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FBI Strategy  
Plan

## IV. FBI Strategic Direction: A Five-Year Agenda

The rapid and relentless changes discussed above have stimulated the FBI to rethink and sharpen its strategic approach to its mission. There is recognition throughout the FBI that regardless of how well the organization is getting the job done today, without sound strategic thinking and thorough preparation for the future, the FBI's role in safeguarding the United States could suddenly and drastically be diminished. Driven by the dual challenges of maintaining its position as the Nation's leader in law enforcement and seizing the opportunity to further improve its capabilities, the FBI has embarked on a comprehensive reappraisal of its own strengths and weaknesses.

With a renewed sense of purpose and understanding, the FBI will focus its expertise and resources on the most serious crime and counterintelligence problems facing the Nation. In efforts increasingly coordinated with our fellow federal agencies and with state and local law enforcement, the FBI will undertake a variety of initiatives designed to ultimately enhance the security of the Nation and its people.

The FBI has identified three general, functional areas that describe the variety of threats which it must address to realize the goal of enhanced national and individual security.

- **Tier One: National and Economic Security**

*Foreign intelligence, terrorist, and criminal activities that directly threaten the national or economic security of the United States.* These offenses fall almost exclusively within the jurisdiction of the FBI. Issues arising in this area are of such importance to U.S. national interests that they must receive priority attention. To succeed, we must develop and implement a proactive, nationally directed program.

- **Tier Two: Criminal Enterprises and Public Integrity**

*Crimes that affect the public safety or undermine the integrity of American society.* These offenses fall within the traditional jurisdiction and core competency of the FBI. They are associated with criminal organizations that exploit social, economic, or political circumstances at a significant cost to the Nation. Success in this area depends on the FBI's ability to use the lawful tools at its disposal to target, attack, and dismantle these criminal organizations and their related enterprises.

- **Tier Three: Individuals and Property**

*Crimes that affect individuals and crimes against property.* The FBI has traditionally prided itself on its ability to serve the interests of the American people by responding quickly and efficiently to serious criminal acts when they occur. The FBI's strategy should reflect the public's expectation that the FBI will respond to serious criminal acts that assault the community and bring those responsible to justice. Investigative strategies recognize the generally primary role of state and local law enforcement. FBI resources will be deployed to the extent that local circumstances indicate a clear need for FBI expertise or FBI manpower.

These functional areas effectively define the FBI's strategic priorities. The intended result of identifying priorities is an alignment of management attention and resources in a manner which best supports the overall mission of the FBI. There is no implication that work identified in the second and third tiers is not important to the FBI; indeed, the FBI takes great pride in its work in these areas. In a world of scarce resources, however, issues which have the potential for the gravest of consequences must receive priority. The FBI goal must be to prevent horrific acts such as the Oklahoma City or World Trade Center bombings from occurring. While terrorist incidents or attacks using weapons of mass destruction are mercifully rare, the consequences are so dire that the FBI must have the capacity to respond in a competent and robust fashion.

The stated priorities do not imply an abandonment of FBI responsibility in personal and violent crimes, but, rather, an acknowledgment that, as a national organization, the FBI must first address those issues which are national in scope and those crimes which threaten the security of the Nation.

With this framework, the FBI will significantly sharpen the focus of available resources and develop strategies that concentrate on significant internal and external matters. In the implementation of these investigative strategies, the FBI will be guided by its core values and will capitalize on its core competencies.