

Chapter 2

»» Terror, Threat, and Disaster Post- 9/11

The Genesis of the DHS

Why DHS was chosen over other departments?

- Primary mission is to protect the American homeland
- One department to secure our borders, transportation sector, ports, and critical infrastructure
- One department to synthesize and analyze homeland security intelligence
- One department to coordinate communications with state and local governments, private sector, and the American people
- One department to coordinate efforts to protect against bioterrorism and WMDs
- One department to help train and equip for first responders
- One department to manage federal emergency response activities
- More security officers in the field working to stop terrorists

DHS – Strategic Goals

- ▶ Awareness—Identify and understand threats, assess vulnerabilities, determine the potential impact, and disseminate timely information to our homeland security partners and the American public.
- ▶ Prevention—Detect, deter, and mitigate threats to our homeland.
- ▶ Protection—Safeguard our people and their freedoms, critical infrastructure, property, and the economy of our Nation from acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.
- ▶ Response—Lead, manage, and coordinate the national response to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.
- ▶ Recovery—Lead national, state, local, and private sector efforts to restore services and rebuild communities after acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies.
- ▶ Service—Serve the public effectively by facilitating lawful trade, travel, and immigration.
- ▶ Organizational Excellence—Value our most important resource, our people. Create a culture that promotes a common identity, innovation, mutual respect, accountability, and teamwork to achieve efficiencies, effectiveness, and operational synergies—U.S. DHS, Securing Our Homeland: U.S. DHS Strategic Plan (2004).

Evolution and Change in DHS

- ▶ Rational for the creation of a new agency
- ▶ *Homeland Security Act of 2002* created the DHS
- ▶ DHS has four main responsibilities
 - ▶ Border and transportation
 - ▶ Emergency preparedness and response - FEMA merged into DHS
 - ▶ Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear countermeasures
 - ▶ Information analysis and infrastructure protection
 - ▶ DHS acts as a central repository of information from the CIA, FBI, NSA, INS and DEA
- ▶ DHS cultivates inter- and intra- governmental agency cooperation at the state, local and federal levels

Mission of DHS

- ▶ Prevent terrorist attacks within the United States;
- ▶ Reduce the vulnerability of the United States to terrorism;
- ▶ Minimize the damage, and assist in the recovery, from terrorist attacks that do occur within the United States;
- ▶ Carry out all functions of entities transferred to the department, including by acting as a focal point regarding natural and manmade crises and emergency planning;
- ▶ Ensure that the functions of the agencies and subdivisions within the department that are not related directly to securing the homeland are not diminished or neglected except by a specific explicit act of Congress;
- ▶ Ensure that the overall economic security of the United States is not diminished by efforts, activities, and programs aimed at securing the homeland; and
- ▶ Monitor connections between illegal drug trafficking and terrorism, coordinate efforts to sever such connections, and otherwise contribute to efforts to interdict illegal drug trafficking.

Homeland Security Act of 2002, U.S. Code 6 (2002), § 101 (b).

Reorganization and Evolution of the DHS: 2003-2012

- ▶ Between 2003 and 2008 many internal and external structural changes occurred
- ▶ The DHS is overseen by the Office of the Secretary of DHS
- ▶ DHS Directorates (departments) have changed with the needs of the agency
- ▶ DHS Offices are within each Directorate
- ▶ Many Federal Agencies were swept under the DHS umbrella during the reorganization phase (See Table 2.1)
- ▶ Advisory Panels and Committees are an integral part of DHS operations and planning

DHS Directorates

- ▶ Directorate for National Protection and Programs
- ▶ Directorate for Science and Technology
- ▶ Directorate for Management

DHS Offices

- ▶ Office of Policy—Formulates and coordinates DHS policy and program.
- ▶ Office of Health—Deals with medically related incidents.
- ▶ Office of Intelligence and Analysis—Assesses and analyzes information and data regarding threat.
- ▶ Office of Operations Coordination—Monitors and coordinates homeland security activities and programs in the 50 states, in 50 major urban areas, in conjunction with law enforcement partners.