

Op-Chart

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Safety Second

COST OF THE WAR SO FAR: \$144.4 billion

ONE WAY THE MONEY COULD HAVE BEEN SPENT:

\$7.5 billion

...to safeguard our ports. The Coast Guard's estimate of what is needed over 10 years to meet the requirements of the 2002 Maritime Transportation Security Act, which aims to protect ports and waterways from attack. Since 9/11, the federal government has allocated less than \$500 million to counter this threat.



\$4 billion

...to expedite upgrading the Coast Guard fleet. This investment over the next five years would cut in half the 20-year timetable for replacing and upgrading the Coast Guard's fleet of cutters, patrol aircraft and communications equipment.

\$10 billion

...to protect American commercial airliners from shoulder-fired missiles. Self-defense systems would help reduce the danger from the estimated 100,000 shoulder-fired missiles circulating in the world's black markets.

\$2 billion for improved cargo security. This would help cover costs associated with the Container Security Initiative, which deploys customs inspectors to ports around the world to screen cargo before it gets to the United States.

\$5 billion

...for state-of-the-art baggage screening machines. This would fulfill the Congressional mandate to install in all commercial airports new systems that integrate baggage screening and baggage handling. Only eight of the nation's 440 airports have the new machines, and the administration has requested only \$250 million for the equipment this year.

\$240 million to equip airports with walk-through explosives detectors. According to the 9/11 commission, it's still too easy for passengers with hidden explosives to make it through airport security.

\$7 billion

...for 100,000 police officers. The more police officers on the street, the greater the chances of preventing an attack or uncovering a terrorist plot. This amount would fully cover five years of the 1996 Community-Oriented Policing Services program, to which the administration has allocated only \$97 million in next year's proposed budget.



\$2.5 billion for fire departments. This would double the size of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for each of the next five years. Money from the program goes for trucks, protective clothing, hoses and other equipment.

\$3 billion

...to secure major roads and railways. This would increase passenger safety by improving surveillance, training railway workers and developing new explosive detection equipment in the nation's largest metropolitan areas. The administration provided less than \$200 million in last year's budget.

\$30.5 billion

...to secure from theft the world's weapons-grade nuclear material. A 10-year \$30 billion program would safeguard nuclear material in the former republics of the Soviet Union. An additional \$500 million would remove dangerous nuclear substances from other vulnerable nuclear sites worldwide.



\$350 million for integrating emergency radio systems. This would pay for equipment to patch together existing police, fire and other public safety radio systems throughout the country. (New equipment would cost \$18 billion.)

\$2.25 billion to expedite the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program. Doubling this program's budget each year for the next five years would accelerate a program that has already helped to deactivate more than 6,000 nuclear warheads. This year's budget provided only \$450 million for the effort.

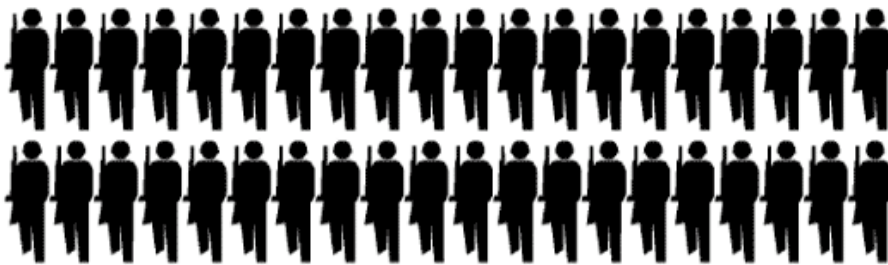


Terrorism alerts in New York and Washington, and the 9/11 commission's report, raise serious concerns about homeland security. Some of those concerns have focused on the allocation of existing domestic defense money — should New York and other high-risk cities really get less security aid per capita than, say, Cheyenne, Wyo.? But there's another question to be asked: are we spending our tax dollars in the best possible way in the war on terrorism?

The mission in Iraq, which the Bush administration undertook in the name of protecting the American people, has cost \$144.4 billion, including \$25 billion in the administration's budget request for next year. (And this does not include \$60 billion more expected to be requested after November.) Keeping in mind a Pentagon estimate that containing Saddam Hussein would have cost roughly \$2.5 billion a year, here's another way to look at how the \$144.4 billion for Iraq could have been spent to safeguard Americans.

\$24 billion

...to add two divisions to the Army. Forty thousand personnel could be added to the Army over the next five years at a cost of \$4.8 billion per year. This would relieve pressure on the National Guard and reservists, reduce tours of duty, put an end to "stop loss" orders and bolster forces dedicated to domestic defense.



\$15.5 billion

...to double the 25,000 active-duty troops in the Special Operations Forces. Since 9/11, these elite forces have been highly effective in tracking down terrorists. Doubling their number would cost roughly \$7 billion, with an additional \$8.5 billion to train and help maintain the new forces over the next five years.



\$8.6 billion

...to rebuild Afghanistan. This amount — which covers the shortfall between the \$27.6 billion Afghanistan says it needs and the funds the international community has pledged to date — would help prevent the country from again becoming a haven for terrorists.



\$11 billion

...to finance crop conversion in Afghanistan. Afghanistan's illicit opium trade brings in \$2.3 billion each year, some of which goes to support terrorist activities. A five-year program of crop conversion would help farmers shift from growing opium to cultivating other crops or starting microenterprise projects.



\$10 billion

...to increase American development assistance to the neediest countries. Of the \$13 billion we spend on aid, more than half goes to Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan and Indonesia. A \$10 billion increase in the amount of nonmilitary development assistance over the next five years would approximately triple assistance to the rest of the world.



\$775 million for public diplomacy. This would quadruple American public diplomacy efforts in the Arab and Muslim world, as well as triple financing for the National Endowment for Democracy, each year for the next five years.

