



# UNITED TO PROTECT

**On Nov. 25, President George W. Bush signed the Homeland Security Act of 2002. The legislation created the new Department of Homeland Security. The Coast Guard and 21 other agencies will unite under one roof to accomplish one primary mission: protecting the American people from another terrorist attack.**

Story by PA2 Joe Patton, G-IPA



“Today, we are taking historic action to defend the United States and protect our country against the dangers of a new era. With my signature, this act of Congress will create the Department of Homeland Security, ensuring that our efforts to defend this country are comprehensive and united.” With those words President George W. Bush signed the Homeland Security Act of 2002 on Nov. 25.

The act set into motion the most extensive reorganization of the federal government since the establishment of the Department of Defense in 1947.

“The Homeland Security Act of 2002 takes the next critical steps in defending our country,” said Bush. “The continuing threat of terrorism, the threat of mass murder on our own soil will be met with a unified, effective response.

“Dozens of agencies charged with homeland security will now be located within one Cabinet department with the mandate and legal authority to protect our people. America will be better able to respond to any future attacks, to reduce our vulnerability and, most important, prevent the terrorists from taking innocent American lives.”

The Coast Guard is one of the largest of 22 agencies making the transfer into the new department. More than 170,000 military and civilian workers will make up the new department. Overall, the Coast Guard will make up about 26 percent of the department’s total personnel strength.

“This is an historic moment for our nation and the Coast Guard,” said Adm. Thomas H. Collins, Coast

Guard Commandant. “When the Coast Guard was founded over 212 years ago, its primary mission was to safeguard our coasts. We have carried out that mission ever since, and today we will continue that mission as a member of the new Department of Homeland Security.

“It is humbling to know that our organization is held in such high esteem that we will make up approximately one quarter of the new Department of Homeland Security. With our military, maritime and multi-mission character, I believe that we bring capabilities and attributes necessary to be the lead federal agency for Maritime Homeland Security.”

During the signing ceremony, Bush announced that he was nominating Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge to become the nation’s first Secretary of Homeland Security.

The new department will analyze intelligence information on terror threats and will gather and focus all its efforts to face the challenges of cyberterrorism, as well as nuclear, chemical and biological terrorism. The department also will work closely with state and local governments to enhance the protection of Americans. The new department will bring together the agencies responsible for border, coastline and transportation security as part of a coordinated effort to safeguard transportation systems and to secure the border. The department will join state and local officials to prepare for future terrorist attacks that may come. The department hopes to end a great deal of duplication and overlapping of responsibilities among the agencies

*Continued on page 24*



USCG HISTORIAN

**AUGUST 7, 1789** — The Service, eventually to be known as the Lighthouse Service, was established under the control of the Treasury Department. The Lighthouse Service became part of the Coast Guard July 1, 1939.



USCG HISTORIAN



# The Coast Guard's future partners

## Existing agencies scheduled to transition to the new Homeland Security Department

### Agriculture

- Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
- Plum Island Animal Disease Center

### Commerce

- Computer Security Division of the National Institute of Standards & Technology
- Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office
- National Hazard Information Strategy of the NOAA

### Defense

- National Bio-Weapons Defense Analysis Center
- National Communications System

### Energy

- Environmental Measurements Laboratory
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- National Nuclear Security Administration
- Nuclear Incident Response
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- National Infrastructure Simulation & Analysis Center
- Office of Biological & Environmental Research
- Office of Energy Assurance
- Office of Security

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

### General Services Administration

- Computer Incident Response Center

- Office of Federal Protective Service

### Health & Human Services

- Metropolitan Medical Response System
- National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Program
- National Disaster Medical System/ Office of Emergency Preparedness
- Office of Health & Safety Information Systems

### Justice

- Domestic Emergency Support Team
- Executive Office for Immigration Review
- Immigration & Naturalization Service
- National Infrastructure Protection Center
- National Domestic Preparedness Office
- Office of Domestic Preparedness

### State

- Visa Services

### Transportation

- Coast Guard
- Transportation Security Administration

### Treasury

- Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- Secret Service
- Customs

**AUGUST 4, 1790** — Congress approved legislation creating a Service to enforce customs laws. Alternately known as the *system of cutters*, *Revenue Service*, and *Revenue-Marine*, this Service would officially be named the Revenue Cutter Service in 1863. This Service was placed under the control of the Treasury Department.



**JANUARY 28, 1915** — The Life-Saving Service, established in 1848, and Revenue Cutter Service combined to form the Coast Guard.



## SPECIAL FEATURE: HOMELAND SECURITY

transitioning to the department.

“While this transition will be challenging, the men and women of the Coast Guard will work closely with the Department of Transportation, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the other agencies assigned to the new department and all of our federal, state and local partners so that together, we can provide the American public a safe and secure homeland,” said Collins.

Following the enactment of the act, the president had up to 60 days to submit a transition plan to the Congress and could start moving agencies to the new department not less than 90 days after submission.

The Coast Guard will transfer intact to the

new department and retain its military, multi-mission, and maritime qualities. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 specifically protects the wide range of current Coast Guard missions as well as Coast Guard assets.

In addition, the transfer to the new department will not change the Service’s role as a branch of the Armed Forces. During times of war, the Coast Guard still can be transferred to the Navy.

In the new department, the Coast Guard will continue to be the lead federal agency in maritime homeland security. The Coast Guard was placed within the new department because of the unique aspects it brings as

**PARTNERSHIP:** President Bush shakes hands with Adm. Collins in Port Elizabeth, N.J., after speaking June 24 about his plans for the new Homeland Security Department.

a law enforcement agency, a branch of the military, a transportation safety and security agency, an emergency response agency, a local

first responder, and part of the intelligence community.

Some of the other agencies placed within the department are the Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Border Patrol, Secret Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Transportation Security Administration.

The department will comprise five directorates:

- Border and Transportation Security
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Science and Technology



**APRIL 6, 1917** — With the declaration of war against Germany and the start of WWI, the Coast Guard was transferred by Executive Order to the control of the Navy Department. The Service was reverted to the Treasury Department Aug. 28, 1919.



**JUNE 30, 1932** — The Steamboat Inspection Service and Bureau of Navigation combined to form the Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection. The new agency remained under Commerce Department control.





TELEFAR BROWN, G-IPA

**SECURITY FORCE:** A Boatforce DC rigid-hull inflatable smallboat, better known as a Safeboat, patrols the waters of the Washington, D.C., area as part of homeland security.

- Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection
  - Management
- The Coast Guard and Secret Service will report directly to the secretary of homeland security. The other agencies will be placed in one of the five directorates and led by an under secretary.
- This reorganization will be very challenging, and Bush said he

recognizes the challenges that await everyone involved in building the new department.

“Tom Ridge and his team have an immense task ahead of them,” said Bush. “Setting up the Department of Homeland Security will involve the most extensive reorganization of the federal government since Harry Truman signed the National Security Act. To succeed in their mission, leaders of the new department must change the culture of many diverse

agencies — directing all of them toward the principal objective of protecting the American people. The effort will take time, and focus, and steady resolve. It will also require full support from both the administration and the Congress. Adjustments will be needed along the way. Yet, this is pressing business, and the hard work of building a new department begins today.”

As the building of the Department of Homeland Security begins, a Coast Guard transition team is already in place and will continue to play a key role in the establishment and operations of the new department. In addition, the Coast Guard will work extremely closely with the Department of Transportation to ensure a smooth, efficient and seamless transition.

“The Coast Guard has helped keep America safe, strong, and secure as part of the Department of Transportation since 1967, and responded quickly and effectively to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 under the leadership of Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta,” said Collins. “I would like to personally thank him and all the members of the Department of Transportation for their support and assistance over the last 35 years.”

For more information on the new department as well as a complete transcript of Tom Ridge’s town hall meeting, log onto [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).



USCG HISTORIAN

**NOVEMBER 1, 1941 —** With the start of WWII, the Coast Guard was transferred to Navy Department control. The Service was then returned to Treasury Department control Jan. 1, 1946.



USCG HISTORIAN



USCG HISTORIAN



USCG HISTORIAN



USCG HISTORIAN

## Town Hall Meeting With Tom Ridge

Dec. 17 question and answer session excerpts

**QUESTION:** You're creating a large, new, cobbled-together department to respond to issues of homeland security ... how will this make America safer?

**TOM RIDGE:** Let me count the ways. We will get people and cargo across our borders quicker, we will help drive some of the technological innovation that will make us safer, we will have the opportunity to not only fuse and analyze, but share information with law enforcement and first responders in an unprecedented way. We will truly have the opportunity to engage our partners at the state and local level. People will see that.

This unit, this department, will work with the private sector to identify vulnerabilities. Because one of the challenges we have in this country is that the terrorists don't have to bring weapons. They can take advantage of the diversity that we have in this country, the strong economic diversity we have and find both weapons and targets out there. And we will be working with the private sector and we'll see on a daily basis the interaction of this department with men and women in workplaces around the country.

So whether you're working with the pri-

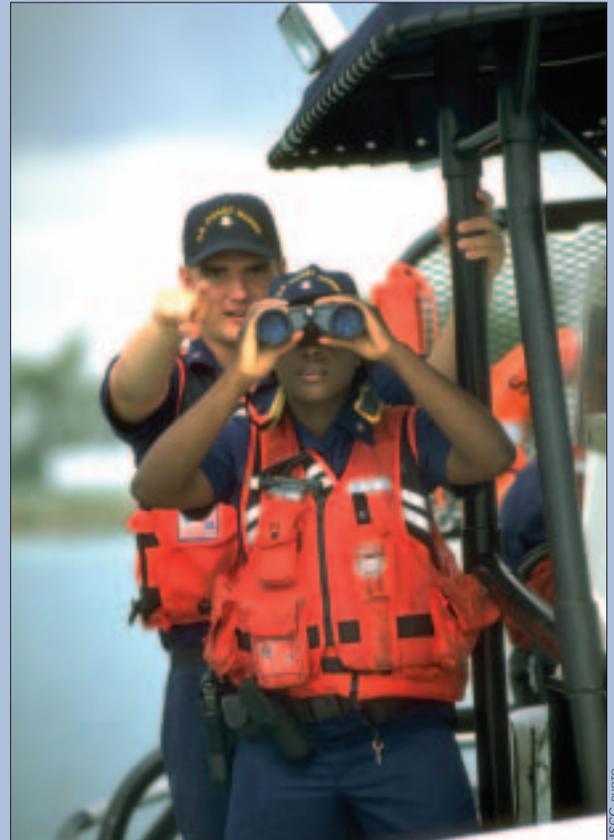
ivate sector, whether we're working at the borders, whether we're monitoring those who come into this country more effectively, whether we're improving our security at the airports, and the list goes on and on, every single day there will be a way that we manifest that by working together we do a better job of protecting America.

**QUESTION:** How quickly is this merger going to come together?

**RIDGE:** Well, on March 1, just about all of the departments and agencies move into the Department of



**APRIL 1, 1967** — Executive Order 167-81 transferred the Coast Guard to the newly formed Department of Transportation. Below, current Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta shakes hands with Coast Guardsmen after an award ceremony.



Homeland Security. Shortly thereafter, we will begin the process of trying to rationalize and take 22 different management and personnel systems into one.

But on March 1, by and large, every man and woman in this office and 170,000 plus employees around this country will go to work doing the same thing they're doing now. But in time, we hope that we can empower them and enable them, through a variety of different means, to do an even better job than they're doing now. And I believe that's going to happen.

**QUESTION:** Also, as within any merger, people start wondering where they're going to go to work, who is going to be their boss, what's going to happen to their boss, will they survive or not. How do you counter analysis paralysis, and is it getting in the way of homeland security in the meantime?

**RIDGE:** These men and women have been going to work, protecting the homeland before Sept. 11, 2001. They've been doing their job on a regular basis before we decided that we could do an even better job by merging these departments.

And all we ask of them is, continue to do that job as well as they've been doing it, and it's up to us to empower them in other ways to enable them to do an even better job. There will be some changes, clearly. But changes bring opportunities. And in my sense, in my judgement, that we have opportunities to work more closely together than we ever have before, we have an opportunity to get — put together a contemporary personnel system that gives us the kind of merit-based, fairness-based program that

we want to govern all 22 presently different departments and agencies.

We obviously have to create a personnel system around which the interaction between all of us is solid — it's positive. So I'm very optimistic about our ability to work with the new units as we bring them together to create one agency for the first time ever whose primary mission — you and I are going to talk probably a little bit about some of the other historical missions, and we've got to stay focused on that. But our primary mission every morning when we wake up to go to work is to protect America.

**QUESTION:** Some of the organizations and agencies are doing things that do not relate directly to homeland security. How do you prevent those other tasks from being lost or sublimated to the larger priority of homeland security?

**RIDGE:** I think we begin with the notion that the historic mission that these agencies have been on remains an integral part of how they do business each and every day... So you've got the Coast Guard. They do fisheries and they rescue and they protect our borders. But we've got to have them focus on ports. And they've been doing that now; but, again, with some assistance from the new department, they can do an even better job.

So I would say, if your responsibilities in this particular department or agency are not directed toward homeland security, what you're doing — some way, some manner, shape or form — will be a part of the system we have to protect this country. And again, we think bringing these people together, they'll do an even better job. And they do a good job right now.



**NOVEMBER 25, 2002** — President George W. Bush signs legislation creating the new Department of Homeland Security. After proposing the new department June 6, 2002, Bush spoke at places such as Port Elizabeth, N.J., (above) on the importance of such a department. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Coast Guard has refined its homeland security mission by implementing new assets such as marine safety and security teams (right), and preparing for future assets, such as the the proposed Deepwater project's national security cutter (top right).

