



FBI PRIORITIES

The FBI's principal mission is to defend the security of the United States and within that mission there are priority focus areas. On May 29, 2002, Director Mueller announced the priorities of the FBI to clearly articulate to the American public, our Law Enforcement and Intelligence Community partners, and the employees of the FBI, the manner in which the FBI will address its wide range of responsibilities.

The order of the listed priorities is determined by the interaction of three factors: (1) the significance of the threat to the security of the United States as expressed by the President in National Security Presidential Decision Directive 26; (2) the priority the American public places on various threats; and (3) the degree to which addressing the threat falls most exclusively within the FBI's jurisdiction.

The FBI has a broad mission with varied and competing challenges. By weighing and evaluating the above factors, the top priorities of the FBI become clear.

Director Mueller has established ten priorities. The first eight are listed in order of priority. The final points (collaborative partnerships and technology improvement) are key enabling functions that are of such importance they merit inclusion. The priorities are:

- 1. Protect the United States from terrorist attack;***
- 2. Protect the United States against foreign intelligence operations and espionage;***
- 3. Protect the United States against cyber-based attacks and high-technology crimes;***
- 4. Combat public corruption at all levels;***
- 5. Protect civil rights;***
- 6. Combat transnational and national criminal organizations and enterprises;***
- 7. Combat major white collar crime;***
- 8. Combat significant violent crime;***
- 9. Support federal, state, local, and international partners;***
- 10. Upgrade technology to successfully perform the FBI's mission.***

By stating our priorities, we discipline our actions. We now staff and work high priority matters before lower ones. Support processes, including hiring and technological competence, serve our highest priorities first.