

The Cabinet

The tradition of the Cabinet dates back to the beginnings of the Presidency itself. Established in Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution, the Cabinet's role is to advise the President on any subject he may require relating to the duties of each member's respective office.

Secretary of...

The job title of all cabinet department leaders starts with Secretary of...with the exception of the Department of Justice. His/her title is the Attorney General.
For Example the leader of the Department of State is known as the Secretary of State. They are nominated (picked) by the president with the approval of the Senate in what are known as "confirmation hearings."

Department of State

responsible for carrying out the foreign policy of the United States
provides diplomatic services for the president
staffs embassies around the world
issues passports

Department of Treasury

manages the monetary resources of the United States
prints money
helps provide economic assistance to businesses
regulates the economy
IRS

Department of Defense

maintains the military & helps police the world's trouble spots

Department of Justice

the chief law enforcement division of of the United States
argues cases before the US Supreme Court on behalf of the United States
protects the civil rights of Americans
FBI
DEA

Department of Interior

protects public lands & natural resources
oversees relations with Native Americans

Department of Agriculture

help farmers expand their markets & improve their income
safeguards the food supply

Department of Commerce

promotes and protects the industrial and commercial segments of the American economy
(promotes business interests)

Department of Labor

ensures safe working conditions, protects a minimum wage & rights to pensions
(promotes workers interests)

Department of Health and Human Services

concerned about the protection of the health & welfare of Americans
conducts medical research
inspects food & drug plants & approves drugs for use
Public Health Service (headed by Surgeon General)
FDA

Department of Housing and Urban Development

known as HUD
ensures Americans equal housing opportunities & provides subsidized housing for lower income Americans.

Department of Transportation

helps regulate all aspects of transportation needs, policy and planning
FAA (Planes)
FRA (Trains)
FHA (Highways)
FTA (Mass Transit)
That's right folks...Planes, Trains & Automobiles!!!!
Somewhere out there, John Candy is smiling!!!

Department of Energy

plans energy policy
researches and develops energy technology
i.e...solar, fracking, clean natural gas, nuclear, etc...
This department gained steam after the "Manhattan Project" created the world's first atomic bomb.

Department of Education

provides assistance to the states in helping meet the educational needs of students.
provides direction & money for helping disadvantaged students
See:
"No Child Left Behind"
"Race To the Top"
"Common Core"

Department of Veterans Affairs

administers hospitals for veterans and looks out for the health and well being of returning veterans.

The United States has the most comprehensive system of assistance for veterans of any nation in the world. This benefits system traces its roots back to 1636, when the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony were at war with the Pequot Indians. The Pilgrims passed a law which stated that disabled soldiers would be supported by the colony.

The Continental Congress of 1776 encouraged enlistments during the Revolutionary War by providing pensions for soldiers who were disabled. Direct medical and hospital care given to veterans in the early days of the Republic was provided by the individual States and communities.

Department of Homeland Security

to secure the nation from the many threats we face. This requires the dedication of more than 240,000 employees in jobs that range from aviation and border security to emergency response, from cybersecurity analyst to chemical facility inspector. Our duties are wide-ranging, but our goal is clear - keeping America safe.

TSA

Secret Service

ICE

FEMA

Coast Guard

(See the chart on page 278 of the new textbook)

Independent Agencies

Agencies of the federal government not attached to a cabinet department. Most, but not all come under the influence of the executive department.

Examples include:

Post Office

FCC (TV & Radio)

FTC (Antitrust & Consumer Protection)

SEC (Wall Street)

NLRB (Labor)

NTSB (Safety)

EPA (Environment)

NASA (Space)

Sources:

whitehouse.gov

US Government: Democracy in Action (Remy)