Missions Beyond Combat

How military actions serve different purposes

SS24.CWI.4b "Describe the various roles and functions of the modern American military."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one military action in each paragraph, then circle nearby words that show its purpose.

What Is the Mission?

1 Imagine a cargo ship crossing the Pacific while a U.S. Navy vessel sails nearby. The Navy's presence can help keep sea routes open for trade, but the mission is larger than guarding one ship. U.S. forces defend the country against attacks and help deter attacks by showing that they are prepared to respond. When American sailors train with the armed forces of an ally, both sides practice how to act together if a crisis occurs. This work can reassure allies and make an opponent think twice before using force. Deterrence aims to prevent fighting, not start it.

2 A different mission begins after a powerful storm strikes an island community overseas. If the affected government requests help and U.S. leaders approve it, military aircraft can carry food, water, and medical supplies to damaged areas. Ships can bring equipment, while service members may help clear routes so relief workers can reach people. This is humanitarian assistance, not an invasion or a replacement for the local government. The military's aircraft, ships, and trained personnel can move quickly, but civilian organizations often lead long-term recovery. In this role, military logistics support a response to human need rather than combat.

3 At home, the military also helps protect the country. U.S. forces monitor possible threats in the air and at sea, and military cyber units defend military networks against attacks. During some major domestic emergencies, governors may use National Guard units to move supplies or assist with rescues. Guard members can serve under state or federal authority. These tasks differ from overseas combat, yet they rely on training, coordination, and specialized equipment. Civilian leaders set military policy, and U.S. law limits how federal troops may enforce domestic laws. Knowing the mission and its limits helps explain what the military does.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can a Navy presence near a sea route serve a purpose without starting a fight?

2. What function does training with an ally serve during a possible crisis?

3. How do military ships and aircraft serve a different purpose after the storm than they would in combat?

4. Describe two ways the military can serve people at home. How does the passage limit one of these roles?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A fictional allied island faces armed vessels near its port and then suffers an earthquake. In four or five sentences, describe two different roles U.S. forces could serve, explain how each action fits its role, and identify one limit on what the military should do.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.CWI.4b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one military action in each paragraph, then circle nearby words that show its purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can a Navy presence near a sea route serve a purpose without starting a fight?	**It can help keep the route open and deter an attack by showing that U.S. forces are prepared to respond.**
2	What function does training with an ally serve during a possible crisis?	**It helps the two forces practice acting together and can reassure the ally.**
3	How do military ships and aircraft serve a different purpose after the storm than they would in combat?	**They move supplies and equipment to support relief efforts, rather than fight an enemy.**
4	Describe two ways the military can serve people at home. How does the passage limit one of these roles?	**Military cyber units defend military networks, and National Guard units may move supplies or assist with rescues during emergencies. U.S. law limits how federal troops may enforce domestic laws.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

With the ally's agreement, U.S. naval forces could patrol near the port to deter an attack by showing they are ready to respond. After the earthquake, U.S. aircraft could deliver supplies if the island government requests help and U.S. leaders approve it. That mission would use military transportation for relief rather than combat. Local officials and civilian aid groups should lead recovery instead of having the U.S. military take over.

Accept other passage-supported actions that correctly connect a military role to its purpose. For the open task, look for two distinct roles and a reasonable limit, such as the need for government approval or civilian leadership in recovery.