Strategic Goal 1: Prevent Terrorism and Promote the Nation’s Security Consistent with the Rule of Law

Terrorism is the most significant national security threat the country faces. Accordingly, the Department’s top priority is, and will continue to be, protecting the security of this Nation’s citizens. The Administration has recognized that terrorism cannot be defeated by military means alone and DOJ is at the forefront of the fight against terrorism by providing a broad spectrum of tools and skills to combat terrorists. Specifically, DOJ’s agents, analysts, and prosecutors will use every available resource and appropriate tool to detect, deter, and disrupt terrorist plots, investigate and prosecute terrorists, and provide global leadership in developing and implementing rule of law programs other countries and partner nations to help prevent terrorism abroad. This will include renewed efforts to support where appropriate the prosecution of international terrorists in other countries through enhanced international cooperation. The Department will aggressively pursue emerging threats around the world and at home; enhance its ability to collect, analyze, and disseminate actionable intelligence; and engage in outreach efforts to all communities to prevent terrorism before it occurs.

Goal 1 outlines the work that DOJ will perform to strengthen the ability of the Federal Government to protect the American people from terrorism, within the letter and spirit of the Constitution. Adherence to the rule of law strengthens security by depriving terrorist organizations of their prime recruiting and fundraising tools. America must be a beacon to the world. The United States will lead by strength, by wisdom, and by example.

The Department has established three objectives to guide work in this area:

Objective 1.1: Prevent, disrupt, and defeat terrorist operations before they occur

Objective 1.2: Prosecute those involved in terrorist acts

Objective 1.3: Combat espionage against the United States

Numerous components within the Department will continue to protect the Nation’s security by counteracting new and significant national security challenges, including cyber threats, weapons of mass destruction, espionage, and transnational organized crime with ties to foreign governments that seek to do harm to America.

Among the DOJ components that share responsibility for this goal are: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), National Security Division (NSD), U.S. Attorneys, Criminal Division (CRM), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), United States Marshals Service (USMS), and INTERPOL Washington. These components will work with federal, state, and local partners as well as international counterparts to combat terrorism. Additionally, following the objectives of the National Intelligence Strategy, as determined by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the components of DOJ that are members of the Intelligence Community (FBI and DEA) will work with their partners to ensure that intelligence is collected, analyzed, disseminated, and acted upon across all members of the Intelligence Community and throughout the U.S. Government.
**Objective 1.1: Prevent, disrupt, and defeat terrorist operations before they occur**

Combating terrorism is DOJ’s top priority. The Attorney General, acting primarily through the FBI, has principal investigative responsibility for all criminal acts of terrorism (18 U.S.C. § 2332b(f)). A key tenet of this objective is to ensure that intelligence and law enforcement agencies are able to use all available tools to investigate vigorously and prevent acts of terrorism in a manner consistent with law.

**Strategies to Achieve the Objective**

*Integrate federal law enforcement and domestic/international intelligence efforts to dismantle terrorist networks and diminish their support worldwide*

The Department’s successes in a wide range of counterterrorism and counterespionage matters has solidified the idea that a highly sophisticated fusion of intelligence and criminal authorities is extraordinarily effective in thwarting attacks on U.S. soil. The Department will continue to combat each new threat by reinforcing, refining, and institutionalizing the fusion of intelligence and law enforcement operations in a cohesive manner to achieve a coordinated response to terrorist threats.

The Department will collect, analyze, and disseminate critical information related to terrorist activity directed against U.S. interests abroad and at home. The Department will ensure that the human and technological assets necessary to facilitate the collection of raw intelligence data will be in place and that the intelligence information produced will be relevant and timely in its delivery. Additionally, DOJ will continue to ensure that the Intelligence Community is able to make efficient use of foreign intelligence information collection tools, particularly the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), in a manner consistent with law by representing the United States before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

The Department will detect, penetrate, and disrupt terrorist threats, cut off material support to terrorists, and ensure effective crisis response to attacks when necessary. The Department will prioritize investigative and operational efforts toward the collection of intelligence, and ensure, when applicable, that law enforcement tools to mitigate threats to the public are appropriately used. The Department will continue to coordinate domestically among prosecutors, agents, and state, local, and tribal law enforcement. Additionally, the Department will support foreign government efforts to investigate and prosecute in their own courts terrorists who threaten U.S. national security, both by engaging and sharing information with foreign law enforcement and by building the capacity of foreign governments to investigate and prosecute terrorism cases.

**Protect the Nation from cyber attacks**

Terrorists and other hostile adversaries plan and commit national security related crimes against the United States using the Internet and seeking a veil of anonymity. These illicit activities are not limited to using cyberspace to plan and execute classic espionage and terrorism, but can also include novel forms of national security threats to American assets and infrastructure. Consequently, the U.S. Government’s national security operations increasingly focus on online conduct and communications. The Department has significant and growing national security responsibilities in the area of cyber security.
Department attorneys regularly collaborate with agencies within the intelligence and defense communities with respect to both defensive and offensive cyber security operations. In addition, the Department retains primary authority over the investigation and prosecution of cyber crimes, such as espionage, that have national security implications. These investigations most frequently arise in instances where an agent of a foreign government seeks to infiltrate or harm a sensitive or important piece of U.S. cyber infrastructure. Finally, the Department has increasing legal and policy duties assisting interagency and legislative cyber initiatives to protect American critical infrastructure, networks, businesses, and computer users in a manner consistent with the law.

*Strengthen partnerships with federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies and foreign partners to prevent, deter, and respond to terrorist incidents*

The Department recognizes that the most efficient and effective means of fighting terrorism is to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with its partners. Those partners include the intelligence and law enforcement communities, the Department of State (DOS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Defense, and allied foreign governments. In addition to working alongside other federal agencies, the Department also oversees more than one hundred task forces (Joint Terrorism Task Forces or JTTFs) to ensure efficient coordination among thousands of federal, state, and local law enforcement partners.

In order to increase and more strategically focus the Department’s international counterterrorism efforts, DOJ will continue to develop strong working relationships with foreign counterparts to coordinate multidimensional investigations, evidence gathering and sharing, and tracking and apprehending international fugitives. DOJ will also continue to share intelligence and develop counterterrorism strategies with its international partners. As part of this effort, the Department will work with foreign partners to effectively utilize our network of bilateral extradition treaties, mutual legal assistance treaties, multilateral conventions, and other international agreements to share intelligence and to collaborate on criminal investigations. In particular, extradition and mutual legal assistance requests are critical tools for law enforcement and prosecutors in bringing criminals, including terrorists, to justice. Where appropriate, and in partnership with the Department of State, DOJ will pursue new treaty relationships that strengthen its ability to deter terrorism, share evidence, and secure the return of fugitives. In addition, DOJ will continue to provide assistance to foreign counterparts to improve the skills of foreign prosecutors, law enforcement, and judges; encourage legislative and justice sector reform in countries with inadequate laws; promote the rule of law and defense of human rights; and explore the possibility of posting additional Justice Department attorneys abroad to increase cooperation and capacity building engagements with foreign governments. Such assistance will enhance the ability of foreign governments to prevent and disrupt terrorism before it extends beyond their borders to threaten the United States and will help to establish a framework for effective international law enforcement cooperation.

**Objective 1.2: Prosecute those involved in terrorist acts**

Vigorously investigating and prosecuting terrorism offenses is a critical tool in the effort to incapacitate terrorists, gather
valuable intelligence, and deter future acts of terrorism. Since September 11, 2001, DOJ’s counterterrorism successes include achieving numerous criminal convictions of high-profile terrorists, defeating would-be terrorists, and protecting the Nation through prevention efforts. The investigation, disruption, and prosecution of terrorism will continue to be the top priority for the Department.

**Strategies to Achieve the Objective**

**Build strong cases for prosecution**

The top priority for the Department is to protect the Nation from terrorist attacks while ensuring that the civil liberties of our people are protected. In addition to providing coordination and expertise to prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, intelligence analysts, and the Intelligence Community, the Department ensures that national security investigations are conducted in a manner consistent with the Nation’s laws, regulations, and policies, including those designed to protect the privacy interests and civil liberties of the American people. The Department’s organizational structure ensures greater coordination and unity of purpose between prosecutors and law enforcement agencies, on the one hand, and intelligence attorneys and the Intelligence Community, on the other, thus strengthening the effectiveness of the DOJ’s national security efforts.

The Department has been especially concerned with two relatively new threats: “lone wolf” terrorists who self-radicalize, and terrorist use of the Internet and other media to incite others to violence. In addressing both of these threats, the Department has adopted aggressive, but lawful, strategies. For instance, to address the possibility of lone-wolf terrorists the Department has prioritized the efforts of the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council—a nationwide counterterrorism program that ensures experienced and trained Assistant United States Attorneys are prepared in every federal district in the country. The ATAC program has helped lead to the successful disposition of counterterrorism cases in a variety of locales, including many that are outside the large metropolitan areas which have been traditional targets of terrorism.

Additionally, a specific prosecution strategy that the Department continues to develop is to focus Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) methods and charges on U.S.-based terrorist infrastructure. The RICO statute is typically used to hold organized crime, gang members, and others accountable for the full extent of their criminal activity conducted as part of an enterprise over a period of time and can include a wide variety of criminal activity. RICO allows prosecutors to include both state and federal violations as underlying racketeering acts within a single RICO charge. Regarding terrorism, RICO has and will continue to be used to charge those involved in terrorist activities as well as to those providing material support to terrorist organizations. The Department is proposing to amend the RICO statute to include a limited number of foreign crimes, thereby extending RICO extraterritorially in a non-money laundering context, and to clarify that RICO has extraterritorial application when predicate acts occur or part of the enterprise operates in the United States.

**Objective 1.3: Combat espionage against the United States**

Foreign espionage strikes at the heart of U.S. national security, impacting political, military and economic arenas. The foreign
intelligence threat to the United States is expanding, becoming more complex and less predictable. While traditional threats to national defense, military operations and policy, and intelligence, and science and technology remain, many intelligence threats are expanding their targets to include the burgeoning population of cleared defense contractors and other sectors affecting U.S. security, most notably sensitive economic information and emerging proprietary technology.

Concurrently, foreign threats now have sophisticated networks of governmental and non-governmental entities using a wide array of intelligence collection platforms and engaging in long-term efforts to obtain sensitive information and threaten the security of the United States.

The Department will combat espionage by, among other things, vigorously investigating and prosecuting violations of espionage statutes and regulations. Additionally, DOJ will investigate and prosecute violations of export control and embargo statutes and regulations by combining intelligence and law enforcement to target individuals and networks involved in the illicit trafficking of controlled technologies and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and will expand its export control initiative to ensure nationwide coverage.

**Strategies to Achieve the Objective**

**Protect U.S. national security against espionage and illegal foreign acquisition of U.S. technology**

The Department will strive to combat espionage by becoming more proactive and preventive in approach, leading to early indications and warnings of traditional espionage and other less traditional espionage-related activities, such as the illicit transfer of technology, export control, theft of IP, and trade secret compromise. The Department will focus on developing strategic partnerships with and across the spectrum of military, industrial, and research stakeholders, owners, and developers. In addition, the program will identify specific targets of, and vulnerabilities to, foreign intelligence service intrusion and will identify priority threat country objectives and operations via sophisticated human intelligence and technical counterintelligence operations, including offensive and defensive cyber techniques.

The U.S. Government promotes foreign investment in the United States because such investment helps to keep the economy strong, vibrant, and integrated with the global economy. In certain situations, however, foreign investment can pose national security risks, result in unacceptable transfers of sensitive United States technologies, or expose the critical infrastructure of the United States to hostile intelligence services and terrorist organizations. To address this concern, DOJ will continue to work with other agencies to review proposed acquisitions of certain American companies by foreign companies to balance the interest in promoting foreign investment with the need to protect national security.

**Strengthen the Department’s intelligence base and analytical capability to assess and respond to intelligence threats**

Foreign intelligence information, including physical and electronic surveillance, is a critical tool for protecting the nation from terrorism, espionage, and other national security threats. Many of the Department’s significant national security prosecutions – and countless intelligence actions that do not result in prosecution – would not be possible
without the government making full use of the authorities available to it under a variety of federal laws, including the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The Department will continue its important work of representing the government before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. In addition, DOJ will expand its oversight operations, promoting ongoing communication and cooperation with the Intelligence Community, and advise relevant entities within the Executive Branch and Congress on the use of intelligence authorities.

**Strategic Goal 2: Prevent Crime, Protect the Rights of the American People, and Enforce Federal Law**

Without relaxing our guard in the fight against global terrorism, the Department must also embrace its historic role in fighting crime, protecting civil rights, preserving the environment, ensuring fairness in the market place, and defending and representing the interests of the United States. Accordingly, Goal 2 encompasses what is viewed as the traditional missions of DOJ: enforcing and upholding federal law.

From the violent gangs in our cities and suburbs, to sophisticated financial fraud schemes that threaten the financial security of all citizens, to the flow of drugs across the Southwest Border and the associated violent crime, the Department’s law enforcement mission is as complex and varied as it has ever been in its history. Goal 2 covers this broad range of law enforcement issues, including violent crime, illegal drugs, criminal gangs, and gun violence. It includes white collar crimes, such as health care fraud, corporate fraud, and public corruption. It also includes computer crime, identity theft, IP crime, and other kinds of crime facilitated by computer networks. In addition, it covers the exploitation of vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. This goal also includes enforcing federal civil and criminal statutes that protect civil rights, safeguard the environment, preserve a competitive market structure, and preserve the integrity of the Nation’s bankruptcy system.

Goal 2 addresses the role of the Department as the Nation’s largest law office and chief litigator, which involves representing hundreds of United States’ agencies, offices, and employees and defending against myriad challenges to federal laws, programs, and policies. This work is critical to protecting the federal fisc against unwarranted monetary claims and to ensuring the United States can continue to protect the Nation’s security, maintain civil law and order, and enhance public safety.

The Department has established six objectives to guide its work in this diverse area:

- **Objective 2.1:** Combat the threat, incidence, and prevalence of violent crime
- **Objective 2.2:** Prevent and intervene in crimes against vulnerable populations; uphold the rights of, and improve services to, America’s crime victims
- **Objective 2.3:** Combat the threat, trafficking, and use of illegal drugs and the diversion of licit drugs
- **Objective 2.4:** Combat corruption, economic crimes, and international organized crime
- **Objective 2.5:** Promote and protect Americans’ civil rights