



U.S. Attorney's Report to the District

As September 11, 2011 marks 10 years after the tragic events of 9/11 and as we remember those who lost their lives in the devastating attacks, I thought it appropriate this month to discuss several important themes that converge on this important anniversary – honoring victims and first responders; national service; keeping our community safe; and protecting civil liberties.

Honoring Victims and First Responders. Above all, the anniversary of 9/11 is a day to remember those we lost, and to stand with their families and loved ones. In addition to events planned in New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C. and elsewhere, there are a number of events and memorial services planned in local communities here in Connecticut to pay tribute to the lives of those who were taken from us on 9/11.

In addition, our Office is co-hosting a Ceremony Honoring Connecticut's 9/11 First Responders, to honor the law enforcement officers, fire personnel, emergency workers and volunteers from Connecticut who so ably served their fellow citizens and communities during the tragic events of 9/11 and their aftermath. The ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2011, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at Connecticut's 9/11 Living Memorial at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport, Connecticut.

National Service. The anniversary of 9/11 is also a time to pay tribute to our military, their families and loved ones, all of whom have borne the burden for our security during a decade of war. More than two million of our troops have served in war zones, deploying more than 2.5 million times, and 6200 Americans have given their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq. These remarkably selfless volunteers, who chose to serve our nation in a time of war, have made significant and often the ultimate sacrifices for our country. As the beneficiaries of their service, we have a duty to honor and support our troops, military families and veterans.

In addition to the service of our military, many civilians felt compelled to serve their fellow citizens and communities in the aftermath of 9/11 as well. As a tribute to that spirit, and to further honor those we lost, the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 will be the third official observance of September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance, in which all Americans are encouraged to join in a broad range of service projects across the country and draw upon the spirit of unity that prevailed in the immediate aftermath of the attacks.

Keeping Our Community Safe. A decade after the attacks, the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut continue to use all available tools to combat threats to our national security. To build upon those efforts and to enhance our ability for continued success against evolving threats, last year I announced the formation of our Office's National Security and Major Crimes Unit, which deepened our experience and capacity in this priority program area. We have no higher priority than this work.

Although not all of the work results in criminal cases or makes headlines, every day our Office works closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), the Department of Homeland Security, and other federal, state and local agencies on national security, counter-terrorism and intelligence matters, in order to provide legal guidance on investigative steps; to assist, as appropriate, in obtaining subpoenas, warrants, court orders, and other process to further such investigations; and to aggressively pursue and bring criminal charges when they are available.

Although the criminal justice system is just one of many counter-terrorism tools, it remains effective in both incapacitating individuals who threaten our security and gathering valuable information from and about them. Together with our partners in local, state and federal law enforcement, our Office has participated in a number of recent and successful prosecutions of international and domestic terrorism cases, for example:

- Last year, our Office and the FBI's JTTF participated in the successful investigation and prosecution of Bridgeport, Connecticut resident Faisal Shahzad for attempting to bomb New York's Times Square.
- Our Office investigated and prosecuted Hassan Abu-Jihaad, an enlistee in the U.S. Navy, who betrayed his shipmates and his country by leaking then-classified information about the upcoming movements of his battle group to a terrorism support cell in London, which, among other things, had operated global jihadi websites under the name of "*Azzam Publications*" through a service provider located in Connecticut. Abu-Jihaad was convicted by a federal jury in New Haven of espionage in 2008 and, in 2009, he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.
- In March 2009, our Office tried Alan Zaleski in a case that raised domestic terrorism concerns. Zaleski had been found in the possession of more than 67,000 rounds of ammunition and hundreds of weapons on his property in Berlin, Connecticut, including fully automatic and semi-automatic machine guns, silencers, fragmentation grenades, chemical grenades, smoke grenades, homemade bombs and IEDs. Zaleski's property was found to be covered with trip wires and booby traps to repel intruders. Zaleski was also found in the possession of anarchist, white-supremacist, anti-Semitic and domestic terrorism-related literature. In February 2011, Zaleski was sentenced to nearly 8 ½ years in prison.
- Our Office prosecuted Yung Tang, who pled guilty to possessing illegal

explosives and a silencer. In January 2008, Tang was found in the possession of two IEDs, two partially assembled IEDs, two remote-controlled detonators, two firearm silencers, and materials for disguising a person's appearance, while parked in a van located in the parking lot of a kindergarten and child care facility in Wallingford, Connecticut. In February and July 2008, law enforcement officers found two additional vans belonging to Tang in New York City; the vans contained additional IEDs, weapons, a silencer and several other containers filled with explosives and incendiary chemicals. In February 2009, Tang was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

In addition to our investigations and prosecutions, our Office chairs Connecticut's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council, which includes representatives from approximately 100 different local, state and federal law enforcement organizations. The ATAC program provides training for, and ensures collaboration between, federal, state and local law enforcement officers on national security matters. As part of our training efforts, our Office partners with the FBI for its annual Indoor Post-Blast School, an intensive, week-long course taught by expert bomb technicians and federal prosecutors, which has taken place in Connecticut at least annually for the past eight years and has hosted, each time, approximately 60 federal, state, and local law enforcement officials, bomb technicians, and other first responders.

Protecting Civil Liberties. The United States has long been defined by its resolve, its values, and the resilience with which we have overcome even the most devastating tragedies. As we aggressively pursue the investigation and prosecution of national security matters, we are also committed to reconciling the demands of security with the important goals of fairness, openness and tolerance in our society. Our nation is strengthened by the diversity of our people, and by the ability of disparate communities to come together, in spite of differences, to share the common values on which our country was founded.

While government has an important role, we also view our communities and community institutions as key partners in our counter-terrorism efforts. In conducting national security cases, this Office and our law enforcement partners rely on the support, cooperation and trust of the communities we serve and protect. Members of our community are valuable partners in a shared effort to combat national security threats.

To that end, our Office and the FBI engage in extensive outreach efforts with many different communities to improve our ability to perform our duties in a manner consistent with civil liberties, diversity and a commitment to freedom.

The Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Connecticut are committed to fighting threats to our national security and keeping our communities safe, while protecting and safeguarding civil liberties guaranteed under our constitution.

How You Can Help. Members of the public are invaluable resources in our efforts to safeguard our community. While the law enforcement community is doing its best to keep us safe, you can help as well. If you see any activity that you deem suspicious, or possibly linked to

terrorism, please take it seriously and report it promptly to your local law enforcement agency or to the following agencies:

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
Joint Terrorism Task Force
(203) 777-6311**

**State of Connecticut Department of
Emergency Services and Public Protection
(866) HLS-TIPS**

The 10th Anniversary of September 11th is a milestone for the country – a moment to reflect on the last ten years while looking forward. As we remember those who lost their lives in the devastating attacks of September 11, 2011, we reaffirm our commitment to using every available tool to aggressively investigate and prosecute national security cases, while protecting and safeguarding civil liberties guaranteed under our constitution and consistent with the rule of law.