

Homeland Insecurity



“Of course we’re doing everything we can to protect America.”

George W. Bush, Oct 8, 2004

Has he?

PRIOR TO THE SEPTEMBER 11th ATTACKS--THE WORST EVER ON AMERICAN SHORES:

- The intelligence system was "blinking red" in the spring and summer of 2001 with REPEATED WARNINGS that Al Qaeda was planning devastating attacks. The Administration never once convened its task force on counterterrorism prior to 9/11, and held only two of over one hundred national security meetings about terrorism!²
- FBI requests for more counterterrorism agents were denied.³ Then acting FBI Director Thomas Pickard has testified that in July, 2001 Attorney General John Ashcroft told him that he did not want to hear more about the growing Al Qaeda threat.⁴
- On Aug. 6 a vacationing President Bush received a CIA briefing entitled "BIN LADEN DETERMINED TO ATTACK IN THE UNITED STATES." A 9/11 Commission report "found no indication of any further discussion before Sept. 11 among the President and his top advisers of the possibility of a threat of an Al Qaeda attack in the U.S."⁵ Domestic agencies were not mobilized, transportation systems were not fortified, and the PUBLIC was NOT WARNED.⁶
- President Bush received 40 other CIA briefings warning of bin Laden as a threat. Yet he told reporters Bob Woodward and Dan Bantz in 2002 that prior to 9/11 he "DIDN'T FEEL THAT SENSE OF URGENCY" about bin Laden.⁷

AFTER 9/11:

- THE 9/11 COMMISSION: Bush RESISTED the creation and functioning of the 9/11 Commission, whose purpose was to assess what went wrong and learn how to prevent similar attacks!⁸
- COUNTERTERRORISM FUNDING: Shortly after September 11, the Bush White House CUT by nearly two-thirds the FBI's emergency request for counterterrorism funds!⁹
- PROSECUTION OF TERRORISTS: Although Attorney General Ashcroft has detained over 5,000 foreign nationals in so-called antiterrorism sweeps, he has obtained only ONE conviction, which was THROWN OUT by a federal judge due to prosecutorial misconduct. The government failed to specify the terrorist activity allegedly being planned and presented no evidence to support the defendants' alleged connection to Al Qaeda. Ashcroft's record: 0 for 5000.¹⁰
- POTENTIAL NUCLEAR ATTACK: President Bush refused to engage in meaningful negotiations with NORTH KOREA about that country's nuclear ambitions, and indications are that North Korea has become a nuclear power.¹¹ Iran has also made nuclear advances. Dangerous NUCLEAR MATERIALS scattered around the globe must be safe-guarded before they fall into the hands of terrorists, but in the two years after 9/11 that process slowed.¹²

- **DOMESTIC SECURITY PROGRAMS: PORT AND AIRLINE SECURITY** has been vastly **UNDERFUNDED**. The Coast Guard said it needs \$8.8 billion over the next 11 years plus 1.5 billion immediately to secure our ports, but the Administration has proposed spending only \$46 million on that in 2005!¹³ In addition, 2.5 million tons of uninspected cargo is loaded on to passenger planes each year.¹⁴
- The Bush Administration blocked an Environmental Protection Agency's initiative to impose security measures for potentially **LETHAL CHEMICALS** stored at non-nuclear power plants across the country. A sudden release of these chemicals set off by a terrorist attack could kill far more people than died on 9/11.¹⁵

PLAYING POLITICS WITH OUR SECURITY:

- According to columnist Robert Novak, senior White House officials leaked the identity of an undercover CIA operative, Valerie Plame.¹⁶ The leak ruined Plame's contacts and work in the crucial area of WMD. Plame is the wife of Joseph Wilson, who disputed Bush's statement that Iraq had sought to buy uranium in Africa for a nuclear bomb.¹⁷ It is a felony to blow the cover of a CIA operative. What other motive could the Administration have had than revenge on a critic and the silencing of potential critics? (The perpetrators are still at large.)
- According to NBC News, on three occasions in 2002 and 2003 the Pentagon had plans to attack the camp of known terrorist al-Zarqawi, now thought to be partially responsible for escalating attacks on our soldiers. All three times the Bush Administration killed the plans, for fear that destroying this terrorist camp would undercut its rationale for war against Iraq.¹⁸
- There is evidence that the Bush Administration requested that the Pakistani government deliver a high-level terrorist target during the Democratic Convention, which they did.¹⁹ Immediately after the Democratic Convention Attorney General Ashcroft put the country on high alert based on 4 YEAR OLD INTELLIGENCE! Could this sudden sense of urgency have been driven by a desire to direct attention away from Kerry and sink his post-convention 'bounce'?

ARE WE AND THE WORLD SAFER AS A RESULT OF BUSH'S POLICIES?

- **IRAQ IN CHAOS; NEW ENEMIES CREATED:** Between 13,000-15,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed²⁰ and more die every day. Almost 1100 U.S. troops have been killed. Actions have consequences. As a result of this war there are perhaps millions of people in the Middle East and elsewhere who now hate us and wish us ill—some have undoubtedly joined Al Qaeda.
- **WITH TROOPS OVERSTRETCHED** in Iraq we are potentially unable to defend ourselves from a real threat. National Guard and Reserves in Iraq are unable to help with emergencies and defense here at home.
- **WORLD-WIDE TERRORIST INCIDENTS:** Per the Administration's own report, the number of world-wide terrorist attacks in 2003 was the highest in two decades.²¹

If you want a President and Commander-in-Chief who will intelligently protect our country--not ignore real threats and create new ones--vote for John Kerry.

CITIZENS TO SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY

For a downloadable copy of this flyer, go to <http://www.savedemocracy.com/>

1. Presidential debate, Oct. 8, 2004. 2. Detroit News, "Top Security Advisers Met Just Twice Before September 11th Attacks," July 1, 2002. 3. Hirsh, M. and Isikoff, M., "What Went Wrong?," Newsweek, May 27, 2004, <http://daily.misleader.org/ctt.asp?u=1351350&l=24521>. 4. Myers, Lisa, "Did Ashcroft Brush Off Terrorism Warnings?," NBC News, June 22, 2004. 5. New York Times, "Behind 9/11: Old Miscues and New Twists," July 25, 2004. 6. 9/11 Commission Report. 7. Washington Post, Batz and Woodward, January, 2002; President Addresses the Nation, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040413-20.html>. 8. New York Times, "Partial Progress for the 911 Inquiry," (editorial), Feb. 6, 2004. 9. Washington Post, "FBI Budget Squeezed After 9/11," Feb. 22, 2004. 10. Cole, David, "Ashcroft: 0 for 5000," The Nation, October 4, 2004. 11. New York Times, "Losing Time on North Korea" (editorial), Mar. 18, 2004. 12. New York Times, "A Real Nuclear Danger" (editorial), May 28, 2004. 13. Boston Globe, "Lack of Funding Slows Port Security Measures," June 30, 2004. 14. Denver Post, "Jets' Cargo a Threat to Security," April 4, 2004. 15. Unnecessary Dangers: Emergency Chemical Release Hazards at Power Plants, Working Group on Community Right-to-Know, <http://www.ga3.org/ct/f7zv76Y1XaJ4/>. 16. New York Times, "Anxiety Takes Hold of Presidential Aides Caught Up in Inquiry Over Leak," Feb. 12, 2004. 17. New York Times, "What I Didn't Find in Africa," Joseph Wilson, July 6, 2003. 18. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4431601/>. 19. "Pakistan for Bush, July Surprise," The New Republic, July 7, 2004. 20. <http://www.iraqbodycount.org>. 21. Stobel, Warren P., "Corrected Report Shows '03 Terrorist Attacks the Highest in 2 Decades," Knight Ridder, June 22, 2004.