

September 11th: The Policies that Changed America

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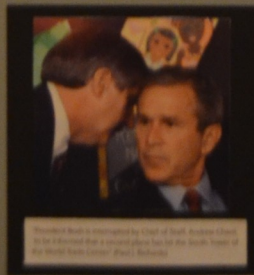


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Tragedy

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 resulted in the death of approximately 2,800 people, including 370 responding policemen and firefighters. Although, the effects are ongoing and nearly 10,000 more have been diagnosed with cancer.

The attackers were Islamic terrorists, financed by the al-Qaeda terrorist organization led by Osama bin Laden. The attack occurred in retaliation to America's support of Israel, as well as America's strong military presence in the Middle East and its involvement in the Persian Gulf War.



"People walk out of the Towers covered in ash and rubble." (Workers covered in dust)



"World Trade Center South Tower collapses." (The Twin Towers Collapse)



"Rescue workers search Ground Zero on September 13, 2001." (The Journal News)

"For the very first time since moving to Calgary the sky was quiet, no planes, no air traffic of any kind" - Christopher C., worker near airport

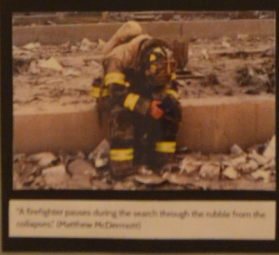
"I stood there feeling bad about whoever was in the plane or helicopter, but not feeling anything ominous. Then, I see it. It was almost like slow motion but it was moving so fast. So low. You didn't have time to gasp. It hit the second tower and disappeared, and suddenly the biggest fireball I have ever seen in my life just shoots wide and high into an ocean blue sky. Whoever wasn't stunned on the train suddenly screamed as everyone ran to the windows." Brian, bystander heading to work

"I was, at that point, the only person in the world I just wanted to hurt Bin Laden. I lost the best friend that I have ever had" - Wali, last friend worked at the World Trade Center

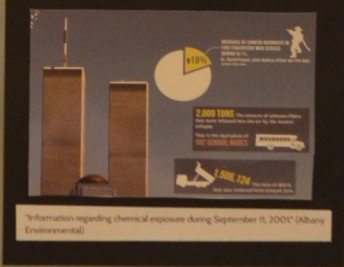


"Work at the World Trade Center continues to take place while firefighters raise a flag on the site." (Thomas E. Franklin)

"I knew something was going on. My mom was home and she always worked until the late afternoon. I see her watching the news unfold on TV. I asked her what happened, and she said bad people were attacking us. Something along those lines. I don't remember the rest of that day. I enlisted in the Army when I was 20 years old. I'm now 23 and I'm deployed to Iraq in 2007. I am proud to defend my country and the day 9/11 is always etched in my heart and it affects me everyday" - Jack, student, now enlisted in the military



"A firefighter pushes during the search through the rubble from the collapses." (Matthew McCrossin)



"I was going to take a break, go out to the courtyard and have an early-morning cigarette," Huffman said. "My friend Jim said, 'Wait a moment and we'll get a donut and some coffee and go to the courtyard together.' I think that's the single most important moment of my life. If I had left then, if I had gone the way I planned, I wouldn't be here." - John Huffman, worker on his first day at the Pentagon

"I was home. My wife, as every morning, told me that I have a meeting with my doctor. My children were late that day. So I, I am away today" - Larry, worker in the towers

"I stood in the street and looked up at the Twin Towers, hearing a siren for a target. I remember feeling like it was the right, something out of control. Our thoughts were going to give up to 3,000 people 3,000 people about in the places where we lived our daily lives. There was a feeling that our lives were today vulnerable for the first time." - Brian Thomas



"A man jumped from the towers, falling to his death." (Richard Lewis)



"Investigation search for clues left by the crash of Flight 11." (Brian Thomas)

"I don't realize, every time because just recently workers caused something, a puff of smoke. They didn't know what they were dealing with, didn't have the sort of asbestos equipment to protect themselves. He was the one confused or ignorant at the staff that was released from that job. It's an unfortunate experience." - Dr. Michael Epstein, medical director of the World Trade Center Health Program Clinical Center

"The 11th in my mind has both patients that die and another's been severely injured. The one, the 11th, the one that I'm most saddened I have ever faced." - Ben, student 30 years, from World Trade Center



"The Washington Monument is seen standing tall through the smoke coming from the crash of Flight 11 into the Pentagon." (Brian Thomas)

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Triumph

9/11 Commission



Portrait of former Indiana House Representative Lee Hamilton (Bloomington)

The 9/11 Commission Report is the official report of the events leading up to September 11, 2001. The report influenced and impacted policies enacted in response to September 11, 2001.



"Seal of the 9/11 Commission. The phrase "E Pluribus Unum" is the US motto and means "Out of many, one" (U.S. Government)

"The commission came into being in 2002. We had the mandate to prepare an accounting of the events surrounding the attacks on September 11, 2001. It's a two-fold mandate: one was to tell the country what happened and number two was make recommendations to prevent future attacks. This was a staggering event in the history of the country. The worst single day ever, in terms of loss of life. We understood that it had enormous interests and it was a report to the American people. Every step of the way we were pounded by the press as the report was in process. This event had such an impact that the entire country was hungry for information about what happened that day and how in the world it could happen like this. We were the greatest, strongest nation in the world and yet we could not protect our own people. The interest in the report was very intense. We had news conferences from time to time to bring people up to date on it. But it took us several years, of course, to put it all together" - former Indiana House Representative Lee Hamilton.

"It had a profound impact on the country, still does and in many ways, it's a great dividing line in our country's history. Our whole national security emphasis has been driven by the events of September 11, 2001. We thought we were immune from attacks. The oceans protected us and nobody could transport power to kill us in those numbers but they never thought about using airplanes as missiles. [The report] answered a lot of questions that the American people had about the events of that day, what exactly happened, why it happened and it pointed the way towards solving the problem. This was the first brush with history in responding to the events of September 11, 2001. Since that time, preventing terrorist attacks has been a major national security interest of the United States. All kinds of changes have occurred in the workings of our government and in the workings of the private sector, too." - Lee Hamilton



Lee Hamilton (left) with then President George W. Bush (center) and James Baker (right) (Bloomington)



Leading members of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. (AEI/WPPI.COM)

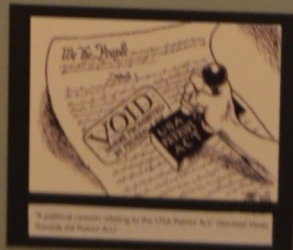
US Patriot Act

The Patriot Act allows the government and police to use the resources they already have to fight terrorism. These resources include surveillance against crimes of terrorism, following sophisticated terrorists linked to suicide bombings, and obtaining business records. It also empowers government agencies, updates laws to protect against new technology and threats, and increases the penalties for those who commit terrorist attacks. The USA PATRIOT Act stands for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obviate Terrorism."

The act sparked a dialogue regarding the government's involvement in the population's liberty. There was concern that it's extremely broad and too open, leading to it being unconstitutional.



George W. Bush signs the USA Patriot Act (Bloomington)



A protest sign opposing the USA Patriot Act. (Bloomington)

"The FBI could get a warrant to investigate the mafia but they could not get one to investigate terrorism. To put it simply, that was their job. It's good for the mafia should be another scenario." - [Name obscured]

"We have to think through the law inside the Commission. But what we do have to do is think about liberty and security. Making the job of the business of counter terrorism." - [Name obscured]

TSA

The Transportation Security Agency was established to prevent terrorist attacks similar to September 11, 2001. Along with the screening of baggage and travelers at many major US airports, TSA develops policies to protect passengers in all types of transportation. The original TSA seal contained nine stars and eleven stripes, honoring September 11, 2001. TSA's budget has increased from \$4.8 billion in 2003 to \$7.6 billion in 2018. In 2018, TSA discovered 4,239 total firearms in carry-on bags, a record number. TSA has helped secure traveling and played an integral role in American safety.

"Travel has been a major focus of our security. When you go to the airport today you don't just check-in at the gate like you used to. You have to go through screening. TSA checks you very carefully, searches your luggage and has all kinds of observers who are looking for the bad guys. It's a dramatic change in air travel." - Lee Hamilton



A research bag is screened and cleared by a TSA agent. (Dipenec Platt)



"The original TSA seal." (TSA)



President Bush signs the Aviation Act. (AFP/Photo Time Slow)

Homeland Security

The establishment of the Department of Homeland Security integrated 23 federal departments into one, creating a strengthened and more secure America. In November 2002, the Homeland Security Act passed, creating a department in the presidential cabinet to coordinate homeland security efforts and safeguard against terrorism.

Homeland Security continues to maintain and improve cybersecurity, border and economic security, privacy, and much more.

We are DHS.

Every single day, the dedicated men and women of the Department of Homeland Security safeguard the American people and homeland, and our values. By air, by sea, or in cyberspace, more than 225,000 employees of DHS work every day to keep our nation safe.

DHS will...

A member of a position making the Department of Homeland Security's commitment to protecting the American people. (Department of Homeland Security)

Head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (D. Rosenberg)

Homeland Security Intelligence Enterprise

A variety of sectors that Homeland Security is responsible for protecting against. (Department of Homeland Security)

"Over the twilight, the Department of Homeland Security was established to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, and most importantly, to share intelligence information among government agencies and departments." - Representative Nancy Peltola (2002)

"This is a problem that demands constant attention. Today, terrorism has been over 20 years from now. We're never going to get where you want to be in terms of preventing terrorist from terrorist attacks. Terrorism is not going to go away. It is likely to be a phenomenon that we have to deal with for years and decades to come. We have to keep our guard up, keep our defenses up, invest in our intelligence, our monitoring and all those are necessities to respond." - Lee Hamilton

Conclusion

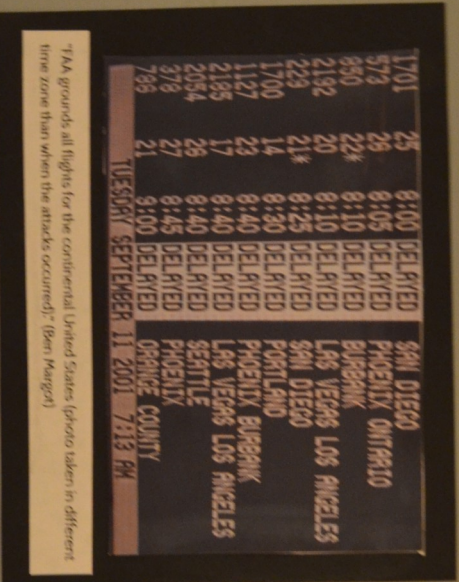
Despite the tragic occurrence of September 11, 2001, enough was achieved with Homeland Security. Although the process is still ongoing to let those who are still living. Please take time to answer the following prompt. Do you feel safer as a result of the policies enacted in response to September 11, 2001? Why? The responses will be used by the future Homeland Security in an exhibit in 2021.

"September 11 is one of our worst days but it brought out the best in us. It called us out a country and showed our character, values, and strengths in all what we stand for and stand for." - Lorne Hansford (Lorne Hansford, Director)

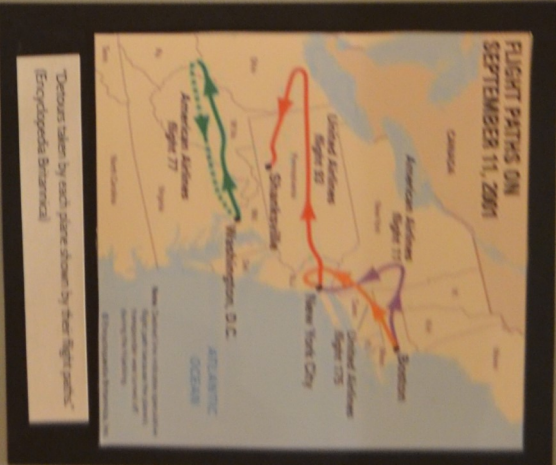
Do you feel safer as a result of the policies enacted in response to September 11, 2001? Why?

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573	29	8:05	DELAYED	PHOENIX ONTARIO
850	22*	8:10	DELAYED	BURBANK
2192	20	8:10	DELAYED	LAS VEGAS LOS ANGELES
229	21*	8:25	DELAYED	SAN DIEGO
1700	14	8:30	DELAYED	PORTLAND
1127	23	8:40	DELAYED	PHOENIX BURBANK
2195	17	8:40	DELAYED	LAS VEGAS LOS ANGELES
2054	26	8:40	DELAYED	SEATTLE
378	27	8:45	DELAYED	PHOENIX
788	21	9:00	DELAYED	ORANGE COUNTY

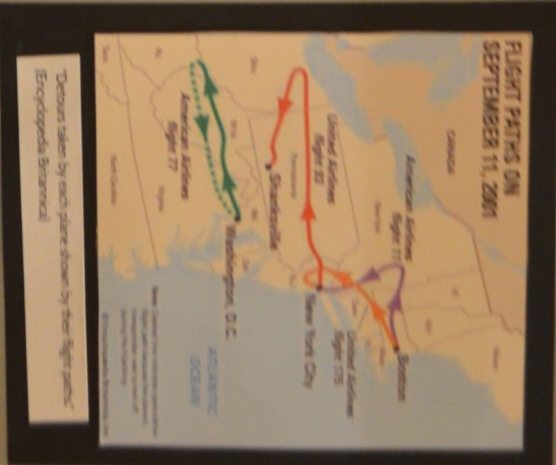
*1A grounds all flights for the continental United States (photo taken in different time zone than when the attacks occurred); (Ben Margot)



"A board at the Los Angeles Airport announces the closing of the airport." (Gerald Burhan/Fetty Images)



"Routes taken by each plane shown by their flight paths." Encyclopaedia Britannica





"The stairwell of the Tower is covered in ash and rubble." (James Naughton)



"Those aboard the Staten Island ferry approach the World Trade Centers after the attacks." (Tom Stoddard/Getty Images)



"Traffic in Washington, DC gets gridlocked as US government workers are released and the city is shutdown following the attacks." (Tom Stoddard/Getty Images)



"The Memorial in Pennsylvania which honors those who were in the plane which crashed in the field on September 11, 2001" (Alex Hilder)



"President George Bush and Laura Bush attend a wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the victims of American Airlines flight 93" (Tina Hager)



"Turdleg from Flight 93, Sparkeville, Pennsylvania" (Santuzian Museum)



"The Pentagon Memorial is lit off by the night sky of Washington, D.C." (Daniela Ortiz)



"Beams of light break through the sky, honoring the twin towers." (Skyles)



"The Indiana Memorial for the September 11, 2001 events." (Patrick C. Howell)