

*Americans' Homeland Security:
Lest We Forget*



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**Prepared by the Republican House Policy Committee
United States Representative Thaddeus G. McCotter, Chair
110th Congress**



Overture



*They took all the footage off my TV
Said it's too disturbing for you and me
It'll just breed anger, that's what the experts say
If it was up to me I'd show it everyday...*

*Have you forgotten how it felt that day
To see your homeland under fire
And her people blown away?
Have you forgotten when those towers fell?
We had neighbors still inside
Going through a living hell...*

*Have you forgotten all the people killed?
Yes, some went down like heroes in that Pennsylvania field
Have your forgotten about our Pentagon?
All the loved ones that we lost
And those left to carry on
Don't you tell me not to worry 'bout Bin Laden
Have you forgotten?*

Have you forgotten?

**“Have You Forgotten”
Darryl Worley**

(Musical Selection Courtesy of Hon. Marsha Blackburn)



America's Challenge



The World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon, a Pennsylvania field – each tragic site seared in the American consciousness.

Or is it?

For the Greatest Generation, the sudden and unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor was a moment they swore would be avenged and forever remembered by all Americans. To its eternal credit and veneration, the Greatest Generation kept its promises. But after the attack, as the days turned into decades many members of later generations of Americans did forget Pearl Harbor's horrific events; were ignorant of its national security lessons; and could not even locate the battle's site on a map.

Such societal amnesia bodes ill for a nation engaged in another world war against abject evil, because it reveals America's greatest strength and weakness in our war on terror: our collectively short attention span.

To appreciate this fact, we must first appreciate the aims and tactics of our evil enemy. The enemy is bent upon ending American influence, not only in the Middle East, but in the world. While some in their hubris dismiss the possibility, the enemy has been

convinced otherwise by the Soviet Union's defeat in Afghanistan and subsequent dissolution. Succinctly, the enemy sees no ideological or historical reason why they cannot cause the fate of the former Soviet Socialist of Georgia to be shared by our current State of Georgia. Further, the enemy believes our national failures in Vietnam, Lebanon, and Somalia stemmed from our enemies' determination and our own decadence. To pursue this aim, the enemy's strategy is to export a continuous torrent of terror to our shores; demoralize our citizenry; destroy our economy; and, ultimately, hasten our disintegration as the leader of the Free World and as a free people.

It is, of course, very hard for our free people to fathom how our enemy could so revile our existence they would sacrifice their own children as "suicide bombers" in order to kill our children and ourselves. Americans' very human reaction to the enemy's venom is matched by our also very human desire to regard September 11, 2001, as a one-time attack which cannot be replicated; and, therefore, disregard, dismiss, or forget about the danger altogether. Since the world war on terror is fought less upon a map but more upon one's mind, the enemy views Americans' cognitive dissonance about the nature of the threat and the potential for the actual attack's replication as an *obstacle* to creating the perception of perpetual terror amongst our populace. In this sense, then, our short attention span constitutes an asset, because it prevents the terrorists from establishing in our minds a constant state of fear.

Conversely, our collective short attention span forms a liability, because it concomitantly prevents us from remaining in a continuous state of readiness. In the area of Homeland

Security (and, yes, in our largely counter-insurgency battles overseas), one of this war's greatest psychological challenges is the fact our side cannot individually trumpet its victories in stopping terrorism. All previous combatants in war utilized information (or more crudely, propaganda) to galvanize one's home front and demoralize an opponent's home front. Contrarily, in the world War on Terror – especially in the area of homeland security – unprecedented propaganda constraints severely delimit a nation's ability to broadcasting its victories to its citizens. Practically and strategically, the U.S. and its allies cannot list all of the terrorist attacks prevented without jeopardizing precious (and often scare) intelligence sources; instructing terrorists as to the internal machinery of homeland defenses; and disconcerting and demoralizing the citizenry.

In sum, the American public is reduced to accepting the proposition “No news is good news”; equating government officials' silence with homeland security's efficacy; and, all the while, remain fully engaged in the War on Terror. It is a daunting chore and dangerous circumstance. In yet another dubious precedent of the War on Terror, Americans rarely hear of our wins; and our enemies rarely hear of the losses. The inverted equation becomes elementary and insidious: the more successful the effort to stop terrorist attacks on American soil, the more likely Americans are to believe the War has already been won or the threat significantly diminished; and, for the terrorism's adherents, one successful attack amidst a sea of defeats will delude them into believing they are winning, and will lead them to ever greater depths of depravity.

This “unclear and present danger” is the reason for our collectively short attention span which, in turn, imbues America’s Homeland Security with critical strategic fallacies.

A first critical strategic fallacy is to focus Homeland Security on instruments not individuals. For example, the Democrats’ 9/11 legislation made a commendable effort to secure America from potential instruments of terror, such as cargo containers, but not upon the terrorists who would tamper with the cargo containers in the first place. This is tantamount to an egg before the chicken approach, which ignores how, even if one removes an egg from the nest, the chicken will simply lay another egg somewhere else. The brutal truth remains: If one seeks to stop the laying of eggs, one must kill or capture the chicken.

To finally prove the point, the most glaring instance of this failed approach can be seen in Homeland Security’s greatest vulnerability: border security. Too many policy makers believe new technologies can stem the flood of individuals – including those who could be terrorists – pouring across our southern border. Technology alone, be it an unmanned aerial drone or a seven hundred mile fence has not, will not, and can never secure our border against individuals and enemies seeking to tread upon our sovereign soil.

Compounding the problem, this critical fallacy often causes a failure to account for the critical interdependence of Homeland Security and commerce, both of which are targeted by enemy. In the instance of screening every cargo container entering an American port, the rush to attain this goal often omits to account for crucial details: how many ordinary

cargo containers will be falsely screened and deemed dangerous or suspect?; how many and how long will cargo containers be stacked on wharves or elsewhere awaiting a screening?; and, once allowed into U.S. ports, how best to protect cargo containers as they trek thousands of miles of domestic highways and waterways to reach their ultimate destination within our stream of commerce? Unless potential problems are comprehensively studied and solved with proper balance between security and commerce, an over-emphasis on the security of instrumentalities and objects risks succeeding only in disadvantaging businesses and, thereby, facilitating the terrorists goal of debilitating our economy by increasing costs for businesses and expenses for consumers without a commensurate increase in security.

This critical strategic fallacy, in turn, spurs a second: the overestimation of the power of new technologies to protect us from terrorism. Of course, the development of such technologies is necessary; however, it is by no means a guarantee of Americans' Homeland Security. These technologies are only as good as the uses to which properly trained people put them; and these technologies will not, in and of themselves, kill or capture terrorists. Therefore, if the main emphasis is to create security technologies designed to discover instruments of terror after their creation by terrorists, this strategy will fail. Does not the tragic truth prove the point? On September 11, 2001 nearly 3,000 Americans were killed by terrorists who passed through airport metal detectors armed only with box cutters and boarding passes.

Underlying these and other critical strategic fallacies is the question implicitly permeating the Homeland Security debate. Is terrorism a danger best dealt with and deterred by treating it as a solely criminal matter?

No.

Our enemy views itself as an army not a gang. We should stipulate to their self-assessment. A criminal enterprise seeks to survive and savor the fruits of its illegal activity. The terrorist enemy will die to kill you. In other words, denying the instrumentality of a gun to and implementing the technology of a security camera can effectively protect a bank safe from a criminal motivated to pilfer it and escape the scene of the crime. The same precautions will not prove sufficient to stop a terrorist motivated to blow up the safety box and doesn't give a damn who finds his body parts at the scene of the crime.

What, then, is the critical strategic principle America must embrace and implement in our Homeland Security?

“Know your enemy.”

Is this not a central lesson gleaned from the 9/11 Commission's statement, “We believe the 9/11 attacks revealed four kinds of failures: imagination, policy, capabilities, and management.” There can be no effective “policy, capabilities, and management” in

homeland security unless Americans possess the “imagination” to think like their enemy. To do this, we must know them.

Following this critical strategic principle will inculcate the proper policies and capabilities, and their management, by forcing us to realize our evil enemy constitutes an ideologically motivated, unconventional army bent upon killing Americans by any means – including killing themselves – to destroy our rights and terminate our global leadership. The principle will focus our efforts on killing and capturing terrorists before they acquire the instrumentalities to kill or subjugate us; and, inherently, disabuse us of the notion technologies, alone, will prove sufficient protection from terror. The principle will stem misguided, if well intentioned, efforts to treat terrorism as a solely criminal matter. But of paramount importance, the principle will compel all citizens to face and defeat the very real danger confronting our Homeland; end Americans’ temptation to collectively diminish or dismiss the terrorists unclear and present danger to us; and turn our collective short term attention span into a thorough asset by placing our nation, not in a perpetual state, but of constant vigilance; and ensure we ever remember our fellow Americans murdered in the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon, and a Pennsylvania field on September 11, 2001.

Republican Principles



The United States of America has the sovereign right to defend itself from all enemies, both foreign and domestic.



The government of the United States of America is charged with the moral duty to defend the lives, liberty, and property of the citizenry.



The government of the United States of America cannot abrogate this moral duty, nor delegate it, in whole or in part, to another sovereign nation or any other entity.



In fulfilling its moral duty to defend the lives, liberty, and property of the citizenry, the government of the United States of America must, by any and all lawful means, eliminate all threats both here and abroad.

Republican Policies



The United States of America must devise and implement a comprehensive, balanced and effective Homeland Security strategy founded upon the full human and technological resources of our nation to provide maximal protection to our people.



This comprehensive, balanced, and effective Homeland Security strategy must be built upon the principle of knowing our enemy. Possessed of this knowledge, the government of the United States can then develop a risk-based analysis to most accurately determine which sites the terrorists will target; what instrumentalities they may utilize in their targeting of these sites; and what new technologies must be devised to counter the enemy's threat.



This Homeland Security strategy must balance the pursuit of security and the protection of civil liberties. The principle of knowing our enemy both hastens its destruction and guards our civil liberties. Versed in the enemy's ideology, tactics, and objectives, Homeland Security can narrow their focus upon a small pool of "persons of interest" in potential cases of terrorism; thus, the vast majority of Americans will not run the risk of having their civil liberties infringed in the government's determined and necessary pursuit of terrorists. Importantly, a misunderstanding of the enemy or an underestimation of its unclear and present danger will, at best, lead policy makers to expend precious Homeland Security resources erecting a

bureaucracy compelled to justify its existence by pursuing real and (more often) alleged complaints of civil rights infringements rather than capturing terrorists. This will hamper the efforts of every single individual and entity charged with Homeland Security. At worst, of course, this will mislead policy makers into deeming terrorism a criminal matter, wherein a citizens' constitutional rights are accorded to foreign terrorists bent on destroying the United States – and even receiving tax dollars better spent on capturing terrorists for, instead, a defense attorney to press the terrorists' newly conferred rights. (Sadly this extreme situation is not merely perverse, it is reality. Doubtless, too it is a cold comfort to those men and women who for generations have risked and, in far too many instances, given their lives to defend our rights from the very terrorists now being given these same rights. Such is not the sign of a magnanimous nation; it is the sign of a self-destructive civilization.)



Homeland Security strategy must balance the quest for one-hundred percent security (impossible in a free society) with the interests of commerce. To accomplish this, the federal government must take into account the impacts legislation will have on the economy, which is a prime target of the terrorists. Further, the public sector must forge a partnership with the private sector to ensure both security and prosperity. A key element of this partnership will be the continued development and utilization of Homeland Security pilot programs. These test cases will provide immediately increased protection to Americans; and either prove their effectiveness or prevent their unwarranted implementation. And, of course, in preventing the utilization of ineffective or inefficient security programs, more taxpayer dollars will be better spent on protecting our people.



Finally, the federal government must strenuously resist the pervasive temptation to equate more spending and bigger bureaucracies with promoting Homeland Security. Again, as the economy is a terrorist target, precious tax dollars must be spent smartly, in order to maximally protect our liberty and our economy.

Advancing American Exceptionalism



On September 11th, 2001, America was shaken by a sudden and concerted act of terrorism by fanatics who possessed no justification - and our nation no culpability - for their willful, deliberate, and pre-meditated murder of innocents. Stunned, we resolutely marshaled our courage and solemnly accepted the duty to defend our country and human civilization from the atavistic nihilism of Islamist extremism, which amorally and arbitrarily colors and conditions the inviolable sanctity of human life within the skewed prism of its adherents' abject pursuit of power.

This is neither the first, nor undoubtedly the last, time our nation will be called upon to protect itself and all the world from an extremist enemy with inhuman aims. In our relatively brief existence, we have led the successful efforts to eradicate the evils of Imperialism, Fascism, and Communism; and, heartened by our storied tradition of valor and victory, our current efforts must and will continue to tighten nooses around the necks of the practitioners of terror until they have joined their extremist antecedents in the ash can of history.

It will be a long, hard, bitter task to defeat these disparate, desperate denizens of terror, who skulk in the shadows and steep in the venom of their perverted political phantasms. Their strength is their stealth and ruthlessness which, in the absence of their own nation-

state, was spawned by their inability to wage conventional war upon traditional combatants. Their weakness, in turn, is their inability to subsist and act without sustenance from a cut-throat confederation of sheltering nation states and sympathizers.

These murderers are at once everywhere and nowhere; shrill in their threats, silent in their tactics; housed in the bosoms of evil and hunted in the citadels of freedom - they are the faceless foes of a million mile front in a war without borders or bounds, but with this grim reality:

They want to kill us.

They want to kill our children.

And to kill us, they will kill themselves, too.

Make no mistake: The only way to stop them from killing us, is to first kill them until they capitulate.

And unless and until our victory is won, every American - man, woman, and child – will live in a perpetual state of immanent threat from terrorists and their patrons because, as proven by the sneak attack on September 11th - the extremists' existence is an immanent threat to our existence.

Given this grim reality and our enemies' assets and liabilities, defeating terrorists requires severing them from their sponsoring states and sympathizers in tiered theaters of operations determined and devised as necessity demands and opportunity provides; and within these theaters the operations involved - diplomatic, economic and military - must each be tailored by time and circumstance for maximal advantage and efficiency. It is a root and branch approach: the U.S. and its allies must uproot regimes supporting terrorism; serve notice on other rogue regimes to cease and desist in their succor of terror, lest they suffer the same fate; and leave terrorists to die on the vine of their own dependencies and the steel of our resolve.

In the war fulfilling this duty to humanity, our first priority is to protect and defend America's Homeland Security. To do so throughout this unsought struggle, we must mobilize our nation's greatest resource: Ourselves.

For while our path is clear, our road is hard. But we must tread it ever bravely to a better world for ourselves and our children. There is no turning back to await an ignoble death.

In his December 26, 1941 address to a joint session of Congress, Prime Minister Winston Churchill warned another shocked generation of Americans sucked into a world conflagration to firmly press on:

“Some people may be startled or momentarily depressed when, like your President, I speak of a long and hard war. But our peoples would rather know the truth, somber

though it be. And, after all, when we are doing the noblest work in the world, not only defending our hearths and homes but the cause of freedom in other lands...Sure I am that this day – now we are the masters of our fate; that the task which has been set us is not above our strength; that its pangs and toils are not beyond our endurance. As long as we have faith in our cause and an unconquerable will-power, salvation will not be denied us.” Once again ambushed but unbowed, we heirs of Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill have again allied and formed a “Coalition of the Willing” to defend our homelands and defeat the common enemies of our countries and our civilization, while much of the world stands mute or worse and seems blithely ambivalent to the arrival of the terrorists upon their doorsteps. But we cannot evade this crusade; we cannot wish the world away. Today’s War on Terror will yield either a bitter death or a better day; and, thusly, does our generation of Americans faces our fiercest foe and our finest hour.

As Americans, we are honor bound to defend freedom for ourselves and all the world; and, no one more ably embodied and expressed this grim acceptance of our sacred duty than our valiant, war-time Commander in Chief, whom I quote:

“There comes a time when you and I must see the cold, inexorable necessity of saying to these inhuman, unrestrained seekers of world conquest and permanent world domination by the sword: ‘You seek to throw our children and our children’s children into your form of terrorism and slavery. You have now attacked our own safety. You shall go no further.’

“Normal practices of diplomacy – note writing – are of no possible use in dealing with international outlaws who...kill our citizens.

“One peaceful nation after another has met disaster because each refused to look the [Nazi] danger squarely in the eye until it actually had them by the throat.

“The United States will not make that fatal mistake...”

Our President continued:

“I have no illusions about the gravity of this step. I have not taken it hurriedly or lightly. It is the result of months and months of constant thought and anxiety and prayer. In the protection of your nation and mine it cannot be avoided.

“The American people have faced other grave crises in their history – with American courage, and with American resolution. They will do no less today.

“They know the actualities of the attacks upon us. They know the necessities of a bold defense against these attacks. They know that the times call for clear heads and fearless hearts.

“And with that inner strength that comes to a free people conscious of their duty, and conscious of the righteousness of what they do, they will – with Divine help and guidance

– stand their ground against this latest assault upon their democracy, their sovereignty, and their freedom.”

These were the inspirational words our war-time President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, used to conclude his Fireside Chat on National Defense...

On Sept 11th, 1941.

Be it September 11th, 1941 or September 11th, 2001, our nation – founded as a revolutionary experiment in democracy, and remaining so to this day – so remains the primary target of all would-be world despots; consequently, as every generation of Americans inherits the blessings and the burdens of our liberty, every generation of Americans has the right and responsibility to defend our nation and civilization against every tyrant and terrorist who knows they cannot enslave and exterminate humanity so long as the United States and its people breath free and fight on against them.

In this, our moment, such is our duty we must accept. And, be it in a foreign killing field or a Bronx baseball field, our duty will be met in this, our finest hour.



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