

PRESIDENT BUSH'S LEGACY: WEAKENED NATIONAL SECURITY IN PERILOUS TIMES

Over the last eight years, President Bush and Republicans implemented a misguided foreign policy, squandered attempts to improve homeland security, and weakened the U.S. intelligence community. When President Bush leaves office in January, he will leave our nation's security in a far more precarious position than when he assumed office in 2001.



9/11 COMMISSION: MAKING OUR NATION SAFER

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Congress formed the independent, bipartisan 9/11 Commission to issue recommendations to help prevent future terrorist attacks against the United States.

Five years later, as one of its first acts in power, the Democratic Congress passed legislation requiring President Bush to implement the unfulfilled security recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

In spite of this, the Bush Administration has still failed to address many of these provisions. Following is a list* of several measures intended to improve our national security that were enacted into law by the Democratic Congress, but ignored by President Bush and Republicans in Congress:

P.L. 110-53	NATIONAL SECURITY PROVISIONS	STATUS
Sec. 1821	Interdicting Weapons of Mass Destruction	FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION
Sec. 1841	Coordinating U.S. Nonproliferation Programs	FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION
Sec. 2012	International Muslim Youth Opportunity Fund	FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION
Sec. 2021	Establishment of a Middle East Foundation	Missed opportunities
Sec. 2033	United States Policy Towards Detainees	Progress is slow and uncertain
Sec. 2042	Strategy For the United States Relationship with Pakistan	Lack of comprehensive strategy yields disastrous results
Sec. 2041	Strategy for the United States Relationship with Afghanistan	Still diverted from the crisis in Afghanistan
Sec. 2043	United States Policy Towards Saudi Arabia	Progress is slow and uncertain
Title XXI	Advancing Democracy Around The World	Key elements unmet

*Table prepared by the Majority Staffs of the Committee on Homeland Security and Committee on Foreign Affairs.

IRAQ: THE TRUTH IS IN THE NUMBERS

"It is unknowable how long that conflict [the war in Iraq] will last. It could last six days, six weeks. I doubt six months."

- Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, 2/7/03

Now in its **sixth year**, the war in Iraq has lasted longer than U.S. involvement in World War II. The cost of this mismanaged war far surpasses the dollar amount to American taxpayers, which on its own is immense. The following list paints a stark picture of the impact this war has had on the U.S. economy, armed forces, and military readiness:

Cost of the War to American Taxpayers

\$864 billion = Amount appropriated for the Iraq War thus far [CRS, 10/15/08]

\$12.3 billion = Approximate amount U.S. is currently spending in Iraq per month [CRS, 10/15/08]

Cost of Violence in Iraq

4,209 = Number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq [DoD, 12/8/08]

30,852 = Number of U.S. service members wounded in Iraq [DoD, 12/8/08]

Strain on the Military

1.8 million = Number of active duty military who have been deployed to Iraq since 2001 [CRS, 9/30/08]

662,221 = Number of U.S. troops that have served more than one tour in Iraq [CRS, 9/30/08]

502,942 = Number of National Guard and Reservists who have been deployed to Iraq since 2001 [CRS, 9/30/08]

270,521 = Number of U.S. military personnel currently serving in Iraq [CRS, 9/30/08]

69 = Percent of its required equipment that the National Guard has on-hand [HASC, 12/9/08]

AFGHANISTAN "IS IN MISERY"

U.S. military leaders agree that Afghanistan has not received appropriate attention under the Bush Administration and has been overshadowed by operations in Iraq.

- **America's military is stretched thin, which weakens our ability to respond to threats.** Adm. Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated, "I don't have troops I can reach for, brigades I can reach to send into Afghanistan until I have a reduced requirement in Iraq." [7/2/08]
- **The Bush Administration has neglected Afghanistan.** Gen. Barry McCaffrey said that Afghanistan "is in misery," a result of poor coordination, inept management, and a dearth of resources and troops. [7/30/08]
- **The Bush Administration has failed to acknowledge Afghanistan as a major threat,** diverting resources away from that region to Iraq. The *New York Times* reports that "the White House shifted its sights, beginning in 2002, from counterterrorism efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan to preparations for the war in Iraq." [6/30/08]

NORTH KOREA & NON-PROLIFERATION

The Bush Administration's eagerness to reject foreign policies of the Clinton Administration led it to a failed policy toward North Korea's nuclear program. Despite the Clinton Administration's success in shutting down North Korea's plutonium-producing capability, the Bush Administration ended the Agreed Framework in 2003, resulting in Pyongyang's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. As a result, North Korea resumed plutonium production and began testing nuclear weapons.

Ultimately, the Bush Administration changed course and returned to the Clinton Administration's framework in order to reduce the threat of North Korea's nuclear program. However, the time the Administration lost due to its ineffective hard-line policy has weakened the United States' hand in negotiations and made it more difficult to achieve the goal of denuclearization.