's al Ghul.



THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES – PETE ROSS

Pete Ross is a childhood friend of Clark Kent, and one of the few people who knows Clark Kent is actually the alter-ego for Superman. While no longer close, Ross is still reluctant to pass legislation that could hurt his former childhood friend. Ross is married to Lana Lang, a marriage that is occasionally strained by Ross's feelings of being a "second choice" to Clark Kent as Lana and Clark were once romantically involved and still remain on good terms. Prior to his role as Vice-President, Ross served as a U.S. senator for a period of time.

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SECRETARY OF STATE - THOMAS WESTON

The Secretary of State is responsible for foreign relations and maintains diplomatic ties on the behalf of the United States. Thomas Weston has met some difficulty in the area of improving world opinion of the United States; some outside the U.S. view the current policies on superheroes as being too strict, and do not understand why the U.S. would risk alienating the superhero community over the Superhero Registration Act. Weston is not the most vocal supporter of the Superhero Registration Act, due to the potential loss of world opinion, but has not voiced great opposition to it either, preferring to sit on the sidelines. Other world powers have differing views on superheroes; China and Russia have kept very tight and secretive control over any superheroes within their borders, Western Europe powers such as the UK, France, and Germany have generally opted for what they consider a moderate amount of regulations while the Scandinavian countries strive to make a concentrated effort to protect the civil rights of superheroes.



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE – GENERAL WADE EILING

The Secretary of Defense is in charge of the Department of Defense, which includes the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. He maintains control over both operational and administrative capacities. The Secretary of Defense strongly supports the passing of the Superhero Registration Act, recognizing the great advantages to having knowledge of superheroes and their powers. General Eiling, often just known as “The General,” is well known for his stance on superheroes as being a threat to humanity and is suspicious of the Justice League. The Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff must work together for coordinating military action; the Secretary of Defense is the chain of command for the military forces, but the Joint Chiefs of Staff is a vital advisory position and cooperation between the two positions will lead to the most successful military strategies.



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF- GENERAL SAM LANE

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the highest ranked military officer in the U.S. Armed Forces. He does not have operational command over the Armed Forces, and serves in an advisory position to the President and the Secretary of Defense. General Sam Lane is the father of Lois Lane and the father-in-law of Clark Kent. While General Lane is aware of his son-in-law’s true identity as Superman, the public is not; keep in mind that except

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for those with access to intelligence efforts to identify superheroes, Clark Kent is thought of as nothing more than a journalist. General Lane headed the no longer operating Project 7734, which was created to investigate the material kryptonite.



DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE – HARRY STEIN

For obvious reasons, possessing more information about superheroes would be beneficial to the national intelligence agencies. However, the Director of National Intelligence actually does not support the passing of a Superhero Registration Act, believing that it will put distance between the superhero community and intelligence agencies and make collaborative work more difficult. It is also likely that for U.S.

intelligence agencies, most necessary information can be acquired without a national database. Stein has worked with Amanda Waller, Director of the National Superhero Policy, on Project Cadmus – a top secret government project with the goal of providing a form of defense against superheroes turned supervillains, although the specifics of the project remain deliberately vague. Harry Stein was responsible for the creation of Checkmate, a covert operations group that focuses on gathering intelligence on superheroes. Checkmate is currently officially defunct, although conspiracy theories abound about the actual operating status, driven by speculation about certain aspects of the budget for the national intelligence department.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR – DEREK TOLLIVER



The National Security Advisor is the chief advisor to the President on security issues. Tolliver was previously the liason between the National Security Council and the now defunct Suicide Squad – a government initiative that commuted prison sentences for supervillians in exchange for government service. As a result of his interactions with the Suicide Squad, Tolliver not only has a close relationship with Amanda Waller (former director of the program) but views superheroes as necessary tools of the government and would appreciate increased control and monitoring.

WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF – LYDIA MASON



The White House Chief of Staff is the highest ranking member of the Executive Office of the President of the United States and is the President's senior aide. The White House Chief of Staff is responsible for coordinating the White House staff, planning the President's schedule and deciding who is able to meet with the President. Lydia Mason rose to Chief of Staff after working on several campaigns for various politicians, including Vice-President Pete

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Ross’s senatorial campaign. Mason owns a substantial share in a firm responsible for testing individuals for superhero powers. She is viewed by some as the driving force behind the government’s push for increased regulation, likely due to her connection to the testing firm (a connection that was only revealed recently after an investigative journalist from *The Washington Post* followed an anonymous tip to the story).



SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY – FRANK CURTIS

As head of the United States Department of Treasury, the Secretary of the Treasury is the principal financial advisor to the President. The Secretary of Treasury brings a financial and economic perspective to the policy actions of the United States and is responsible for the fiscal policies of the United States. Viewing the legislation on increased regulation as an unnecessary additional strain on the budget of the United States, Curtis is not likely to want to move forward on that issue.



SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY – SARGE STEEL

The Secretary of Homeland Security is responsible for monitoring the domestic security situation and protecting the United States from internal threats. Sarge Steel, the current Secretary of Homeland Security believes that superheroes pose the greatest potential threat to national security. Steel would prefer to know the secret identities and be able to keep tabs on the activities of all superheroes. He has been increasingly outspoken about the need for this, coming back to the issues of terrorism and the risks of not knowing who has powers and what they intended to do with it. Perhaps the most telling summary of his opinion can be traced back to his referring to superheroes as “weapons of mass destruction” to the press a few months ago. Prior to his appointment as Secretary of Homeland Security, Sarge Steel was in charge of various U.S. government agencies involved with tracking “superhuman” activities.



ATTORNEY GENERAL – CAMERON CHASE

As the head of the United States Department of Justice, the Attorney General is the chief law enforcement officer of the United States government as well as the chief lawyer of the government. The Superhero Registration Act brings up questions of its constitutionality and the Attorney General is unsure of whether or not the Act would be struck down by the Supreme Court should it be passed. Cameron Chase is the daughter of Walter Chase, notable for his alter-ego as Acro-Bat and his violent murder at the hands of deranged ex-

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scientist Dr. Trapp. Dr. Trapp, blaming Acro-Bat for the death of his girlfriend, used cybernetic jaws to rip out the throat of Acro-Bat and left the body where a young Cameron Chase discovered it. This deeply scared Chase: while she never talks about the incident or the impact it had on her, she has pushed for increased monitoring of superhuman threats to security.



DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SUPERHERO POLICY – AMANDA WALLER

Responsible for maintaining the current database of superhero information, including names, powers and location. The database is not always accurate due to the difficulties in locating and registering superheroes. Waller has pushed for more legislation regarding the identification and registration of superheroes, particularly the passing of the Superhero Registration Act. She has also been involved with Project Cadmus and has worked with Harry Stein, Director of National Intelligence, on multiple occasions in the past. Waller was also in charge of the government project Suicide Squad, a group of supervillians who worked for the government in exchange for lighter sentences. The Suicide Squad was never officially recognized by the government and was ultimately disbanded for unknown reasons.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE RESOURCES

Advocates for Superhero Privacy Rights (ASPR) – Nonprofit, nongovernmental, nonpartisan group committed to ensure that those with superpowers enjoy the same privacy and civil rights as the rest of the country. Often superheroes that would be reluctant to meet with the federal government will be willing sit down with ASPR members.

Citizens for Superhero Control (CSC) – Nonprofit, nongovernmental, nonpartisan group whose mission is to tighten regulation of superheroes. CSC is a big supporter of the current administration’s policies and is greatly mistrusted by the superhero population.

Superhero Registration Act – an Act that would require all those with superpowers to be registered in a national database. This Act is controversial for obvious reasons; such an act would infringe on the liberties of the superheroes, impose restrictions on a minority group whose position in the group is innate, as well as such government surveillance bringing about unfavorable 1984-type comparisons. This Act is currently being debated in Congress and has not achieved unanimous support.

International Superheroes Council – This is the primary international body for superheroes to work together on global issues. This council serves as a discussion forum for superheroes as well as a launching point for working together on humanitarian projects. The ISC’s scope is limited due to the variations in laws regarding superheroes worldwide and by the personal

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interests of the superheroes. If seeking to discuss issues with superheroes internationally, this is a good place to start.

CRIMINAL SYNDICATE AMERICA (CSA)

After the collapse of the CSA in the early 1990s due to poor leadership, infighting, and several convictions of high profile members, the CSA largely faded from the minds of the American public. The CSA no longer seemed a likely threat and security efforts were focused elsewhere, although the federal government never completely ceased keeping tabs on alleged members. After years of inactivity the CSA was generally presumed to be defunct. However, the resurgence of CSA related activities has made it apparent that the lax surveillance missed the restoration of the group.

All of the members of the CSA are in some way counterparts to a member in the Justice League; this means that for every member of the CSA, there is a member in the Justice League with similar powers.

The following are the main members and leaders of the CSA: however, this is by no means a complete list of all members of the CSA, as other supervillains have been known to come in and out of the organization as they deem necessary. Do not be surprised if the CSA recruits or otherwise absorbs other members.

MEMBERS

ULTRA MAN

The antithesis to Superman, Ultraman gets stronger when exposed to kryptonite. In all other respects, his superpowers are identical to Superman. Ultraman is married to Superwoman, although their marriage is far from idyllic. Superwoman's infidelity and continuous affairs with Owlman have in the past threatened to tear the group apart and have drastically cooled the relationship between Owlman and Ultraman, although they continue to work together as part of the CSA. Ultraman is recognized as the leader of the CSA.

SUPERWOMAN

Superwoman, like Wonderwoman, is an Amazon with superstrength and flight abilities. She is married to Ultraman, although this has not stopped Superwoman from pursuing extramarital affairs on occasion, most notably with other CSA member Owlman. Superwoman's lasso

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compels people to release their inhibitions and reveal humiliating secrets. She also has heat vision.

OWL MAN¹

Owlman is Batman's counterpart in the CSA. Interestingly enough, Owlman is also Bruce Wayne's older brother. While the murder of their parents spurred Bruce into a life of working against crime, Thomas Wayne Jr. was instead motivated to a life of crime. Owlman possesses a belt with technology and weapons similar to those of Batman, as well as a drug-enhanced high intellect that makes him the real brains behind the activities of the CSA. Due to Owlman's long-running relationship with Superwoman, his relationship with Ultraman is often strained.

JOHNNY QUICK

Johnny Quick is the counterpoint to Flash, although he is not as fast as the Flash. He maintains his superpowers with the use of "speed juice," a powerful narcotic. Not much is known about Johnny Quick or his role in the CSA, except that he is one of the core members.

POWER RING

Powering is the counterpart to the Green Lantern. He gained the ring from which he derives his power from a Tibetan monk. The ring allows a variety of super powers to Powering, depending on the willpower of the wearer; with his ring, Powering can fly, produce a force field, and generate and manipulate beams of energy among other things. Powering is regarded as a weak-willed and cowardly opportunist.

SUGGESTIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

RESEARCH

Due to the many different "universes" and story arcs of the Justice League comic books, this background guide should be your primary source for character information. The nature of this committee has required substantial creative editing to the Justice League world, and some characters (particularly those of the National Security Council) are new creations for the purposes of this committee. While having some additional knowledge of the comic book characters may be useful, it is not essential, as all pertinent information for characters has been included within the background guide. However, delegates participating in the National

¹ While recognizing that Owl Man is Bruce Wayne's older brother in an "alternate universe" of the Justice League, for the purposes of creating more complex relationships within the crisis Owl Man is Bruce Wayne's older brother without the issues of an "alternate universe".

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Security Council side of the crisis may find it helpful to look into the actual National Security Council positions in order to better understand their specific portfolio powers.

PORTFOLIO POWERS

The direction of this committee depends not only on the actions taken by delegates collectively but also on what delegates do individually. This is where portfolio powers come into play. Each delegate has a specific position that allows for unique skills; for instance, the Director of National Intelligence has substantial abilities to acquire and (if he or she chooses to do so) disseminate information, while the Secretary of Homeland Security may tighten border security on his or her own initiative. If you have questions about your specific portfolio powers, feel free to send a note to the chair or to staff.

ADVICE

This is a training conference, so do not hesitate to ask questions specific to the committee or about Model UN in general. This committee is unique in that it is dealing with a completely fictional scenario largely made up by the chairs and in that half of the committee possesses superpowers. The best advice I can offer for this type of committee is *have fun!* This is a committee involving superheroes, take the topic and run with it! The more creative you are (within a relatively realistic framework: this is a world with superheroes, not unicorns and fairies) the more interesting and entertaining the committee will be. If this is your first time trying your hand at Model UN or your first time in a crisis committee, keep in mind that you have resources all around you in the form of experienced WAP members and alumni, all of whom are happy to answer any questions you might have.

FURTHER QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS?

You can contact the chairs of the committee or the RTC Secretary General at the following email addresses:

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