



# The 2014 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review

## Overview:

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).

## Securing Against the Evolving Terrorist Threat

**The nature of the terrorist threat to the United States has changed dramatically since the September 11, 2001 attacks—and indeed, since the first QHSR in 2010. Through the U.S. Government's counterterrorism efforts, we have degraded the ability of al-Qa'ida's core senior leadership to centrally plan and execute sophisticated external attacks. But since 2009, we have seen the rise of al-Qa'ida affiliates, such as al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula, which has made repeated efforts to export terrorism to our nation. Additionally, we face the threat of domestic-based "lone offenders" and those who are inspired by extremist ideologies to radicalize to violence and commit acts of terrorist violence against Americans and the Nation. These threats come in multiple forms and, because of the nature of independent actors, may be hardest to detect.**

### Strategic Priorities

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#### Identify, Investigate, and Interdict Threats as Early as Possible

Provide support to foreign partners to increase their border management, customs integrity, and law enforcement capabilities and capacities, and use information received in advance to screen dangerous goods and people abroad based on risk, rather than waiting for arrival in the United States.

#### Shrink the Haystack: Expand Risk-Based Security

Continue to move away from one-size-fits-all security approaches and toward risk-informed, intelligence-driven approaches, including expanding efforts to identify low-risk travelers and cargo to focus security resources on those we know less about or those identified as higher risk.

#### Focus on Countering Violent Extremism and Helping to Prevent Complex Mass Casualty Attacks

Disrupt and deter recruitment or individual radicalization to violence by supporting community-based problem solving and local law enforcement programs, while pursuing an even greater understanding of pre-incident indicators to help communities prevent mass casualty attacks.

#### Reduce Vulnerabilities: Deny Resources, Deny Targets

Protect symbolic venues, transportation pathways, mass gatherings, and critical infrastructure; counter the use of improvised explosive devices and other materials used in weapons; and enhance deterrence to influence the perceptions, risk calculations, and behaviors of adversaries.

#### Enhance Data Integration and Analysis

Continually improve our ability to make sense of intelligence and other information—the "big data" challenge—while rigorously protecting the privacy and civil liberties of Americans.