



# HOMELAND SECURITY

## *War On Terror Timeline*

2001

● **September 20, 2001:** President Bush proposes a new Office of Homeland Security.

● **October 7, 2001:** President Bush announces Operation Enduring Freedom to dismantle the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which is harboring al Qaeda.

● **October 8, 2001:** President Bush establishes the Office of Homeland Security in the Executive Office of the President and appoints Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge as Director.

● **November 19, 2001:** President Bush signs the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, creating the Transportation Security Administration.

● **October 4, 2002:** Six suspected members of the al Qaeda terrorist network operating near Buffalo are indicted.

● **November 25, 2002:** President Bush signs the Homeland Security Act of 2002, establishing the Department of Homeland Security.

2002

● **January 7, 2003:** Congress creates the Select Committee on Homeland Security with authorizing and oversight responsibility for the new Department of Homeland Security.

● **January 17, 2003:** Secretary Powell reopens the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. The embassy had been closed for over 25 years.

● **January 24, 2003:** President Bush swears in Tom Ridge as the first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

● **March 1, 2003:** Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged architect of the September 11th attacks is captured in Pakistan.

● **March 17, 2003:** Homeland Security Department commences Operation Liberty Shield, an increase in protective measures to defend the homeland.

● **March 19, 2003:** President Bush launches Operation Iraqi Freedom to end the regime of Saddam Hussein and its support of terrorism.

2003

● **April 2, 2003:** House passage of the \$79 billion Wartime Supplemental Appropriations bill to provide crucial funding for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

● **May 1, 2003:** President Bush declares an end to major combat operations in Iraq aboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

● **May 1, 2003:** The Terrorist Threat Integration Center begins operations.

● **May 12, 2003:** Homeland Security Department launches TopOff II, a week-long national training exercise for emergency preparedness and response.

● **June 8, 2003:** Acting on a tip from U.S. authorities, Thai police arrest Narong Penanam, who tried to sell cesium-137 to make a "dirty bomb."

● **June 19, 2003:** Lyman Faris, the Ohio truck driver who plotted with Osama Bin Laden to cut the cables on the Brooklyn Bridge, pleads guilty.

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***CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER COX***

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2003

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- **June 24, 2003:** House passes the first ever Homeland Security Appropriations bill, approving \$29.4 billion to bolster our homeland security, bringing funding for First Responders to more than \$20 billion since 9/11.
- **July 16, 2003:** House passage of Project Bioshield to help prevent and inoculate for bio-terror attack.
- **July 22, 2003:** Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusai, killed by U.S. forces.
- **August 12, 2003:** Arrest in Newark of Hemant Lakhani, London arms dealer who tried to smuggle surface-to-air missiles
- **August 19, 2003:** Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan Al-Jizrawi, #20 on U.S. Most Wanted list, captured.
- **August 21, 2003:** "Chemical Ali" captured in Iraq.
- **September 2, 2003:** Secretary Ridge announces the "One Face at the Border" initiative to unify the border inspection process.
- **September 23, 2003:** Authorities arrest Rusman Gunawan, the brother Of Al Qaeda operative Riduan Isamuddin, in Pakistan and 14 students who were with him were also arrested on charges of suspected terrorism.
- **October 1, 2003:** President Bush signs the first Homeland Security Appropriations bill into law.
- **October 30, 2003:** HR 2886, The Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act is reported favorably out of the Homeland Security Committee
- **November 20, 2003:** HR 3266, The Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2003 passes unanimously in the House Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness and Response.
- **November 20, 2003:** The Homeland Security Department released final rules to allow the customs and border protection directorate to collect information necessary to identify high-risk cargo shipments bound for the United States.
- **November 26, 2003:** Mohammed Hamdi al-Ahdal, a top al Qaeda leader in Yemen, is captured. Al-Ahdal was one of the top 20 al Qaeda members at large, and is suspected of planning the bombing of the USS Cole in 2000.
- **December 13, 2003:** Saddam Hussein is captured by U.S. forces in a hole north of Baghdad. The former dictator of Iraq is responsible for numerous heinous crimes; an estimated 300,000 victims of Saddam's regime are buried in mass graves in Iraq.

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