

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **Introduction**

The notion of homeland security has always been an integral part of our nation's past. Before our nation was founded, frontier settlements and villages bore the brunt of homeland security by providing safe haven for those helping forge a new, more progressive civilization on the North American continent. Though "protected" by British forces before the American Revolution, the colonies nonetheless could raise armed militia to defend their homes, lands, towns, and first cities from outside threats to their security. And when the passionate voice of a new nation at birth was heard through the Declaration of Independence, the thirteen colonies' Minutemen were gathering arms to form the core of a Continental Army that would defend a republic that so eloquently proclaimed its freedom.

In the 1800s, our new nation boldly sought its identity with other world powers. The challenges of the War of 1812, the dynamics of the Industrial Revolution, westward expansion to the Pacific Ocean and to our southern borders with Mexico, and the increasing realities of complicated relations with ever-changing nation-states around the globe furthered our nation's need for homeland security. In 1861, our young nation faced its greatest challenge in a civil war that encompassed the entire homeland's security. Federal forces would fight Confederate forces in a conflict to ensure our nation remained both united and free from the yoke of human slavery. By 1899, our nation had furthered its national security interests by meeting the challenges of foreign dominance in Cuba and the Philippines.

The 20th century brought our nation new horizons and even greater security challenges. From 1910 to 1917, the Mexican Revolution created instability with Mexico along its borders with California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. While securing those same borders, American forces would test their mettle against Mexican insurgents and regular military. Those same forces would soon be tested again in the world's first global

conflict. Our entry into World War I put our nation firmly on the world stage by emphasizing the fact that United States' national security lay not only at home, but also on the doorsteps of our allies and our enemies

On December 7, 1941, our security was again challenged when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and thrust our nation into World War II. Although that global catastrophe ended in 1945, a new kind of war brought our nation to again confront those who would threaten our homeland security. It was during that Cold War we came face to face with the calamity of total nuclear destruction. When the walls of communism came tumbling down in the late 1980s, many in our nation felt the world had finally become a much safer place. We could, perhaps, finally say to ourselves that since the founding of our republic, through peace and in war, our nation had built the world's strongest economy, a military second to none and a union of states and citizens forming the core of defending our national interests and homeland security. But that was not to be.

Terrorism has plagued mankind in one form or another throughout written history. But, in the latter part of the 20th century, terrorism had become, perhaps, the most sinister method of conflict the world had ever seen. Coupled with weapons of mass destruction, the terrorists and their organizations could wreak havoc on a virtual global scale. Those not prepared for terror would be ripe for a terrorist's methods. For the United States in the 1990s, complacency had replaced vigilance and readiness in a number of key homeland security areas. And, as we entered a new millennium, the shocking horrors of September 11, 2001, would alter our perception of the world and our homeland security.

That single event forced opportunity out of adversity. Our nation became fully aware of the formidable challenge posed by a well-funded, intellectually capable, ideologically driven enemy with asymmetric strategies and tactics. Securing our homeland became our nation's number one priority.

Today, significant steps have been taken to design and implement a strategy to secure our homeland against hostile nation-states, terrorism, natural emergencies, and accidental manmade disasters. Although much progress has been made, much more has yet to be done. Our policymakers must be good stewards of limited resources. They must develop sustainable, multi-use solutions to protect our way of life and the infrastructure that makes that life possible. Those same solutions must

help secure our nation's homeland while respecting freedom and enabling the economy to prosper. Additionally, the framework of such solutions must help our nation respond and recover when necessary to all hazards while continually striving to counter the unexpected.

It is our hope this first compilation of *THE HOMELAND SECURITY PAPERS* will help provide valuable insight and cutting-edge concepts to assist others who stand at the forefront of protecting our homeland from the dangers of a 21st century world.

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