**October 7, 2001:** In a speech from the White House treaty room, President Bush announces Operation Enduring Freedom, sending troops into Afghanistan to dismantle the Taliban regime, which is harboring al Qaeda.

**October 8, 2001:** President Bush establishes the Office of Homeland Security in the Executive Office of the President and appoints Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge as Director.

**November 19, 2001:** President Bush signs the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, creating the Transportation Security Administration.

**October 4, 2002:** Capture and indictment of six suspected members of the al Qaeda terrorist network operating near Buffalo.


**January 24, 2003:** Governor Tom Ridge sworn in as Secretary of new Department of Homeland Security.

**March 1, 2003:** Arrest in Pakistan of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged architect of the September 11th attacks.

**March 17, 2003:** Homeland Security Department commences Operation Liberty Shield, an increase in protective measures to defend the homeland coinciding with the commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**March 19, 2003:** President Bush launches Operation Iraqi Freedom to end the regime of Saddam Hussein and its support of terrorism.

**April 2, 2003:** House passage of the $79 billion Wartime Supplemental Appropriations bill to provide crucial funding for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**May 1, 2003:** President Bush declares an end to major combat operations in Iraq aboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

**May 1, 2003:** The Terrorist Threat Integration Center begins operations.

**May 12, 2003:** Homeland Security Department launches TopOff II, a week-long national training exercise for emergency preparedness and response.

**June 8, 2003:** The arrest by Thai police, on a tip from U.S. authorities, of Narong Penanam, who tried to sell cesium-137 to make a "dirty bomb."

**June 19, 2003:** Arrest and guilty plea unsealed of Iyman Faris, an Ohio truck driver who plotted with Osama Bin Laden to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge.

**June 24, 2003:** House passage of the first ever Homeland Security Appropriations bill, approving $29.4 billion to bolster our homeland security, bringing funding for First Responders to more than $20 billion since 9/11.

**July 16, 2003:** House passage of Project Bioshield to help prevent and inoculate for bio-terror attack.

**July 22, 2003:** Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusai, killed by U.S. forces.

**August 12, 2003:** Arrest in Newark of Hemant Lakhani, London arms dealer who tried to smuggle surface-to-air missiles.

**August 12, 2003:** Capture in Southeast Asia of top al Qaeda leader and suspected planner of Indonesia bombings, Riduan Isamuddin, aka Hambali.

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