



Post-September 11th - One Year Timeline

September 11, 2001

Hijackers crash two airliners into the World Trade Center in New York. A third strikes the Pentagon, and a fourth crashes in a field in rural Pennsylvania. More than 3,000 people are killed in the terror attacks.

September 13, 2001

The White House announces that there is "overwhelming evidence" that Osama bin Laden is behind the attacks.

September 14, 2001

Congress authorizes President George W. Bush to use "all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons." Two days later, Osama bin Laden (who was the mastermind behind the attacks) denies any involvement in the 9/11 attacks in a statement to Al Jazeera television.

September 11-October, 2001

Citizens of the United States bond to support the recovery and healing efforts of September 11th. Hundreds volunteer for the clean-up effort, millions of dollars are donated to charity, and thousands of pints of blood are donated to the Red Cross.

September 20, 2001

President Bush announces the new cabinet-level Office of Homeland Security. Its goal is to protect the country from terrorism and other outside threats, and it has a current budget of over \$40 billion per year.

October 2, 2001

The USA Patriot Act is introduced in Congress and becomes law three weeks later. This gives the government more power for surveillance and interfering in private lives if there is a possible threat.

October 5-7, 2001

One thousand soldiers from the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division are sent to the Central Asian nation of Uzbekistan, which borders Afghanistan. The U.S. begins bombing Afghanistan two days later. In a televised address, President Bush tells the nation: "On my orders, the United States military has begun strikes against al Qaeda terrorist training camps and military installations of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan."

November 5, 2001

The Justice Department announces that it has put 1,182 people into secret custody since 9/11. Nearly all of them are from the Middle East or South Asia.

November 21, 2001

Speaking at a Thanksgiving dinner for troops and their families at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, President Bush states, "Afghanistan is just the beginning on the war against terror. There are other terrorists who threaten America and our friends, and there are other nations willing to sponsor them. We will not be secure as a nation until all of these threats are defeated. Across the world and across the years, we will fight these evil ones, and we will win."

December 17, 2001

The Northern Alliance defeats Taliban forces in the battle of Tora Bora, eliminating the last major pocket of Taliban resistance and effectively ending the Afghan war. However, American soldiers must remain there to keep the country from falling back into disarray, and episodes of violence continue periodically for years.

January 29, 2002

In his State of the Union address, President Bush describes an "axis of evil" between Iraq, Iran and North Korea. By this time, it is also well known that Osama bin Laden was behind the September 11th attacks, although he is not mentioned in this particular speech.

March 19, 2002

Testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee, CIA Director George Tenet claims that there are links between Iraq and al Qaeda: "There is no doubt that there have been (Iraqi) contacts and linkages to the al Qaeda organization. As to where we are on September 11, the jury is still out." As a result, the President and most members of Congress support military engagement in Iraq.

June 1, 2002

In a speech to the graduating class at West Point, President Bush announces a new U.S. policy of preemptive military action: "If we wait for threats to fully materialize we will have waited too long. We must take the battle to the enemy, disrupt his plans and confront the worst threats before they emerge." This preemptive strategy is included in a defensive strategic paper the next month, and formally announced in September 2002.

June 4, 2002

After reviewing intelligence reports, President Bush concludes that there is no evidence that the 9/11 attacks could have been prevented, despite communication breakdowns between the FBI and CIA: "In terms of whether or not the FBI and the CIA were communicating properly, I think it is clear that they weren't.... I have seen no evidence that would have led me to believe that we could have prevented the attacks. And, obviously, if we could have, we would have prevented the attacks."

September 9, 2002

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London issues a report concluding that "Iraq does not possess facilities to produce... nuclear weapons" and that "it would require several years and extensive foreign assistance to build." This prompts doubts as to why the United States military is involved in Iraq, which remains a divisive topic until the United States pulls out in December of this year.

Flashpoints USA with Bryant Gumbel and Gwen Ifill is an innovative public affairs series from PBS that brings together both compelling examinations of critical issues and a dynamic pairing of two of the most respected names in journalism.

Source: http://www.pbs.org/flashpointsusa/20040629/infocus/topic_01/timeline_jul2002.html