

# Costly but Appropriate Steps: How the U.S. Responded to the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks

Terry Clark

After the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, the U.S. government took the necessary steps to keep Americans safe. The president declared a war on terror, and the military invaded Afghanistan. To stop terrorist attacks at home, Congress created the Department of Homeland Security and passed the USA Patriot Act. These measures have a high

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price, but they have been necessary. One of the first things that the U.S. government did immediately after 9/11 was to declare war on terrorism. The president vowed to hunt down and eliminate all forms of terrorism at home and abroad. In October 2001, the U.S. military invaded Afghanistan because Osama bin Laden was supposed to be hiding there. He was finally captured in Pakistan in May 2010.

To combat terrorism at home, Congress created the Department of Homeland Security. Its main job is to ensure that no further attacks occur on U.S. soil. For example, they helped organize the "If you see something, say something" campaign. This campaign reminds people to report suspi-

## What Do You Think?

**Compare this essay with the one by Chris Holmes on p. 51.**

**Write your own 5-paragraph essay discussing the direction that U.S. foreign and domestic policy has taken since 9/11.**



*The Department of Homeland Security uses unmanned drones to patrol borders.*

rious activities. The Department of Homeland Security also has a cyber-security division that tracks criminal activity that might happen over the Internet. To date there have been no further attacks on the United States.

The most controversial response to September 11, 2001 has been the USA Patriot Act. The Patriot Act is an acronym for Providing Appropriate Tools to Interrupt and Obstruct Terrorism. This act greatly expands the government's power to monitor citizens, access information, and guard the nation's borders. Some people believe that the act is unconstitutional because it allows the suspected terrorists and citizens to be subjected to no-knock warrants and extensive wiretapping. But I believe extreme measures are needed under these extreme circumstances.

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