

# *Remembrance and Resilience*

**September 11, 2001—September 11, 2011**

'Our greatest source of strength and our greatest sense of security will always, ultimately, rest not with any machinery, not with any technology, not with any one federal department but it's always, indeed, it's going to rest, fundamentally, on the citizens of our country.'

Secretary Napolitano



**FRONT COVER:**

Visitors to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pa., Monday Sept. 10, 2007 participate in a remembrance at sunset on the eve of the sixth anniversary of United Flight 93 crashing here on Sept. 11, 2001. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

Visitors walk at the Pentagon Memorial, marking the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, Friday, Sept. 11, 2009, at the Pentagon.(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

Construction continues on One World Trade Center, center, Friday, August 5, 2011 in New York. The tower has reached the 76th floor on the way to 104 floors. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY: IMPLEMENTING 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS. PROGRESS REPORT 2011

### Overview

The United States has made significant progress in securing the nation from terrorism since the September 11, 2001 attacks. Nevertheless, work remains as the terrorist threats facing the country have evolved in the last ten years, and continue to change.

Following 9/11, the federal government moved quickly to develop a security framework to protect our country from large-scale attacks directed from abroad, while enhancing federal, state, and local capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from threats and disasters at home. A key element of this framework included the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in March, 2003, bringing together 22 separate agencies and offices into a single, Cabinet-level department.

Created with the founding principle of protecting the American people from terrorist and other threats, DHS and its many partners across the federal government, public and private sectors, and communities throughout the country have strengthened the homeland security enterprise to better mitigate and defend against dynamic threats.

Many of the features of this new, more robust enterprise align with – and respond to – recommendations contained in the *9/11 Commission Report*, released in July 2004 to assess the circumstances surrounding 9/11 and to identify ways to guard against future terrorist attacks.

### Preventing Terrorism and Enhancing Security

Protecting the United States from terrorism is the found-

ing mission of the Department of Homeland Security. While America is stronger and more resilient as a result of a strengthened homeland security enterprise, threats from terrorism persist and continue to evolve. Today's threats do not come from any one individual or group. They may originate in distant lands or local neighborhoods. They may be as simple as a home-made bomb or as sophisticated as a biological threat or coordinated cyber attack. More and more, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers, as well as citizens, businesses, and communities are on the front lines of detection and prevention. Protecting the nation is a shared responsibility and everyone can contribute by staying informed and aware of the threats the country faces. Homeland security starts with hometown security—and we all have a role to play.

### Building the Homeland Security Enterprise

- **Fusion Centers:** DHS supports 72 state and major urban area fusion centers through personnel, training, technical assistance, exercise support, security clearances, connectivity to federal systems, technology, and grant funding.
- **Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative:** An administration effort to train state and local law enforcement to recognize behaviors and indicators related to terrorism, crime and other threats; standardize how those observations are documented and analyzed; and enhance the sharing of those reports with law enforcement across the country.
- **Grant Funding:** Since fiscal year 2003, DHS has awarded more than \$31 billion in preparedness grant funding based on risk to build and sustain targeted capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and re-

### Group Fosters Dialogue About Post-9/11 World

By Jane A. Morse | DOS Staff Writer | 11 August 2011



*Talat Hamdami with photos of her son Mohammad Salam Hamdami, a Muslim and Pakistani American who died attempting to save lives at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001*

Washington — For the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon, one faith-based coalition reminds Americans that the tragedy was shared by people from some 92 nations.

*Prepare New York* is a coalition of six New York-based interfaith organizations: Auburn Seminary and its Center for Multifaith Education, Interfaith Center of New York, Intersections International, Odyssey Networks, Quest and Tanenbaum and its Religion and Diversity Education Program. Just one year old, the coalition was formed partly in

response to headlines surrounding last summer's proposed Muslim Community Center in lower Manhattan.

"[Our] effort is really to remind New Yorkers that ... ongoing grief should not be in contrast to, or in any way a contradiction to recognizing the gift of religious diversity in our city and what it contributes," said the Reverend Chloe Breyer, director of the Interfaith Center of New York.

"We forget that there were an estimated 60 Muslim victims in the towers," Breyer said. "How did their families survive the additional burden of having their whole religious tradition put under suspicion? Not only did they suffer a direct loss in their family, but they suddenly became part of the suspect group."

"But the issue we're confronting is a much wider one: How can we embrace the gift of religious diversity while acknowledging and recognizing this ongoing grief and healing that our city and nation are engaged in?" Breyer said.

Prepare New York has organized some 500 "coffee hour conversations" to bring people from every walk of life to discuss issues confronting people in the post-9/11 world. "The conversations are a way for people to come together, bridge some differences, but also honestly address them," said Joyce Dubensky, an executive for the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding. "We're trying to change the emphasis from what divides us to what unites us," she said.

In addition, the coalition has prepared fact sheets covering diversity issues aimed at three different groups: houses of worship, workplaces and schools. The fact sheets are designed to foster dialogue among various groups anywhere in the world, "without telling people what to think," she said.

cover from threats or acts of terrorism.

### **Preventing Terrorist Travel and Improving Passenger Screening**

- **Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record Data:** To identify high-risk travelers and facilitate legitimate travel, DHS requires airlines flying to the United States to provide Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (PNR) Data prior to departure. During 2008 and 2009, PNR helped the United States identify individuals with potential ties to terrorism in more than 3,000 cases, and in fiscal year 2010, approximately one quarter of those individuals denied entry to the United States for having ties to terrorism were initially identified through the analysis of PNR.

- **Visa Security Program:** Through the Visa Security Program (VSP), with concurrence from the Department of State, ICE deploys trained special agents overseas to high-risk visa activity posts in order to identify potential terrorist and criminal threats before they reach the United States. The VSP is currently deployed to 19 posts in 15 countries.

- **Pre-Departure Vetting:** DHS has strengthened its in-bound targeting operations to identify high-risk travelers who are likely to be inadmissible to the United States and to recommend to commercial carriers that those individuals not be permitted to board a commercial aircraft through its Pre-Departure program. Since 2010, CBP has identified over 2,800 passengers who would likely have been found inadmissible upon arrival to the United States.

- **Secure Flight:** Fulfilling a key 9/11 Commission recommendation, DHS fully implemented Secure Flight in 2010, in which TSA prescreens 100 percent of passengers on flights flying to, from, or within the United States against government watchlists before travelers receive their boarding passes. Prior to Secure Flight, airlines were responsible for checking passen-

gers against watchlists. Through Secure Flight, TSA now vets over 14 million passengers weekly.

- **Enhanced Explosives Screening:** Prior to 9/11, limited federal security requirements existed for cargo or baggage screening. Today, TSA screens 100 percent of all checked and carry-on baggage for explosives. Through the Recovery Act and annual appropriations, TSA has accelerated the deployment of new technologies to detect the next generation of threats, including Advanced Imaging Technology units, Explosive Detection Systems, Explosives Trace Detection units, Advanced Technology X-Ray systems, and Bottled Liquid Scanners.

### **Strengthening Surface Transportation Security**

- **Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response Teams:** TSA has 25 multi-modal Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR) Teams working in transportation sectors across the country to prevent or disrupt potential terrorist planning activities. Since the VIPR program was created in 2008, there have been over 17,700 operations performed.

- **Baseline Surface Transportation Security Assessments:** Since 2006, TSA has completed more than 190 Baseline Assessments for Security Enhancement for transit, which provides a comprehensive assessment of security programs in critical transit systems.

### **Strengthening Global Supply Chain Security**

**Air Cargo Screening:** Fulfilling a requirement of the 9/11 Act, 100 percent of all cargo transported on passenger aircraft that depart U.S. airports is now screened commensurate with screening of passenger checked baggage and 100 percent of high risk cargo on international flights bound for the United States is screened.

- **Container Security Initiative:** The Container Security Initiative (CSI), currently operational in 58

foreign seaports in 32 countries, identifies and screens U.S.-bound maritime containers that pose a potential risk.

### **Detecting and Preventing Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Threats**

- **Detection at Ports of Entry:** DHS has deployed radiation detection technologies to seaports, land border ports, and mail facilities around the world. These systems scan 100 percent of all containerized cargo and personal vehicles arriving in the U.S. through land ports of entry, as well as over 99 percent of arriving sea containers.
- **State and Local Radiological Emergency Preparedness:** DHS's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office has made radiological and nuclear detection training available to over 15,000 state and local officers and first responders.
- **BioWatch:** The Department's BioWatch system is a federally-managed, locally-operated, nationwide bio-surveillance system designed to detect the intentional release of aerosolized biological agents.

### **Protecting Critical Infrastructure**

- **Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards:** DHS has implemented Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards to regulate security at high-risk chemical facilities. To date, approximately 4,500 facilities have been preliminarily identified as high-risk, resulting in the development and submission of Security Vulnerability Assessments.
- **Critical Infrastructure Security Assessments:** DHS has conducted more than 1,900 security surveys and 2,500 vulnerability assessments of the nation's critical infrastructure to identify potential vulnerabilities and provide recommendations on protective measures.
- **Training and Education:** DHS has developed a variety of infrastructure protection

training and educational tools for its partners at the state and local level. In total, more than 35,000 partners have taken risk mitigation training on a range of topics.

### **Strengthening the Homeland Security Enterprise**

Over the past several years, DHS and our partners have evolved and strengthened our homeland security enterprise in order to better defend against evolving terrorist threats. This enterprise extends far beyond DHS and the many departments and agencies that contribute to our homeland security mission. A key part includes working directly with law enforcement, state and local leaders, community-based organizations, private sector and international partners.

#### **Federal Government Partnerships**

Within the federal government, many departments and agencies contribute to the homeland security mission. The nation's armed forces are on the front lines of homeland security by degrading al-Qa'ida's capabilities to attack the United States and targets throughout the world. The Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the entire Intelligence Community, of which DHS is a member, are producing better streams of intelligence than at any time in history. The Administration has made critical enhancements to the federal watchlisting systems and to the coordination of the Federal government's counterterrorism efforts. The Federal homeland security enterprise also includes the strong presence of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), whose role in leading terrorism investigations has led to the arrest of more than two-dozen Americans on terrorism-related charges since 2009.

#### **State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Partners**

DHS has focused on getting resources and information out of Washington, D.C. and into the hands of state and local law enforcement, to provide them with the tools to

## *Helping Others: A Restaurant's Post-September 11 Legacy*

**By Lauren Monsen | DOS Staff Writer | 03 August 2011**

*Instructor Sekou Luke, center, trains two students at New York*



*City's Colors restaurant. The students are learning restaurant-related skills to improve their job prospects.*

Washington — A New York restaurant known for its sophisticated mix of international dishes has an unusual history, one that inspires it to take care of its customers and its workers.

The restaurant was founded by surviving employees of the Windows on the World restaurant, which was located in the World Trade Center and destroyed by the attacks of September 11, 2001. Determined to carry on, surviving restaurant staffers banded together as business owners to create a new restaurant whose global cuisine reflects its diverse workforce. Called Colors, the restaurant opened in 2006 at 417 Lafayette Street.

According to Colors' website, the restaurant strives to introduce "exciting new flavors that change with the seasons." Sekou Siby, the restaurant's financial and chief operating officer, who is from Côte d'Ivoire, said the restaurant is staffed by workers from Mexico, the Philippines, Guyana and the United States. "Global flavor" remains the restaurant's guiding philosophy, he said.

Ten years after the September 11 attacks, Colors "is still run as a cooperative" dedicated to offering good working conditions and career mobility for its staffers, Siby said.



*The main dining room at New York City's Colors restaurant features map-lined walls, reflecting the global nature of the restaurant's seasonal menu.*

Colors was created by newly unemployed workers determined to get back to work, and its staff is committed to helping a fresh crop of job seekers. Colors offers lunch from Wednesday through Friday and dinner every night except Monday. "But the restaurant is also used during the day as a training center for low-income individuals," Siby said. "We've been working with another organization,

identify and combat threats in their communities. Because state and local law enforcement are often in the best position to notice the first signs of a planned attack, homeland security efforts must be integrated into the police work that they do every day, providing officers on the front lines with a clear understanding of the tactics, behaviors, and other indicators that could point to terrorist activity.

DHS supports these efforts through robust information sharing with public and private sector partners; fusion centers to build analytical capability at the state and local level; participation in the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative – an Administration effort to train state and local law enforcement to recognize behaviors and indicators related to terrorism, crime and other threats, and FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF) that investigate terrorist threats. DHS also helps state and local partners build and sustain capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism through grant funding, training and technical assistance. In 2009, DHS designated Tribal liaisons in every operational component to work directly with tribal communities. In 2011, DHS announced a new Tribal Consultation Policy outlining the guiding principles under which all elements of the Department will engage with sovereign tribal governments.

### **Private Sector Outreach**

The private sector is an integral component of the homeland security enterprise, and through the Department's private sector office, DHS has improved coordination of private sector engagement across the Department, facilitating more effective and rapid communication with key organizations and bolstering regionally-focused information sharing efforts. Since 9/11, DHS also has prioritized private sector preparedness through programs such as the Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program (PS-Prep™), Ready Business, the development and deployment of new technologies, and by incorporating private sector partners from the outset when developing new policies, programs and initiatives.

### **International Efforts**

DHS works closely with international partners, including major multilateral organizations and global businesses to strengthen the security of the networks of global trade and travel upon which the nation's economy and communities rely. DHS has enhanced the security of the aviation system, not only in airports throughout the United States, but also in airports abroad, by working directly with foreign governments, international organizations, and the aviation industry to raise aviation security standards. The Administration's global supply chain initiative is building on many of these partnerships, including work with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Customs Organization (WCO), and International Maritime Organization (IMO).

### **Public Engagement**

The public also plays a key role in our strengthened homeland security enterprise. Through the nationwide expansion of the "*If You See Something, Say Something*"™ campaign, which was originally implemented by New York City's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, DHS is raising public awareness of indicators of terrorism and crime while emphasizing the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper law enforcement authorities. Recently, DHS replaced the color-coded alert system with the new National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS)—a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public and the private sector, as well as to state, local and tribal governments about credible terrorist threats and recommended security measures.

### **Enforcing and Administering Our Immigration Laws**

Through a multi-layered, risk based system, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has taken significant steps to prevent dangerous individuals from traveling to, entering and remaining in the United States and to ensure that immigration benefits are not granted to individuals

who pose a threat to national security. The Department's efforts have focused on combating immigration fraud, improving the reliability and accuracy of personal identification documents, and enhancing information sharing while enhancing privacy safeguards.

### **Combating Immigration Fraud**

- **Pre-Screening:** Visa applicants, those seeking to enter the U.S. at a port of entry, refugee, and asylum applicants are subject to rigorous background vetting, biographic, and biometric checks—including checks against records obtained by the Department of Defense (DOD), in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- **Permanent Resident Card:** The new Permanent Resident Card (commonly referred to as a "green card"), implemented in 2010, includes a radio frequency identification tag that allows Customs and Border Protection to quickly access the electronic records of travelers seeking to enter the United States and includes new security features that reduce the risks of counterfeiting, tampering, and fraud.
- **Employment Authorization Document:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) updated the Employment Authorization Document by adding a machine-readable zone that will allow border control officers to more efficiently identify people who have already been approved for immigration benefits and who have been reviewed previously by USCIS officers.
- **Forensic Document Laboratory:** The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Forensic Document Laboratory (FDL) is the federal government's forensic crime laboratory dedicated exclusively to fraudulent document detection and deterrence. USCIS works closely with the FDL to enhance its ability to identify fraudulent documents submitted in support of applications and petitions seeking immigration benefits

- **Validation Instrument for Business Enterprises:** USCIS implemented a new tool to enhance adjudications of certain employment-based immigration petitions known as the Web-based Validation Instrument for Business Enterprises (VIBE). VIBE limits the need to request supplemental evidence directly from petitioning organizations while accelerating the adjudicative vetting process and enhancing the agency's anti-fraud capabilities.

- **International Student and Exchange Visitor Program:** ICE manages the International Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), which tracks and monitors the status and activities of nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors to ensure that only legitimate foreign students or exchange students gain entry to the United States and that they abide by the terms of their visas while here.

### **Strengthening Identification Verification**

**Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative:** In 2009, DHS successfully implemented the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) for land and sea travel to the U.S., requiring that U.S., Mexican and Canadian citizens present a passport or other secure travel document that denotes identity and citizenship when entering the U.S. Prior to WHTI, U.S. or Canadian travelers could present any of numerous documents and simply make an oral declaration of citizenship. In 2005, DHS checked five percent of all passengers crossing land borders by vehicles against law enforcement databases. Today, due to WHTI, the national query rate is over 97 percent.

### **Biometric Information-Sharing**

**Biometrics at Sea:** The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has implemented a mobile biometrics collection system to identify undocumented migrants and match them against known databases of past criminal and immigra-

Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York, that rents this space to train people in table service, cooking and other restaurant-related skills. This is one of the things that has helped the restaurant survive.”

Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York, a nonprofit group, was founded in April 2002 to support restaurant workers displaced from the World Trade Center as a result of the September 11 tragedy. It has expanded to advocate for improved working conditions for restaurant workers citywide and to train those seeking employment in restaurants.

Siby, who serves as co-director of the nonprofit group while also handling his responsibilities at the restaurant, said that some trainees are hired by Colors when they complete their training, while others find jobs at other restaurants.

While taking pride in their history and their mission to help others, Colors staffers never lose sight of the restaurant's primary attraction: its cuisine. “At the end of the day, it's about great service and great food,” Siby said. “People may like the concept [of the restaurant], but if the dining experience is not satisfactory, people will not come back.”

## Program Helps Kids Heal from Terrorism's Traumas



By Lauren Monsen | DOS Staff Writer | 10 August 2011

*Teenage girls from Project Common Bond's 2011 summer camp embrace each other before saying goodbye on the last day of camp.*

Washington — Reclaiming hope from the embers of tragedy is a daunting task, but a nonprofit group called Tuesday's Children helps people traumatized by terrorism connect with each other and rebuild their lives.

Created to meet the needs of families who lost relatives in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Tuesday's Children has broadened its scope to help teenagers worldwide. The group's program for this mission is Project Common Bond, which aims to unite young people aged 15–20 from around the world who have lost family members to an act of terror.

Launched in 2008, Project Common Bond has served more than 200 young people from Argentina, Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Ireland and Northern Ireland, Libe-

tion violations as well as terrorist watchlists. Through June 2011, the USCG has identified more than 900 individuals who were enrolled in the US-VISIT database as prior felons, violators of U.S. immigration laws, or other persons of interest and referred to law enforcement authorities for appropriate action.

**International Agreements:** DHS and the Department of State have worked with Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom to develop routine sharing of biometric information collected for immigration purposes. To date, this effort has identified many cases of routine immigration fraud, as well as dangerous people traveling under false identities.

### Securing and Managing Our Borders

Protecting the nation's borders—land, air, and sea—from the illegal entry of people, weapons, drugs, and contraband is vital to our homeland security, as well as economic prosperity. Over the past several years, DHS has deployed unprecedented levels of personnel, technology, and resources to the Southwest border. At the same time, DHS has made critical security improvements along the Northern border, investing in additional Border Patrol agents, technology, and infrastructure while also strengthening efforts to increase the security of the nation's maritime borders.

#### Southwest Border

##### Investing in Personnel, Technology, and Infrastructure

- The Border Patrol is better staffed today than at any time in its 87-year history. Along the Southwest border, DHS has increased the number of boots on the ground from approximately 9,100 Border Patrol agents in 2001 to more than 17,700 today.
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has deployed a quarter of all its personnel to the Southwest border region – the most ever- doubling the number of

personnel assigned to Border Enforcement Security Task Forces which work to dismantle criminal organizations along the border; increasing the number of intelligence analysts focused on cartel violence; and quintupling deployments of Border Liaison Officers to work with their Mexican counterparts.

- Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has deployed dual detection canine teams, which identify firearms and currency, as well as non-intrusive inspection systems, Mobile Surveillance Systems, Remote Video Surveillance Systems, thermal imaging systems, radiation portal monitors, and license plate readers to the Southwest border.

- CBP now screens 100 percent of southbound rail shipments for illegal weapons, drugs, and cash, has expanded Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) coverage to the entire Southwest border and completed 650 miles of fencing.

President Obama authorized the temporary deployment of up to 1,200 additional National Guard personnel as a bridge to longer-term enhancements in border protection, and law enforcement personnel from DHS to target illicit networks' trafficking in people, drugs, illegal weapons, money, and the violence associated with these illegal activities.

##### Fewer Apprehensions and Increased Interdiction of Drugs, Weapons, and Currency

- Illegal immigration attempts, as measured by Border Patrol apprehensions, have decreased 36 percent in the past two years, and are less than one third of what they were at their peak.
- Over the past two and a half years, DHS has seized 75 percent more currency, 31 percent more drugs, and 64 percent more weapons along the Southwest border as compared to the last two and a half years during the previous Administration.

### International Partnerships

- In 2010, Presidents Obama and Calderon issued a Declaration on 21st Century Border Management, to pursue initiatives that will expedite the legitimate flow of people and goods and focus law enforcement resources on those people and goods that represent the highest risk or about which officials know the least.
- Secretary Napolitano and her Mexican counterparts have signed numerous bilateral agreements and declarations to deepen cooperation and collaboration in the areas of enforcement, planning, information and intelligence sharing, joint operations, and trade facilitation along the Southwest border.

### Northern Border

- **International Partnerships:** In February 2011, President Obama and Prime Minister Harper of Canada signed the "Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness." The "Shared Vision" emphasizes shared responsibility for the safety, security, and resilience of the United States and Canada by addressing threats at the earliest point possible; facilitating trade, economic growth, and jobs; collaborating on integrated cross-border law enforcement; and partnering to secure and strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure and cybersecurity.
- **Boots on the Ground:** Currently, CBP has more than 2,200 Border Patrol agents on the Northern border, a 500 percent increase since 9/11. In addition, there are nearly 3,700 CBP Officers managing the flow of people and goods across ports of entry and crossings along the Northern border.
- **Ports of Entry:** CBP is using Recovery Act funds to modernize more than 35 land ports of entry along the Northern border to meet current security and operational needs.

- **Technology:** DHS has deployed thermal camera systems, Mobile Surveillance Systems, and Remote Video Surveillance Systems along the Northern border.

- **Aerial Coverage:** Approximately 950 miles along the Northern border from Washington to Minnesota are currently covered by unmanned aircraft, in addition to approximately 200 miles along the northern border in New York and Lake Ontario—none of which were covered prior to the creation of DHS.

### Maritime Security

- The United States Coast Guard (USCG) secures our nation's maritime borders through a layered security system that begins beyond the country's physical borders. At-sea presence deters potential threats, provides mobile surveillance coverage, increases warning time, engages smugglers at the earliest point possible, and enables USCG to address potential threats before they can cause harm to the United States.

- USCG's Maritime Security and Response Operations include waterborne and aerial patrols as well as armed escorts of hazardous cargos and passenger vessels in order to reduce the risk of terrorism to the U.S. Marine Transportation System, critical infrastructure and key resources.

- USCG has increased the presence and capabilities of maritime forces to address threats through the establishment of the Deployable Operations Group, which can respond rapidly to terrorist and weapons of mass destruction threats as well as Maritime Safety and Security Teams at critical U.S. ports, which focus on domestic maritime threats and post-incident response.

### Border Security

- **Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative WHTI:** In

ria, Spain, Russia, Sri Lanka and the United States, said program director Kathy Murphy. Participants from Russia — a country new to the program — are survivors of the Beslan school hostage crisis of September 2004, in which at least 334 people were killed, including 186 children.

Project Common Bond hosts an annual eight-day camp at which participants typically forge strong ties and learn to support each other through grieving and adjusting to their losses, Murphy said.

The camp's curriculum, designed by Harvard University, teaches coping and conflict resolution. It features personal storytelling so young people can share their reactions to the terrorist incidents that changed their lives. "The kids loved it," Murphy said. "Some have told us they'll pursue [college] studies in conflict negotiation or global studies."

Murphy said the camp participants learn how to listen to each other. "The skills they learn are important skills for any of us to have. They'll take these skills home to their families, to their schools, and teach others to use them." The curriculum, Murphy said, helps participants answer fundamental questions: "When you find yourself getting upset, how do you calm yourself? How do you take that pain and turn it into something positive?"

But there's plenty of time for having fun. The program offers elective courses — art, theater, music, dance and sports — and participants stage a talent show.

This year's camp was held at the Foxcroft School in Middleburg, Virginia, near Washington. The campers "were phenomenal," Murphy said. "You could tell they all wanted to be there. One said, 'This week gives me the strength to get through the whole year, until we meet again.'"

Many camp participants return year after year. When they exceed the age limit, some return as counselors to help newcomers.

The camp's graduates almost always stay in touch, often through social-media networks, including a Project Common Bond page on Facebook. "It's exploding" with messages, Murphy said. "They're missing each other."

2009, DHS successfully implemented the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) for land and sea travel to the U.S., requiring that U.S., Mexican and Canadian citizens present a passport or other secure travel document that denotes identity and citizenship when entering the U.S. Prior to WHTI, U.S. or Canadian travelers could present any of numerous documents and simply make an oral declaration of citizenship.

- **Radiation Detection:** Customs and Border Protection has deployed Radiation Portal Monitors and other radiation detection technologies to seaports, land border ports, and mail facilities around the world. In 2003, these systems scanned only 68 percent of arriving trucks and passenger vehicles along the Northern border, no systems were deployed to the Southwest border, and only one was deployed to a seaport. Today, these systems scan 100 percent of all containerized cargo and personal vehicles arriving in the U.S. through land ports of entry, as well as over 99 percent of arriving sea containers.

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### Ensuring Resilience to Disasters

DHS provides the coordinated, comprehensive federal response in the event of a terrorist attack, natural disaster or to other large-scale emergencies while working with federal, state, local, and private sector partners to ensure a swift and effective recovery effort. The Department's efforts to build a ready and resilient nation through a "Whole Community" approach include enhancing emergency communications and interoperability; building nuclear, radiological, and biological preparedness capabilities; and providing grants, plans and training to our homeland security partners. Since fiscal year 2003, DHS has awarded more than \$31 billion in preparedness grant funding based on risk, to build and sustain targeted capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism and natural disasters.

### Enhancing Emergency Communication Infrastructure and Improving Interoperability

- **Emergency and Interoperable Communications Plans:** In 2008, the DHS Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) developed the National Emergency Communications Plan in coordination with more than 150 public safety practitioners at all levels of government and across responder disciplines, which serves as the first nationwide strategic plan to improve emergency communications and drive measurable progress.

- **Urban Area Emergency Communications:** In 2010, OEC worked with 60 urban areas to assess emergency communications during a real-world situation. All 60 urban areas successfully demonstrated response-level emergency communications. OEC has also trained more than 3,500 first responders, technicians, and planners to lead communications at incidents across the nation.

- **Virtual USA:** Launched in 2009, this information-sharing system links disparate tools and technologies at all levels of government to share the location and operational status of critical resources through voice, video, geospatial platforms, and imagery with the homeland security and emergency management community.

- **Integrated Public Alert and Warning System:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is developing the nation's next-generation infrastructure for alert and warning capabilities, known as PLAN (Personal Localized Alerting Network). This new public safety system allows customers with an enabled mobile device to receive geographically-targeted messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area.

### Building Nuclear, Radiological, and Biological Preparedness and Response Measures

- **State and Local Radiological Emergency Preparedness:** DHS's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office

has trained more than 15,000 state and local officers and first responders in radiological and nuclear detection. In addition, through the Securing the Cities initiative, nearly 11,000 personnel in the New York City region have been trained in preventive radiological and nuclear detection operations and nearly 6,000 pieces of radiological detection equipment have been deployed. The Administration has proposed expanding the Securing the Cities initiative to additional high risk regions of the country.

- **BioWatch:** BioWatch is a federally-managed, locally-operated, nationwide bio-surveillance system designed to detect the intentional release of aerosolized biological agents.
- **Biopreparedness Information Sharing:** To improve state and local biopreparedness, DHS established the first formalized sharing of public health and intelligence information with state and local health partners in 2009. In 2010, the Department developed and conducted a series of biodefense response exercises, including one in each of the 10 FEMA regions, involving more than 1,000 state and local officials.

#### Private Sector Preparedness

- **Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program (PS-Prep™):** DHS created the PS-Prep™ program, a partnership between DHS and the private sector that enables private entities to receive emergency preparedness certification. Under PS-Prep™, DHS and FEMA adopted three industry standards to assist organizations in assessing their preparedness and resiliency.
- **Ready Campaign:** FEMA promotes private sector preparedness through its Ready Business campaign, a nationwide initiative that provides materials to businesses to encourage continuity planning and crisis management. Ready Business is part of larger preparedness outreach efforts by FEMA that include the Ready campaign and

Citizen Corps, to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.

- **Risk Mitigation Training:** In total, more than 33,000 state, local and private sector security partners have taken risk mitigation training on a range of topics.

#### Safeguarding and Securing Cyberspace

DHS has made significant strides in enhancing the security of the nation's critical physical infrastructure as well as its cyber infrastructure and networks. Today's threats to cybersecurity require the engagement of the entire society—from government and law enforcement to the private sector and importantly, members of the public—to block malicious actors while bolstering defensive capabilities.

#### Analyzing and Reducing Cyber Threats and Vulnerabilities

- **National Cybersecurity Protection System:** Developed by DHS as the nation's focal point for cyber activity and analysis, The National Cybersecurity Protection System fulfills a key requirement of the National Cybersecurity Protection Plan (NCPP) to work collaboratively with public, private, and international entities to protect infrastructure, enhance situational awareness and implement analysis, warning and risk-management programs.
- **EINSTEIN:** Initially deployed in 2004, this system helps block malicious actors from accessing federal executive branch civilian agencies while working closely with those agencies to bolster their defensive capabilities. EINSTEIN 2 is an automated cyber surveillance system that monitors federal internet traffic for malicious intrusions at 15 Departments and agencies and four Managed Trusted Internet Protocol Service providers. EINSTEIN 3 will provide DHS with the ability to detect malicious ac-

tivity and disable attempted intrusions automatically.

- **Trusted Internet Connections:** As part of the Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative, DHS works to reduce and consolidate the number of external connections that federal agencies have to the Internet in order to limit the number of potential vulnerabilities to government networks and to focus monitoring efforts and security capabilities on limited and known avenues for Internet traffic.
- **U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT):** In partnership with antivirus companies, US-CERT takes proactive measures to stop possible threats from reaching public and private sector partners by developing and sharing standardized threat indication, prevention, mitigation, and response information products with its .gov partners and constituents.

#### Distributing Threat Warnings

- **National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center:** Opened in October 2009, this 24-hour watch and warning center serves as the nation's principal hub for organizing cyber response efforts and maintaining the national cyber and communications common operational picture. DHS also works with the private sector, other government agencies and the international community to mitigate risks by leveraging the tools, tradecraft, and techniques malicious actors use and converting them into actionable information for all 18 critical infrastructure sectors to use against cyber threats.
- **Cybersecurity Partners Local Access Plan:** DHS enhances information sharing with cleared owners and operators of critical infrastructure and key resources, as well as state technology officials and law enforcement officials, through access to secret-level cybersecurity information and video teleconference calls via local fusion centers.

- **Information Sharing and Analysis Centers:** DHS enhances situational awareness among stakeholders including those at the state and local level as well as industrial control system owners and operators by allowing the federal government to quickly and efficiently provide critical cyber risk, vulnerability, and mitigation data.

### Coordinating Response to Cyber Incidents

- **Interagency Collaboration:** In October 2010, DHS and DOD signed a landmark memorandum of agreement to align and enhance America's capabilities to protect against threats to critical civilian and military computer systems and networks while ensuring appropriate levels of privacy.
- **National Cyber Incident Response Plan:** Developed in September 2010, this plan coordinates the response of multiple federal agencies, state and local governments, and hundreds of private firms, to incidents at all levels. DHS tested this plan during the CyberStorm III national exercise, which simulated a large-scale attack on the nation's critical information infrastructure.

### Ensuring Safety of Cyber Systems

- **Cybersecurity Workforce Initiative:** Since its creation, DHS has increased its cyber staff by 500 percent while working with universities to build the cybersecurity pipeline through competitive scholarship, fellowship, and internship programs to continue to attract top talent.
- **Technological Development and Deployment:** DHS is guiding research and development as well as advancements in scientific and technical knowledge to support cybersecurity through targeted grant programs that encourage academic research, private sector investment, and innovation from small businesses.

### Public Engagement

- **Stop.Think.Connect.:** The Department's *Stop.Think.Connect.* public cybersecurity awareness campaign is designed to increase public understanding of cyber threats and promote simple steps the public can take to increase their safety and security online.
- **National Cybersecurity Awareness Month:** Every October, DHS and its public and private sector partners promote efforts to educate citizens about guarding against cyber threats.

### International Engagement

DHS works closely with international partners, including foreign governments, major multilateral organizations, and global businesses, to strengthen the security of the networks of global trade and travel upon which the nation's economy and communities rely. DHS has also worked with international organizations on an unprecedented initiative to strengthen global aviation against threats posed by terrorists, working in multilateral and bilateral contexts with governments as well as industry worldwide. The Administration's global supply chain initiative is building on many of these partnerships, including work with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Customs Organization (WCO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO).

### Cooperation with Mexico and Canada

Secretary Napolitano and her Mexican and Canadian counterparts have signed numerous bilateral agreements and declarations to deepen cooperation and collaboration in the areas of enforcement, planning, information and intelligence sharing, joint operations, and trade facilitation along our borders. In May 2010, Presidents Obama and Calderon issued a Declaration on 21st Century Border Management, pursuing initiatives designed to expedite the legitimate flow of people and goods and focus law enforcement resources on those people and goods that repre-

sent the highest risk or about which officials know the least. In February 2011, President Obama and Prime Minister Harper of Canada announced the "Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness," emphasizing shared responsibility for safety and security by addressing threats at the earliest point possible; facilitating trade, economic growth, and jobs; collaborating on cross-border law enforcement; and partnering to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure and cybersecurity.

### International Partnerships

- **Aviation Security Partnerships:** DHS has enhanced the security of the global aviation system, not only domestically, but also in airports abroad, by working directly with foreign governments, international organizations, and the aviation industry to raise aviation security standards. To date, nearly a dozen countries have deployed or piloted Advanced Imaging Technology in their major airports to screen passengers for metallic and non-metallic threats, including weapons, explosives and other objects concealed under layers of clothing.
- **Biometric Information-Sharing:** DHS and the Department of State have worked with Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom to develop routine sharing of biometric information collected for immigration purposes.
- **Cargo Screening:** Fulfilling a requirement of the 9/11 Act, 100 percent of high risk cargo on international flights bound for the United States is screened.
- **Container Security Initiative:** The Container Security Initiative, currently operational in 58 foreign seaports through agreements in 32 countries, identifies and screens all U.S.-bound maritime containers that pose a potential risk.
- **Criminal History Information Sharing Arrangement:** The Criminal History Information Sharing Arrangement between the United States and Mexico enables Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to provide

serious felony conviction information on Mexican nationals being repatriated to Mexico.

- **Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT):** Cargo security throughout the international supply chain is strengthened through this voluntary public-private sector partnership program in which DHS works closely with importers, carriers, licensed customs brokers, and manufacturers. As of May 2011, C-TPAT had more than 10,100 Certified Partners and has conducted more than 17,700 on site validations of manufacturing and logistics facilities in 97 countries, representing some of the highest risk areas of the world.
- **Declaration on Aviation Security:** In October 2010, nearly 190 countries signed a historic ICAO agreement that establishes a foundation for aviation security to better protect the entire global aviation system and make air travel safer and more secure than ever before.
- **Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA):** Since 2009, nationals from all Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries, regardless of their port of embarkation, have been required to obtain an approved travel authorization via ESTA, which screens travelers against government databases, prior to boarding a carrier to travel by air or sea to the United States.
- **Federal Air Marshal Service Agreements:** Through such partnerships, U.S. Federal Air Marshals are permitted on international U.S. carrier flights to and from 60 countries.
- **Illegal Drug Program:** In October 2009, ICE launched this effort in Nogales, Ariz. to refer narcotics smuggling cases declined for prosecution in the United States to Mexico for prosecution. In April 2010, ICE expanded this program to El Paso, TX.
- **Immigration Advisory Program:** Arrangements in eight locations enable Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers posted at foreign airports to use advanced targeting and passenger analysis information to identify high-risk travelers at foreign airports before they board

U.S.-bound flights.

- **Integrated Cross-Border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations Shiprider Agreement (PDF, 17 pages - 1.2 MB)** In May 2009, the U.S. and Canada signed an agreement enabling law enforcement from both countries to cross-train, share resources and personnel, and utilize each others' vessels in the waters of both countries.
- **Maritime Operations Letter of Intent:** This cooperative effort between the militaries of the U.S. and Mexico was initiated to develop, exercise and execute maritime security and safety standard operating procedures for coordinated bi-national maritime operations.
- **Program Global Shield:** Launched in coordination with the World Customs Organization, this multilateral law enforcement effort works to combat the illicit cross-border diversion and trafficking of precursor chemicals for making improvised explosive devices by monitoring cross-border movements.
- **Pre-Clearance Agreements:** Pre-clearance agreements are in place in Aruba, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada and Ireland, allowing DHS to screen travelers and their baggage before takeoff through the same process a traveler would undergo upon arrival at a U.S. port of entry to better target and prevent threats while streamlining legitimate travel.
- **Preventing and Combating Serious Crime Agreements:** DHS, in collaboration with the Departments of Justice and State, has signed Preventing and Combating Serious Crime (PCSC) Agreements with 17 Visa Waiver Program countries and one non-VWP country, which enables international partners to query the fingerprint databases of others for law enforcement purposes and voluntarily provide data about criminals and terrorists.
- **Science and Technology Agreements:** DHS has signed 12 international agreements to foster collaboration in science and technology, including research and

development in cutting-edge technologies to ensure our mutual security

- **Visa Security Program:** ICE, with support from the Department of State, deploys trained special agents overseas to high-risk visa activity posts to identify potential terrorist and criminal threats before they reach the United States. The Visa Security Program is currently deployed to 19 posts in 15 countries.
- **Visa Waiver Program:** Under this program, nationals from 36 participating countries are able to travel to the United States for stays of 90 days or less upon receiving travel authorization through the ESTA program. The 9/11 Act requires VWP countries to enter into an agreement with the United States to share lost and stolen passport data, as well as terrorism information and information on serious criminal offenses.
- **Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative:** To enhance border security, this effort requires U.S., Mexican and Canadian citizens to present a passport or other secure travel document that denotes identity and citizenship when entering the U.S.

**COUNTERTERRORISM COOPERATION WITH EUROPE AND EURASIA**  
**TESTIMONY BY DANIEL BENJAMIN**  
**Coordinator, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism**  
**Statement before the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia**  
**Washington, DC, May 5, 2011**

Chairman Burton, Ranking Member Meeks, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before this Committee today. It is a pleasure to testify during a week when the United States has achieved a historic success against al-Qa'ida (AQ). This was an American operation, and those who performed it were Americans who deserve our greatest admiration for their bravery and their professionalism. Bin Laden's defeat is a victory for the United States and for all human beings who seek to live in peace, security, and dignity. He dedicated his life to destroying innocent lives and human progress. His demise will ultimately make the American people safer, and empower those around the world who seek to build- not destroy. As Secretary Clinton said, "History will record that bin Laden's death came at a time of great movements toward freedom and democracy, at a time when the people across the Middle East and North Africa are rejecting the extremist narratives and charting a path of peaceful progress based on universal rights and aspirations."

This is by no means the end of our effort against AQ. While we have dealt a blow to AQ's leadership, much of its activity has devolved to its affiliates and much more work remains to be done. But as we approach the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we should recognize that one of the unsung success stories of the period since that dark day has been the creation of an extraordinary global alliance against terror – one that operates out of the headlines but reliably, closely, and effectively, to protect our citizens and innocents around the world. Cooperation around the world has been remarkable, particularly with our European partners, including

NATO and the EU. In the critical areas of intelligence and law enforcement, governments have joined together time and again and prevented real attacks – including ones planned against planes crossing the Atlantic and on public transport systems worldwide. When it comes to confronting terrorism in particular, we understand the centrality of our partnership with Europe, where we work with democratic allies who share our values and our interests.

We do so not just on the European continent, but in many areas of the globe. We work with our NATO partners in International Security Assistance Force stability operations in support of the Government of Afghanistan. These efforts help degrade the insurgency, build the capability of the Afghan National Security Forces, and facilitate improvements in governance and socio-economic development for sustainable stability. We have been working with our European allies and others in the Friends of Yemen process. And we are increasing our coordination with France and other European partners to constrain the environment in which al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) operates by strengthening governance in Northern Mali. Such work helps us deny safe havens to terrorists, which is vital.

The United States and EU are also committed to fostering information sharing and cooperation in the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of terrorism related offenses. European countries are making vital contributions in the effort to combat terrorism by sharing key information, arresting members of terrorist cells, interdicting terrorist financing and logistics, and contributing to efforts in Afghanistan and other key places around the world.

European nations are active participants in several multilateral organizations that have played an important role in countering terrorism, including NATO, the OSCE, the EU, and the G8. All of these organizations have worked with the United States to establish and implement counterterrorism best practices, build weak-but-willing states' counterterrorism capabilities, and institutionalize counterterrorism measures globally.

The EU is increasingly emerging as a critical player in European counterterrorism policy and can do much to build capacity in Europe and elsewhere. For this reason, the United States encourages EU efforts to develop and implement effective laws to address militant radicals or terrorist associates who may be planning attacks to be carried out in other countries. We support the continuing development of best practices to improve the efficacy of counterterrorism efforts. We also look to cooperate with the EU on cybersecurity and combating violent extremism as agreed at the most recent U.S.-EU Summit.

One example of the U.S. commitment to build and deepen partnerships is the 2010 adoption by the United States and the European Union of a Declaration on Counterterrorism, in which the United States and the EU reiterated our joint commitment to forge a durable framework to counter terrorism within the rule of law. The 2010 Declaration, which Spain advocated for during its presidency, emphasized cooperation in border security, countering terrorist financing, enhancing the global non-proliferation regime, and promoting the counterterrorism work of the UN. The 2010 Declaration also stressed that an effective and comprehensive approach to diminish the longterm threat of violent ex-

tremism is a vital component of U.S. and EU efforts to combat terrorism. In this respect, the 2010 Declaration acknowledged the important role of civil society to help isolate terrorism, as well as the importance of addressing legitimate concerns of minorities and individuals regarding civil rights and civil liberties.

At the same time that we improve our collaboration with the EU, we also work bilaterally with key partners – from Russia in the East to the UK in the West; from Italy in the South to the Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries in the North – to build the capability of other nations around the world to take effective action against terrorists. In this regard, our European allies very much share our views on implementing strategic counterterrorism policies that focus on building the capacity of our foreign partners and countering radicalization that leads to violence and violent extremism to stem terrorist recruitment.

Of course, European countries remain a focus of terrorist plots. The past year was one marked by several attempted attacks by al-Qa'ida and affiliated violent extremists in Denmark, a first-ever suicide bombing in Scandinavia, and separatist group bombings on the Moscow metro and in the Russian North Caucasus. A variety of groups inspired by numerous ideologies also remained active; anarchists in Greece struck repeatedly at government offices, foreign missions, and symbols of the state in both Greece and other European capitals. Long-active terrorist groups like the Kurdistan Workers Party in Turkey, and dissident Republican groups in Northern Ireland, continued their campaigns of violence, as did Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA), but we note continuing successes by the Government of Spain against ETA.

Concerns about potential terrorist activities prompted countries ranging from the UK to Germany to raise their terrorism threat alert levels at various times during the past year. The recent shooting of four U.S. airmen at the Frankfurt International Airport illustrates how serious the threat remains. For the most part, however, the year was marked by

counterterrorism successes. European countries from Spain to Sweden attempted to strengthen counterterrorism legislation by criminalizing training in terrorist camps and terrorist recruitment. The continuing effectiveness of European security services, close cooperation between and among European countries, and the sheer technical capabilities available to most partner countries enabled authorities to prevent any major terrorist plots from coming to fruition in 2010.

Sometimes less than strict immigration laws and very strong protections of privacy and civil liberties in some member states can complicate counterterrorism efforts. Differing perspectives on the dividing line between legitimate political or charitable activity and support for terrorist groups further clouds the picture. All of our nations put a high priority on our freedoms, so naturally we need to work carefully to bridge our differences when it comes to sensitive subjects in the realm of information sharing and terrorist finance. I am confident that with good will on both sides and a common sense of resolve, we can achieve the common goals we seek.

### **Information Sharing: U.S. Treasury's Terrorist Finance Tracking Program (TFTP) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Passenger Name Records Program (PNR)**

To deal with the terrorist threat and identify individuals who are preparing to commit violence, information sharing is not just helpful, it is essential. Two critically important tools that have proven instrumental in protecting the security of both Americans and Europeans are the U.S. Treasury's Terrorist Finance Tracking Program or TFTP, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Passenger Name Record (PNR) program. We should be clear: Dangerous conspiracies aimed at the U.S. and Europe have been disrupted because of precisely this type of information sharing.

Leads generated by TFTP have aided numerous investigations, including many in Europe, by providing law enforce-

ment and counterterrorism officials information that helps them follow the money to the violent extremists who are determined to do us harm. We are pleased that we were able to work with our partners in the EU to reach agreement on a new TFTP agreement last summer (2010) that enables this valuable program to continue.

As DHS can tell you in greater detail, the PNR Program has also played a critical role in a number of the most significant terrorist cases over the past several years, including the investigation into David Headley, who pled guilty to charges of plotting an attack in Europe against the Mohammed cartoonist in Denmark. Headley, of course, also pled guilty to conducting surveillance for Lashkar-e Tayyiba in Mumbai, in advance of the devastating 2008 attacks in that city. PNR was also crucial in the case against Najibullah Zazi, who pled guilty to plotting to bomb New York subways – and in helping the USG apprehend Times Square bombing suspect Faisal Shahzad.

There have been some concerns raised in Europe about these programs, but it's important to emphasize that Europe and the United States have a longstanding partnership to protect both the security of our citizens and their privacy interests.

The United States is committed to ensuring that personal information shared for law enforcement and security purposes is given strong protections. The U.S. commitment to protect privacy and civil liberties, including within the context of law enforcement and security activities, is ingrained in American culture and legal tradition. So too is the proper use of personal information for effective public administration.

We know our two approaches to protecting privacy have more similarities than differences and we both share a strong commitment to protecting civil liberties. Our institutional arrangements for protecting privacy are different from Europe's, but they are comprehensive, provide ample means of redress, and there is an outstanding record of pro-

tecting data exchanged for law enforcement purposes. Continuing this cooperation is vital for all of our security.

### **Moving Forward on Homeland Security Presidential Directive 6 (HSPD-6) and Preventing and Combating Serious Crime (PCSC)**

In addition to our extensive engagement with the EU to facilitate critically important terrorism-related information sharing, we are also continuing to work bilaterally with individual European member states on HSPD-6 and Preventing and Combating Serious Crime (PCSC) initiatives. The State Department and the Terrorist Screening Center have successfully concluded 15 HSPD-6 agreements with European governments; DHS and DOJ have now signed 17 PCSC agreements with European countries. Negotiations to develop additional information sharing relationships are ongoing with a number of other countries.

As background, Homeland Security Presidential Directive - 6 (HSPD-6), was issued in 2003, and directed the U.S. government to consolidate its approach to terrorism screening, and to enhance cooperation with foreign governments to establish appropriate access to terrorism screening information (TSI), beginning with countries in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

Through HSPD-6 initiatives, the U.S. government seeks to conclude agreements and arrangements with foreign governments for the reciprocal exchange of terrorism screening information (TSI - biographic identifiers) and the subsequent management of information sharing should a terrorist be encountered. These initiatives enhance bilateral relationships between law enforcement and public security agencies.

PCSC agreements, like HSPD-6, are designed to increase law enforcement cooperation between the USG and its foreign partners, and also authorize the spontaneous sharing of information for the purpose of detecting and preventing terrorist and criminal activity.

### **Aviation Security**

While the PNR program and broader information sharing efforts with our European allies are critical to protecting civil aviation from terrorists, there are also many other steps we are taking in partnership with the Europeans to strengthen the security of global aviation. Given how committed terrorists remain to targeting international aviation and air cargo, we must do everything we can to prevent them from succeeding.

In addition to strengthening air passenger security, we also face the challenge of air cargo security, as demonstrated by the U.S.-bound package bombs from Yemen that were intercepted in the UK and the UAE last October. Since then, the State Department has been working closely with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including its components the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), and the air cargo industry to craft new air cargo security procedures that will ensure the security of aircraft and passengers and promote the free flow of international mail and commerce. As part of that process, the State Department, CBP, and TSA have also worked closely with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in Bern, Switzerland, as well as several national postal services, to improve the security screening for international mail that is transported on airplanes. TSA Administrator Pistole and UPU Director General Edouard Dayan met in March to discuss security measures for international mail destined for the United States. Representatives from DHS and TSA are joining officials from the USPS and State on the U.S. delegation to the UPU's Postal Operations Council, currently taking place in Bern.

We have also worked with our European and other international partners to update successfully the 1970 Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft and the 1971 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation to address new and emerging aviation security threats. The

2010 Beijing Convention and Protocol will significantly strengthen the existing international counterterrorism legal framework and facilitate the prosecution and extradition of those who seek to commit acts of terrorism. They will criminalize the use of civilian aircraft as a weapon. They will also criminalize efforts by terrorists and other criminals to use civil aviation to transport extraordinarily dangerous materials, such as biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons.

The United States was pleased to sign both instruments at the conclusion of the diplomatic conference last September in Beijing. The State Department intends to transmit both instruments to our Senate for advice and consent, as well as seek any necessary implementing legislation, with an aim of ratifying both instruments as expeditiously as possible.

### **Working to Block Hamas and Hizballah assets**

While AQ and its affiliates are our highest priority in our diplomatic engagement on terrorism-related issues, Hamas and Hizballah remain a major focus as well. On terrorism finance, the EU and its member states need to take more aggressive action to crack down on Hamas and Hizballah fundraising and other activities taking place in their territory. Both are capable and dangerous terrorist organizations that continue to play destabilizing roles in the Middle East. Both are aggressively building their stockpile of weapons and these organizations are increasing their lethal capabilities, which pose a serious threat to broader regional stability.

In 2003, the EU designated Hamas as a terrorist organization, which obligated member states to take certain actions to crack down on Hamas activity in their territory. In spite of this designation, there are still a number of Hamas-affiliated NGOs operating in Europe where they are primarily engaged in fundraising activity. A number of these NGOs have been designated by the USG for their ties to Hamas, but the EU and most European member states have

not taken comparable action against these organizations. The EU and its member states could be more assertive in implementing the EU designation, which would cut off a source of funding for the group and send an important message that Hamas can no longer raise money in Europe with impunity.

Through bilateral channels, over the past year we have been pressing our European allies to crack down on Hamas fundraising, since Europe remains an important source of funds for the group. We've asked the Europeans to take action, particularly against Hamas fundraising fronts, at both the EU and member state levels. We will remain focused on this issue, and will continue to encourage the Europeans to take action against HAMAS as well as against Hizballah, which has not been subjected to uniform financial sanctions across the EU.

It should be noted that the EU and its member states' ability to designate terrorists – a key tool for governments in their efforts to crack down on terrorist financing – is under duress. The European General Court (EGC) recently ruled against the EU in the Yassin al Kadi case, whom the EU had designated after he was added to the UN's al-Qa'ida/Taliban sanctions list. If the European Court of Justice (ECJ) upholds the EGC's ruling on appeal, it would limit the ability of EU member states to implement the UN's al-Qa'ida/Taliban sanctions list and comply with their international obligations, and potentially undermine the viability of all UN smart sanctions regimes. The USG is extremely concerned about this situation, which could impact not only the Europeans' ability to crack down on terrorist financing, but their sanctions efforts targeting other national security threats as well. We have been in close and regular dialogue with our European partners about these issues, and know that they are working hard to determine what steps need to be taken to ensure that their sanctions regime remains strong and survives current and future legal scrutiny.

### **Kidnapping for Ransom**

Another issue we have been discussing with our European allies is paying ransom to terrorists. In recent years the al-Qa'ida network has found new deep pockets, not among rich radical sheikhs in the Persian Gulf, but through the exploitation of wealthy Western countries and their allies. By turning the kidnapping of Europeans, East Asians, and North Americans into big business, these terrorist organizations have found a reliable funding stream that runs directly from the coffers of countries that are dedicated to defeating AQ. It is time to block this funding stream before it swells and strengthens AQ. Widespread adherence to a no-concessions pledge alone will not eliminate the problem of kidnapping-for-ransom: private companies and NGOs will likely continue to pay ransoms to get their people back. But if at least governments stop paying, it would help undermine the operations of terrorist organizations that depend upon ransom revenues. Governments need to get out of the business of paying ransoms or they will face many more kidnappings, and this is a point that we stress in our consultations with European allies.

### **Countering Violent Extremism**

Our work to Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) focuses on three main lines of effort that will reduce terrorist recruitment: delegitimizing the violent extremist narrative in order to diminish its "pull"; developing positive alternatives for youth who are targeted for radicalization to violence to diminish the "push" effect of grievances and unmet expectations; and building partner capacity to carry out these activities. The key goals of CVE programming are to diminish the drivers of radicalization that leads to violence and demonstrably reduce the effectiveness of terrorist propaganda, thus leading to lowered numbers in recruitment.

We are working closely with our European partners, notably the EU, on ways to coordinate outreach to diasporas targeted for terrorist recruitment across Europe. As in the

United States, our European partners are concerned about radicalization to violence within Somali communities, for example, with new recruits returning to Somalia to join al-Shabaab. We have met with officials in London, the Hague, Brussels, Stockholm, Oslo, and Copenhagen over the last two years.

We have organized three international workshops on the topic of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), the last of which – in November 2010 – was hosted by the Dutch. The participants included senior officials from more than a dozen countries – primarily NATO Allies – and several international organizations, and have laid the foundations for a CVE network. We are also in the process of forming a network to share best practices, and are working to translate some of the gains from these events into cooperative, on-the-ground efforts with our European partners in places like Yemen, for example.

Furthermore, my office is working closely with the Dutch government and the Dutch NGO the International Center for Counterterrorism to undertake a project focusing on terrorist rehabilitation and disengagement. The project will be launched in May and will be based at the UN's Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in Italy, on a one-year pilot basis. The aim is to provide a multilateral platform for policymakers and practitioners from countries that have created – or are considering developing – rehabilitation or disengagement programs for violent extremists to compare lessons learned and best practices.

Given the large ambit of your committee, I'd like to end by addressing our counterterrorism work in both Russia and Central Asia.

### **Russia**

Counterterrorism is one of the enduring strong points of the Russia-U.S. bilateral relationship and one the United States believes is important to continue to improve on.

The Russia-U.S. relationship has had many twists and turns and many ups and downs, but one constant has been our counterterrorism cooperation. The main vehicle for our dialogue is the Counterterrorism Working Group (CTWG), which I co-chair with my Russian counterpart, Presidential Representative Anatoliy Safonov.

Recent activities of the CTWG include coordinating U.S., UK and Russian investigations of the financial infrastructure that supports drug trafficking from Afghanistan, and support of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. The Global Initiative was announced by Russia and the United States in 2006 and now includes 75 partner nations that cooperate in a variety of ways, including safeguarding radioactive and nuclear materials, preventing nuclear smuggling, and sharing information.

A highlight of the U.S.-Russian CT partnership last year included the issuance of a U.S.-Russia Joint Statement on Counterterrorism Cooperation at last year's U.S.-Russia Summit; which notably included a reference to the Secretary of State's designation of Caucasus Emirates leader Doku Umarov under Executive Order 13224. Working together with Russia we were also able to internationalize this designation by adding Umarov to the United Nations' 1267 al-Qa'ida and Taliban Sanctions Committee Consolidated List. We also work closely with Russia on CT issues in other multilateral and regional fora such as the G8 Roma-Lyon Group, OSCE, and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum.

We plan to take further steps to enhance transportation security and, in partnership with DHS, we hope to conclude several arrangements with Russia concerning cooperation in the areas of aviation and multi-modal transportation security.

### **Central Asia**

Central Asia is also a critical counterterrorism nexus, particularly important for its support of supply routes to Af-

ghanistan – both via the Manas Transit Center in Kyrgyzstan, and via the Northern Distribution Network that runs through the region. Their support for our efforts in Afghanistan could increase the risk of terrorist attacks against them. Central Asia has bred a number of terrorist groups, including the Islamic Jihad Union and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, which are actively fighting against U.S. forces in Afghanistan. We are concerned that fighters returning to their home countries could expand the terrorist threat to Central Asia. We are also mindful of the potential terrorist threat to the emerging energy infrastructure around the Caspian Sea.

Our Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program is active in the region, mostly in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with Kazakhstan not far behind. Through our Regional Strategic Initiative grant program, we seek to build partner countries' ability to rapidly detect, respond, and repel potential incursions by terrorist groups and to enhance the capabilities of local law-enforcement bodies to detect, deter, respond to, and investigate terrorist threats, in a manner that is respectful of human rights and civil liberties. In partnership with the Central Asian countries, our programs have addressed issues of border control, crisis management, fraudulent document detection, terrorist finance, and general forensics, which will make it more difficult for terrorists to travel and carry out terrorist acts in these countries.

We have other partners with whom we are working in Central Asia, including the OSCE and the UN, to build Central Asian counterterrorism capacity. Working through these organizations, we can also assist the Central Asian nations with regard to best practices to counter violent extremism, thereby drying up the pool of future recruits into terrorist organizations.

### **Conclusion**

The magnitude and breadth of the terrorist challenge makes clear that no one country or organization can defeat it alone: The global threat we face requires a global strat-

egy and a global response and must impel us to devise collaborative strategies, action plans, and policy recommendations that use all the tools of statecraft, nationally, bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally. We have no alternative.

We have come a long way since 2001. Together, we have moved, and are moving, to overcome some of the impediments to pursuing terrorists that existed before 9/11. And the United States will – we must – continue to work closely with our partners around the world, especially our capable and willing European allies to identify areas where further work remains to be done and how we can further collaborate even more effectively. Only through such cooperation can we succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these ideas and thoughts with you.

**'Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime:  
Addressing Converging Threats to National Security'**  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/nsc/  
transnational-crime](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/nsc/transnational-crime)

Sadly, the threat of violent extremism in America is nothing new. Throughout our history, misguided groups – including international and domestic terrorist organizations, neo-Nazis and anti-Semitic hate groups – have engaged in horrific violence to kill our citizens and threaten our way of life. Most recently, al-Qa'ida and its affiliates have attempted to recruit and radicalize people to terrorism here in the United States, as we have seen in several plots and attacks, including the deadly attack two years ago on our service members at Fort Hood.

As a government, we are working to prevent all types of extremism that leads to violence, regardless of who inspires it. At the same time, countering al-Qa'ida's violent ideology is one part of our comprehensive strategy to defeat al-Qa'ida. Over the past 2 1/2 years, more key al-Qa'ida leaders – including Usama bin Laden – have been eliminated in rapid succession than at any time since the September 11 attacks. We have strengthened homeland security and improved information sharing. Thanks to coordinated intelligence and law enforcement, numerous terrorist plots have been thwarted, saving many American lives.

Protecting American communities from al-Qa'ida's hateful ideology is not the work of government alone. Communities – especially Muslim American communities whose children, families and neighbors are being targeted for recruitment by al-Qa'ida – are often best positioned to take the lead because they know their communities best. Indeed, Muslim American communities have categorically condemned terrorism, worked with law enforcement to help prevent terrorist attacks, and forged creative programs to protect their sons and daughters from al-Qa'ida's murderous ideology.

The strategy that follows outlines how the Federal Government will support and help empower American communities and their local partners in their grassroots efforts to prevent violent extremism. This strategy commits the Federal Government to improving support to communities, including sharing more information about the threat of radicalization; strengthening cooperation with local law enforcement, who work with these communities every day; and helping communities to better understand and protect themselves against violent extremist propaganda, especially online.

Most of all, this strategy reaffirms the fundamental American principles that guide our efforts. As we approach the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, we remember that al-Qa'ida tried to spark a conflict between faiths and divide us as Americans. But they failed. As this strategy makes clear, we will not waver in defense of our country or our communities. We will defeat al-Qa'ida and its affiliates. We will uphold the civil rights and civil liberties of every American. And we will go forward together, as Americans, knowing that our rich diversity of backgrounds and faiths makes us stronger and is a key to our national security.



## White House Report on Preventing Violent Extremism

Published August 3, 2011

This White House report, "Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States", was released on August 3, 2011. The report is the "President's plan for how the Federal Government will support and help empower American communities and their local partners to prevent violent extremism".

The document is available at

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/empowering\\_local\\_partners.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/empowering_local_partners.pdf)

◀ THE PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

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