

Filling the Gaps in U.S. Homeland Security

A To-Do List for the U.S. Government to Keep America Safe from Terrorism

Among all the threats to America's well-being – global warming, cancer, violent crime – catastrophic terrorism has topped our list of concerns since 9/11. But while the 'War on Terror' often leads the news, it is rarely clear what exactly needs to be done to win it. To help close this gap in public understanding, the board of Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science & International Affairs has identified a list of essential steps that have yet to be taken, several of which directly contributed to the damage done in the 9/11 attacks.

While not comprehensive, this list reflects our research on the range of measures we need to take to protect America from terrorism. These issues belong at the top of our government's to-do list, and on any list of questions for federal candidates this fall.

To speak further with Belfer Center experts on these issues, contact John_Neffinger@ksg.harvard.edu, (617) 495-5468.

Strategy	Key gap	Priority action	Cost est.
I. Contain damage from attacks	1. <u>Incompatible Radios</u> First responders lack equipment to communicate following an attack	1. <u>Prepare for Rapid Response</u> Make sure basic protocols like communications are in place before disbursing other federal funds	\$350 M /1 year
	2. <u>Lack of Bio-Defenses</u> 1st responders not vaccinated; only make vaccine for 1 of 6 top threats	2. <u>Prepare 1st-Line Vaccinations</u> Vaccinate 1st responders, offer competitive returns to get manufacturers to make new vaccines, meds	\$3.5 B /10 years
II. Defend against terror attacks	3. <u>Unheard Warnings</u> U.S. agencies do not share critical info about known enemies	3. <u>Integrate Terror Watch Lists</u> FBI, CIA, DHS (border patrol, immigration, etc.) need to share data on terror suspects	\$15 M /6 mo.s
	4. <u>Unguarded Facilities</u> 85% of critical facilities private; key power, chemical plants not secure	4. <u>Tighten Industrial Security</u> Create financial incentives to get companies to work with government to secure key facilities	\$10's of B's /10 years
III. Keep WMD from terrorists	5. <u>'Loose Nukes'</u> 1000s of nuclear bombs, materials vulnerable to theft globally	5. <u>Secure All Nuclear Materials</u> Secure all potential nuclear bomb materials around the world to effective "gold standard" by 2008	\$10 B /4 years
	6. <u>Nuclear 'Wannabes'</u> Terrorist-friendly N. Korea and Iran pursuing nuclear programs	6. <u>Induce States to Abandon Nukes</u> Craft a 'Grand Bargain' of carrots and sticks to stop programs, press for new treaties to deter others	\$2 B /2 years
IV. Track down terrorists	7. <u>Unused Intelligence</u> Not enough translators available to make sense of incoming info	7. <u>Recruit Agents for Cultural Fit</u> Recruit agents with Arab language and cultural knowledge to gather intelligence, analyze all of it	\$50 M /2 years
	8. <u>Police Out of the Loop</u> Information is not routinely shared between intelligence and police	8. <u>Link Feds with Local Allies</u> Link intelligence community with regional, overseas police centers to share info on suspects	\$200 M /1 year
V. Deny terrorists support	9. <u>Losing the Peace</u> Military power alone can't impose stability on would-be terror havens	9. <u>Ready Reconstruction Forces</u> Expand U.S. reconstruction capabilities to integrate military and civilian efforts, international agencies	\$400 M /year
	10. <u>U. S. Mistrusted</u> Unanswered anti-American lies build sympathy for violent radicals	10. <u>Answer Anti-American Attacks</u> Strengthen U.S. soft power with media response, broadcasting, student and cultural exchanges	\$1 B /year

