



# The 2014 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review

## What is the 2014 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review?

Four years ago, the Department of Homeland Security's first quadrennial review answered the question, "What is homeland security?", laying out the vision, five mission areas, and goals and objectives for homeland security.

This second quadrennial review reflects a more focused, collaborative Departmental strategy, planning, and analytic capability. The risk-informed priorities set forth in this Review will drive operational planning, as well as analysis of resource and capability options and tradeoffs over the next four years. The Review also recognizes the responsibility the Department shares with hundreds of thousands of people across the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector, and other nongovernmental organizations, and provides a path forward for engaging in public-private partnerships. These are the people who regularly interact with the public, who are responsible for public safety and security, who own and operate our nation's critical infrastructure and services, who perform research and develop technology, and who keep watch, prepare for, and respond to emerging threats and disasters.

To access a copy of the 2014 QHSR, please visit [www.dhs.gov/QHSR](http://www.dhs.gov/QHSR).

### Evolving Risk in a Changing World

For homeland security, key drivers of risk suggest several prevailing strategic challenges that will drive homeland security risk over the next five years:

- The terrorist threat is evolving and remains significant as attack planning and operations become more decentralized. The United States and its interests, particularly in the transportation sector, remain persistent targets.
- Growing cyber threats are significantly increasing risk to critical infrastructure and to the greater U.S. economy.
- Biological concerns as a whole, including bioterrorism, pandemics, foreign animal diseases, and other agricultural concerns, endure as a top homeland security risk because of both potential likelihood and impacts.
- Nuclear terrorism through the introduction and use of an improvised nuclear device, while unlikely, remains an enduring risk because of its potential consequences.
- Transnational criminal organizations are increasing in strength and capability, driving risk in counterfeit goods, human trafficking, illicit drugs, and other illegal flows of people and goods.
- Natural hazards are becoming more costly to address, with increasingly variable consequences driven by trends such as climate change and aging infrastructure.

### Strategic Priorities for Homeland Security

DHS and our partners will use the QHSR over the next four years as a guide for the execution of our collective responsibilities and continued integration across our missions to:

- Address the evolving terrorist threat by focusing on enhancing Department of Homeland Security and partner capabilities abroad, and while at home, strengthening our understanding of possible indicators that someone is planning violence, and using that knowledge to help prevent mass-casualty attacks.
- Strengthen cybersecurity by breaking down traditional barriers between cybersecurity and physical security, enhancing our investigative and incident response capabilities, and leveraging innovative technologies that work at the speed of cyberspace to support our partners across government and the private sector in securing their networks.
- Manage the urgent and growing risk of biological threats and hazards through a homeland security strategy to prevent the occurrence of priority biological incidents where possible; but, when unable to prevent, to stop priority biological incidents from overwhelming the capacity of our state, local, tribal, and territorial partners to manage and respond.
- Adopt a risk segmentation approach to securing and managing flows of people and goods that prioritizes facilitation of legal trade and travel while minimizing disruptions, targets illicit finance and increases organizations' risk perception for market-driven problems, and prevents entry of terrorists, diseases, and invasive species.
- Improve mission execution through more agile, innovative, and effective public-private partnerships.
- Continue our efforts to prevent a nuclear device from entering the United States.
- Continue to evolve immigration policies and processes in order to respond to new trends in illegal migration and further align our enforcement policies with our goal of sound law enforcement practice that prioritizes public safety.
- Continue to build resilient communities by implementing the National Preparedness System, consistent with our Whole Community approach to emergency management.