



President Establishes Office of Homeland Security

Summary of the [President's Executive Order](#)

The Office of Homeland Security & the Homeland Security Council

The Office of Homeland Security

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Mission & Management

The President will establish the Office of Homeland Security that will be headed by the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security -- Governor Tom Ridge.

The mission of the Office will be to develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from terrorist threats or attacks. The Office will coordinate the executive branch's efforts to detect, prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks within the United States.

National Strategy

The Office will work with executive departments and agencies, state and local governments, and private entities to ensure the adequacy of the national strategy for detecting, preparing for, preventing, protecting against, responding to, and recovering from terrorist threats or attacks within the United States and will periodically review and coordinate revisions to that strategy as necessary.

Detection

The Office will identify priorities and coordinate efforts for collection and analysis of information within

the United States regarding threats of terrorism against the United States and activities of terrorists or terrorist groups within the United States. The Office will also identify, in coordination with the Assistant to the President for [National Security Affairs](#), priorities for collection of intelligence outside the United States regarding threats of terrorism within the United States. The Office will work with federal, state, and local agencies to:

- facilitate collection from state and local governments and private entities of information pertaining to terrorist threats or activities within the United States;
- coordinate and prioritize the requirements for foreign intelligence relating to terrorism within the United States of executive departments and agencies responsible for homeland security, and provide these requirements and priorities to the Director of [Central Intelligence](#) and other agencies responsible for collection of foreign intelligence;
- coordinate efforts to ensure that all executive departments and agencies that have intelligence collection responsibilities have sufficient technological capabilities and resources to collect intelligence and data relating to terrorist activities or possible terrorist acts within the United States, working with the Assistant to the President for [National Security Affairs](#), as appropriate;
- coordinate development of monitoring protocols and equipment for use in detecting the release of biological, chemical, and radiological hazards; and
- ensure that, to the extent permitted by law, all appropriate and necessary intelligence and law enforcement information relating to homeland security is disseminated to and exchanged among appropriate executive departments and agencies responsible for homeland security and, where appropriate for reasons of homeland security, promote exchange of such information with and among state and local governments and private entities.

Preparedness

The Office of Homeland Security will coordinate national efforts to prepare for and mitigate the consequences of terrorist threats or attacks within the United States. In performing this function, the Office will work with federal, state, and local agencies, and private entities to:

- review and assess the adequacy of the portions of all federal emergency response plans that pertain to terrorist threats or attacks within the United States;
- coordinate domestic exercises and simulations designed to assess and practice systems that would be called upon to respond to a terrorist threat or attack within the United States and coordinate programs and activities for training federal, state, and local employees who would be called upon to respond to such a threat or attack;
- coordinate national efforts to ensure public health preparedness for a terrorist attack, including reviewing vaccination policies and reviewing the adequacy of and, if necessary, increasing vaccine and pharmaceutical stockpiles and hospital capacity;
- coordinate federal assistance to state and local authorities and non-governmental organizations to prepare for and respond to terrorist threats or attacks within the United States;
- ensure that national preparedness programs and activities for terrorist threats or attacks are developed and are regularly evaluated under appropriate standards and that resources are allocated to improving and sustaining preparedness based on such evaluations; and
- ensure the readiness and coordinated deployment of federal response teams to respond to terrorist threats or attacks, working with the Assistant to the President for [National Security](#)

[Affairs](#), when appropriate.

Prevention

The Office will coordinate efforts to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States. In performing this function, the Office shall work with federal, state, and local agencies, and private entities to:

- facilitate the exchange of information among such agencies relating to immigration and visa matters and shipments of cargo; and, working with the Assistant to the President for [National Security Affairs](#), ensure coordination among such agencies to prevent the entry of terrorists and terrorist materials and supplies into the United States and facilitate removal of such terrorists from the United States, when appropriate;
- coordinate efforts to investigate terrorist threats and attacks within the United States; and
- coordinate efforts to improve the security of United States borders, territorial waters, and airspace in order to prevent acts of terrorism within the United States, working with the Assistant to the President for [National Security Affairs](#), when appropriate.

Protection

The Office will coordinate efforts to protect the United States and its critical infrastructure from the consequences of terrorist attacks. In performing this function, the Office shall work with federal, state, and local agencies, and private entities to:

- strengthen measures for protecting energy production, transmission, and distribution services and critical facilities; other utilities; telecommunications; facilities that produce, use, store, or dispose of nuclear material; and other critical infrastructure services and critical facilities within the United States from terrorist attack;
- coordinate efforts to protect critical public and privately owned information systems within the United States from terrorist attack;
- develop criteria for reviewing whether appropriate security measures are in place at major public and privately owned facilities within the United States;
- coordinate domestic efforts to ensure that special events determined by appropriate senior officials to have national significance are protected from terrorist attack;
- coordinate efforts to protect transportation systems within the United States, including railways, highways, shipping, ports and waterways, and airports and civilian aircraft, from terrorist attack;
- coordinate efforts to protect United States livestock, agriculture, and systems for the provision of water and food for human use and consumption from terrorist attack; and
- coordinate efforts to prevent unauthorized access to, development of, and unlawful importation into the United States of, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive, or other related materials that have the potential to be used in terrorist attacks.

Response and Recovery

The Office will coordinate efforts to respond to and promote recovery from terrorist threats or attacks within the United States. In performing this function, the Office shall work with federal, state, and local agencies, and private entities to:

- coordinate efforts to ensure rapid restoration of transportation systems, energy production, transmission, and distribution systems; telecommunications; other utilities; and other critical infrastructure facilities after disruption by a terrorist threat or attack;
- coordinate efforts to ensure rapid restoration of public and private critical information systems after disruption by a terrorist threat or attack;
- work with the [National Economic Council](#) to coordinate efforts to stabilize United States financial markets after a terrorist threat or attack and manage the immediate economic and financial consequences of the incident;
- coordinate federal plans and programs to provide medical, financial, and other assistance to victims of terrorist attacks and their families; and
- coordinate containment and removal of biological, chemical, radiological, explosive, or other hazardous materials in the event of a terrorist threat or attack involving such hazards and coordinate efforts to mitigate the effects of such an attack.

Incident Management

The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security will be the individual primarily responsible for coordinating the domestic response efforts of all departments and agencies in the event of an imminent terrorist threat and during and in the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack within the United States and shall be the principal point of contact for and to the President with respect to coordination of such efforts. The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security will coordinate with the Assistant to the President for [National Security Affairs](#), as appropriate.

Continuity of Government

The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, in coordination with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, will review plans and preparations for ensuring the continuity of the Federal Government in the event of a terrorist attack that threatens the safety and security of the United States Government or its leadership.

Public Affairs

The Office, subject to the direction of the White House Office of Communications, shall coordinate the strategy of the executive branch for communicating with the public in the event of a terrorist threat or attack within the United States. The Office also will coordinate the development of programs for educating the public about the nature of terrorist threats and appropriate precautions and responses.

Review of Legal Authorities and Development of Legislative Proposals

The Office will coordinate a periodic review and assessment of the legal authorities available to executive departments and agencies to permit them to perform the functions described in this order. When the Office determines that such legal authorities are inadequate, the Office will develop, in consultation with executive departments and agencies, proposals for presidential action and legislative proposals for submission to the [Office of Management and Budget](#) to enhance the ability of executive departments and agencies to perform those functions. The Office will work with state and local governments in assessing the adequacy of their legal authorities to permit them to detect, prepare for,

prevent, protect against, and recover from terrorist threats and attacks.

Budget Review

The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of the [Office of Management and Budget](#) and the heads of executive departments and agencies, will identify programs that contribute to the Administration's strategy for homeland security and, in the development of the President's annual budget submission, shall review and provide advice to the heads of departments and agencies for such programs. The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security will provide advice to the Director on the level and use of funding in departments and agencies for homeland security-related activities and, prior to the Director's forwarding of the proposed annual budget submission to the President for transmittal to Congress, will certify to the Director the funding levels that the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security believes are necessary and appropriate for the homeland security-related activities of the executive branch.

Administration

The Office of Homeland Security will be directed by the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. The [Office of Administration](#) within the Executive Office of the President shall provide the Office of Homeland Security with such personnel, funding, and administrative support, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, as directed by the Chief of Staff to carry out the provisions of this order.

Heads of executive departments and agencies are authorized, to the extent permitted by law, to detail or assign personnel of such departments and agencies to the Office of Homeland Security upon request of the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, subject to the approval of the Chief of Staff.

The Homeland Security Council

The [President's Executive Order](#) establishes a Homeland Security Council which will be responsible for advising and assisting the President with respect to all aspects of homeland security. The Council will serve as the mechanism for ensuring coordination of homeland security-related activities of executive departments and agencies and effective development and implementation of homeland security policies.

The Council will have as its members the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of the [Treasury](#), the Secretary of [Defense](#), the [Attorney General](#), the Secretary of [Health and Human Services](#), the Secretary of [Transportation](#), the Director of the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), the Director of the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#), the Director of [Central Intelligence](#), the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and such other officers of the executive branch as the President may from time to time designate. The Chief of Staff, the Chief of Staff to the Vice President, the Assistant to the President for [National Security Affairs](#), the Counsel to the President, and the Director of the [Office of Management and Budget](#) also are invited to attend any Council meeting. The Secretary of [State](#), the Secretary of [Agriculture](#), the Secretary of the [Interior](#), the Secretary of [Energy](#), the Secretary of [Labor](#), the Secretary of [Commerce](#), the Secretary of [Veterans Affairs](#), the Administrator of the [Environmental](#)

[Protection Agency](#), the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy shall be invited to attend meetings pertaining to their responsibilities. The heads of other executive departments and agencies and other senior officials shall be invited to attend Council meetings when appropriate.

The Council will meet at the President's direction. When the President is absent from a meeting of the Council, at the President's direction the Vice President may preside. The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security will be responsible, at the President's direction, for determining the agenda, ensuring that necessary papers are prepared, and recording Council actions and Presidential decisions.

Related Document:

- [Executive Order Establishing Office of Homeland Security](#) (Oct. 8, 2001)
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