

Homeland Security Advisory
Council
Future Of Terrorism
Task Force

January 11, 2007



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The Future of Terrorism Task Force

In June 2006, the Secretary directed the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) to create a Future of Terrorism Task Force (FOTTF) to accomplish the following:

- Assess future threats to the United States and U.S. interests abroad over the next five years
- Strategically fine-tune departmental structures and processes to meet those threats
- Recommend how to better engage and prepare the American public for present and future challenges



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Findings

- There is every indication that the number and magnitude of attacks on the U.S., its interests and its allies will likely increase
- Globalization has changed the means and opportunities available to those who wish to do us harm (increasingly mobile populations, technologies and “know-how” readily available)
- Terrorism is a tactic for any adversary, whether or not state-sponsored, who chooses not to attack us peer-to-peer
- The most significant terrorist threat to the homeland and to U.S. interests abroad today is a growing radical, extremist movement underpinned by a jihadist/Salafist ideology



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Findings

- Al-Qaeda, although diminished, is resilient and resurgent and remains a threat to the US
- Al-Qaeda has franchised itself across the globe and inspired groups that act locally and largely independently (increasingly leaderless and marked by self-enlistment)
- Although the war in Afghanistan was successful in destroying Al Qaeda's base of operations, our adversaries continue to feed on weak states, and we have witnessed the spread of safe havens globally, including northwest Pakistan, Iraq, and the Internet
- It is anticipated state-sponsored terrorism will continue



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Findings

- In recent years, Muslims have born a substantial burden of terrorist attacks
- Our adversaries base their actions (targets and modus operandi) in part on our actions
- Factors that will influence the future of terrorism include: leadership of the terrorists, US counterterrorism efforts, status of political reform in Muslim nations and the elimination of safe havens
- The Internet enhances the full range of terrorist activities (training, target selection, planning, execution, and other tradecraft), and is an especially powerful tool for spreading their message and recruiting and enlisting into the jihadists' ranks



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Findings

- The evolving complexity of the enemy increases the requirement that protection of the homeland be done with seamless coordination between and among federal, state and local authorities and the private sector
- International partners provide valuable input and lessons learned
- Muslims living in the US are more integrated, more prosperous and therefore less alienated than Muslims living in Western Europe, where the “homegrown” threat is significant and rising
- Muslim culture and the Islamic faith are not widely understood within the Western world
- Our adversaries use terror tactics to target both the physical and psychological well-being of our populace



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Recommendations

- The Secretary should establish an Office of Net Assessment to provide the Secretary with comprehensive analysis of future threats and US capabilities to meet those threats
- The Secretary should conduct a comprehensive, systematic, and regular examination – a Quadrennial Security Review – of all homeland security threats, assets, plans and strategies with a view toward long-term planning and modernization
- The Secretary should undertake, in conjunction with the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), a comprehensive National Intelligence Estimate to address threats to the homeland
 - A permanent Deputy National Intelligence Officer (DNIO) should be assigned to the National Intelligence Council; the DNIO position should rotate between the Department and the FBI.
 - State and local input must drive the domestic component of the assessment, and must be continually updated



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Recommendations

- Countering “home-grown” radicalization must be one of the Department’s top priorities by using the Department’s Radicalization and Engagement Working Group (REWG) to better understand the process – from sympathizer to activist to terrorist
- The Department must place a renewed emphasis on recruiting professionals of all types with diverse perspectives, worldviews, skills, languages, and cultural backgrounds and expertise
- The Department should work with subject matter experts to ensure that the lexicon used within public statements is clear, precise and does not play into the hands of the extremists



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Recommendations

- Broader avenues of dialogue with the Muslim community should be identified and pursued by the Department to foster mutual respect and understanding, and ultimately trust
- Local communities should take the lead on developing and implementing Muslim outreach programs. DHS should encourage such outreach efforts and facilitate the sharing of best practices
- The Secretary should work directly with state, local, and community leaders to educate them on the threat of radicalization, the necessity of taking preventative action at the local level, and to facilitate the sharing of other nation's and communities' best practices



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Recommendations

- The Department should move immediately to implement the recommendations contained in earlier HSAC reports on information sharing, including:
 - resolving issues such as classification of information; and
 - ensuring that appropriate resources and standards are in place to ensure consistency and adequacy in analytical training and capabilities in fusion centers around the country
- The Department should develop and immediately implement, in concert with the Department of Justice and state and local corrections officials, a program to address prisoner radicalization and post-sentence reintegration



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Recommendations

- The Department must use all avenues of international cooperation and instruments of statecraft to boost existing and form new partnerships to foster and maintain a global network that permits, among other things, robust intelligence and information sharing
- The Department should partner with the media and educational institutions to engage the public in prevention and response efforts –developing consistent, accurate, realistic, persuasive and actionable messages as well as evidence-based strategies for communicating the same
- Consider naming the Secretary of Homeland Security to the National Security Council in order to fully integrate national security with homeland security



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Task Force Members

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- Frank Cilluffo, Associate Vice President for Homeland Security, GWU (*Task Force Vice-Chair*)
- Kathleen Bader, Textron Inc., Board Member
- Elliott Broidy, Chairman and CEO, Broidy Capital Management
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- James Dunlap, President, Dunlap Consulting (Former OK State Senator)
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- Bill Parrish, Associate Professor, Homeland Security and Emergency Planning, VCU
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