

Chairman Thompson Responds to White House Homeland Security Strategy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, October 09, 2007

Tuesday, October 9, 2007 – Today, the White House Homeland Security Council released its National Strategy for Homeland Security, updating a prior homeland security strategy released in July 2002. Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, issued the following statement:

“When the U.S. Government releases a strategy document, people take notice. Sadly, any anticipation leading up to the release of this report may have been more exciting than the information contained within it.”

“This document represents a roadmap of broad principles, many of which are commonly supported. The real question is, nearly five years after the Department of Homeland Security was created, what’s new in this national strategy and how will it better the national effort to secure the homeland?” asked Rep. Thompson.

“The reality is that this Strategy provides little guidance for the deficiencies already taxing our homeland security capacity, while at the same time, it attempts to define successes in border security, information sharing, and biopreparedness, which have not yet been realized.”

“On September 5, I presented Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff with a To-Do list of 6 points critical to achieving homeland security. The list includes programs and initiatives that this White House Homeland Security Strategy seems to gloss over. I only wish the White House spent as much time addressing these known vulnerabilities as it has producing this Strategy update.

View Chairman Thompson’s “Chertoff To-Do List” below

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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CHERTOFF TO-DO LIST

- **Critical Vacancies at the Department of Homeland Security**- *Develop a plan for the mass exodus that will occur due to an Administration change.*
- **Containers Security Standards and Procedures (Seals)**-*Draft the regulations as mandated by the SAFE Port Act of 2006 and mandated again by the 9/11 Bill.*
- **National Response Plan (NRP)**- *release long overdue NRP while ensuring adequate input from state and local officials.*
- **Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)**- *Issue the TWIC card as mandated by the SAFE Port Act of 2006.*
- **Explosives Detection at Passenger Screening Checkpoints** –*Issue the strategic plan that was required by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 and mandated again by the 9/11 Bill.*
- **Complete Critical Border Security Initiatives:** *Implement US-VISIT biometric air exit by the end of calendar year 2008 and complete Project 28.*