

Presidents in the Hot Seat Description of Roles

President of the United States

The power of the Executive Branch is vested in the President of the United States, who also acts as head of state and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. The president is often required to make decisions, on behalf of the American people, that potentially can impact their lives dramatically.

Due to the complexity of the position, and potential political consequences that can result from making a improper comment, the President of the United States must also exercise a fair amount of discretion when addressing the addressing the American public.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is the president's chief foreign affairs adviser. The Secretary carries out the president's foreign policies through the State Department and the Foreign Service of the United States.

Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of Defense is the primary advisor to the president on defense-related issues and is responsible for formulating and carrying out the general defense policy for the United States. The defense secretary is a member of the president's cabinet and the National Security Council.

Director of Central Intelligence

The Director of Central Intelligence (1946-2005) served as the head of the United States intelligence community. In addition, the DCI acted as the principal adviser to the president for intelligence matters related to the national security, while simultaneously serving as the head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

FBI Director

The director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) oversees the FBI and works to investigate and mitigate against domestic threats within the United States. In addition, the FBI director provides intelligence to the president, concerning issues that impact the United State's national security.