

II. CHAPTER 2: TERROR, THREAT AND DISASTER POST 9/11: A NEW PARIDIGM FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

A. Learning Objectives

1. To analyze the events of 9/11 and understand the effect they had on the American population's psyche in relation to domestic security.
2. To appraise the effectiveness of the immediate response by government agencies to the events of September 11, 2001.
3. To describe the shortcomings of the lack of information exchange between various government agencies prior to 9/11 and analyze the influence the lack of communication had on the day's events.
4. To outline the new strategies and tactics that the safety community developed for mitigation and prevention of terrorism immediately following 9/11.
5. To describe the initial formation of the Department of Homeland Security, its structure, and policy approach, mission, and goals.
6. To explain the structural changes that have taken place in the Department of Homeland Security since its inception.
7. To summarize the Department of Homeland Security's hierarchy, major players, and various advisory committees.
8. To list the various directorates and offices of the Department of Homeland Security and discuss their mission and responsibilities.

B. Test Questions

1. Multiple Choice (**correct answer in bold**)

a. What best describes the origination of DHS?

- 1) **Soon after 9/11, there was a consensus for some governmental agencies regarding the necessity of DHS.**
- 2) Soon after 9/11, there was Congressional division over the establishment of DHS.
- 3) Early after 9/11, DHS came about because of the high levels of cooperation between competing law enforcement agencies
- 4) None of the above is accurate

b. What is the most accurate statement regarding the evolution of DHS?

- 1) That the agency has changed little

- 2) The change in DHS is the result largely of political pressures
- 3) That change comes about without much reflection in nearly all cases of restructuring
- 4) That change in DHS has not been towards scale back or downsizing since its inception.**

c. Which DHS component has likely been put under the most pressure since the reorganization of DHS?

- 1) FBI
- 2) United States Coast Guard**
- 3) Secret Service
- 4) United States Army

d. Which agency plays a key training and educational role in DHS?

- 1) The Office of the Inspector General
- 2) Homeland Security Advisory Council
- 3) NIMS
- 4) FLETC**

2. Short Answer

- a. Name three (3) historic federal law enforcement agencies that work closely with DHS.
- b. What do outside leaders in business and the community, private sector justice, and external state and local agencies join in order to have a say in DHS policy?
- c. What program seeks to protect children in federal facilities that are spearheaded by DHS?
- d. What Center does the Secret Service operate in matters of threat?

- e. Name four (4) agencies that were merged into DHS in the major reorganization?
- f. What are the current Directorates housed in DHS?

3. Essay Topics

- a. What are the more common criticisms heard regarding how DHS operates and works. Identify three (3) and discuss.
- b. Describe, in some level of detail, the reorganization of DHS that took place in 2003.
- c. Discuss in depth the role of the US Coast Guard in DHS affairs. Also discuss how the absorption of the USCGA has caused increased levels of stress for the entity.

C. Group Activities and Exercises

1. Divide the class into four discussion groups (4 – 6 students in each). Assign each group a problem from the list below. Ask the group to first appoint a designated spokesperson for the group. Allow 15 minutes for the group to assess and analyze the problem. At the end of that period, ask the spokesperson to summarize its findings and conclusion. The report should last 5 minutes.

Problems:

- A. Think about the original construction of DHS. Should it have been done differently? What alternative design should have been considered?
- B. Discuss the sense and sensibility of the 2003 reorganization of DHS. What are the good features and the pitfalls?
- C. Does DHS take seriously the input of external bodies and individuals into its policymaking?
- D. Evaluate the suitability and logic of the US Coast Guard being part of DHS? Some argue this has been a mistake. Others a perfect fit. Point out the issues.