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Homeland Security Working Paper

Homeland Security is comprised of four essential facets: prevention, protection, response and recovery. In order to address and discuss these components, we must first define Homeland Security.

Defining homeland security is necessary in order to outline how the nation should act. The scope of homeland security is not confined to the area within the national boundary; rather, America and Americans work for the betterment of the nation in places both inside and outside of the country. Within the country and abroad, this consists of a balance between security and the protection of civil and human rights.

Terror can be inflicted intentionally by people, as well as by natural phenomena. The effects of terrorism are not limited to physical destruction, but also emotional and psychological damage. One must prevent these attacks by preemptive action wherever possible. Additionally, one must also respond and recover from these catastrophic events in a timely manner. Therefore, when we define homeland security, we conclude that:

> Homeland security is the protection of human and national assets within the United States and abroad. This encompasses natural and man-made threats to physical and psychological welfare. Protection includes detection and elimination of threats, but also management of and recovery from the long-term effects of catastrophic events.

A. Prevention

Facilitating a justified and appropriate sense of security in United States' citizenry is accomplished on both a micro- and macro- level. On the micro-level, policies must frustrate and deter malicious attacks. Prevention by apprehension is the use of intelligence and public vigilance (while respecting United States civil liberties) in order to identify and inhibit legitimate threats or attacks. Prevention by deterrence requires U.S. security measures to cultivate a sense of improbable success and massive repercussions for would-be attackers.

However, micro-level prevention contains inherent limitations because, due to limited resources, it cannot protect *all* vulnerable infrastructure at all times. Therefore, micro-level prevention strategy requires the assessment of attack probability and must prioritize accordingly. As a result, macro-prevention is an analysis of the grievances of those who threaten homeland security and a good faith effort to self-evaluate domestic and foreign policy. In terms of foreign threats to homeland security, this requires:

- Improving the perception of U.S. and U.S. foreign policy abroad
- Shifting away from internationally and domestically controversial military policies
- Increasing foreign aid and reconstruction efforts in post-conflict regions
- Lessening affiliations with detrimental allies

An increased focus on macro-prevention strategies will mitigate the probability of future attacks and lessen the burden of responsibility on prevention by apprehension and deterrence. Additionally, micro-prevention strategies are controversial and sometimes undermine civil liberties; specifically ethnic minorities or political communities. Simultaneously pursuing and emphasizing macro-strategies will better protect citizens' safety and civil liberties.

B. Protect

To protect is to secure a nation by assessing vulnerabilities, potential risks, and taking all measures to eliminate them while upholding civil liberties as well as human rights. The following are several examples:

- Securing and maintaining resources that are critical to U.S. interests. This includes access to domestic resources, those abroad, and preserving civil and human rights. We aim to do so through diverse and balanced international trade and allies.
- Protecting our communication systems by combating cyber-warfare.
- Defending our infrastructure and transportation systems through the installation of non-discriminatory and minimally invasive weapon detection systems.
- Protecting financial and economic institutions.

Securing the aforementioned factors will essentially decrease the risks and effects of any catastrophic event.

C. Response and Recovery

A common key element to both response and recovery is time. Time dictates the effectiveness of a response, efficiency of recovery efforts, and overall success. Response is essentially the mitigation of immediate effects during a catastrophic event. If successful, a response will eliminate the immediate threat and avoid secondary casualties. As for recovery, it can be divided into three separate categories based on urgency. First, basic services and infrastructure must be restored. Political and economic stabilization and continuity must be ensured. Second, social order must be restored so as to optimize vigilance, reduce anxiety, and restore a sense of predictability. And finally, non-essential infrastructure should be rebuilt, and there should be a return to a sense of normalcy.

The end goal is to build a healthy and resilient society. This entails a fundamental shift in public behavior and a change in that way we, as U.S. citizens, think about and react to

catastrophic events. Societies that are prepared at the grassroots level are more likely to cope with and recover from catastrophic events. For example, grassroots organizations train and prepare volunteers as first responders as well as initiate public service campaigns emphasizing personal and familial preparedness plans. Consequently, such adequately prepared communities have three advantages in the event of a catastrophe:

- Prepared citizens and community preparedness plans reduce anxiety and paranoia.
- Locally trained volunteers can respond quickly, efficiently, and assist state or government organizations.
- Communities with adequate and well-organized responses are the foundation for successful long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts.

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Physical damages from catastrophic events, while disruptive, are reparable. However, these events can cause psychological, political and societal consequences that effectively stifle normal life. Therefore, the chief objectives of homeland security are mitigating anxiety, managing risk, as well as the potential consequences of catastrophic events. Though some catastrophes are more preventable than others, some are inevitable. Thus, the United States should emphasize the reduction of vulnerability and management of potential consequences. The United States will benefit from its resilience and potential will have less incentive to strike.