

Name

Name of lecture

Course

University

Date

Securing our border with pre-existing resources

Executive Summary

A growing issue in the United States today is securing our border. It is no secret that on average around 700,000 illegal immigrants enter the United States each year. There were over 11.3 million undocumented illegal immigrants in the United States as of 2014. What do this mean to us? It means stress.

The United States is, was and always will be the land of opportunity. The United States stands with her arms wide open and welcomes all. While this promotes a great opportunity for those on the outside looking in, it creates a great stress for the United States infrastructure, medical community, finances and other resources. The United States encounters many difficulties for those who are legal citizens, let alone adding hundreds of thousand illegal citizens each year. This is just one of the many challenges illegal immigration and our unsecured borders encounter annually.

Another larger issue, and probably one of the most demanding issues that also need to be addressed entail the issues of drug and human trafficking. Right now we have around 3,555 Border Patrol Agents that are responsible for our borders. This includes our northern and southern borders, as well as our eastern and western seaboards. It is easy to see that our Border Patrol Agents are far outnumbered. Our federal government is already our largest employer in the United States. It would be extremely difficult for the Federal Government to add enough agents to properly enforce and patrol our borders. Basically given present numbers, we have already lost the battle before advancing into the war. There has to be another option for a solution. Luckily there is.

There are over 900,000 Law Enforcement Officers in the United States today. What if there was a way to tap into that resource. Maybe there is. Obviously the biggest area of concern in the United States for securing the border is our southern border. Our southern border is the area where most of the illegal narcotics enter the United States. It is also a main area of concentration for illegal immigrants to enter the United States. It is my belief by increasing the manpower as well as utilizing certain technologies we could make a difference in securing our southern border.

Here is my vision, my plan. We could utilize the untapped resource of 900,000 law enforcement officers in the United States by offering certain programs that would be enticing and economically sound. What if we were to offer an educational incentive payback program to the officers for their service based on a 10-day tour of patrolling the

border? Think about it. Instead of the Federal Government having to worry about salaries, benefits and retirements, they could collaborate with our educational system and come up with a program that gives back to those that give so much. I will outline the plan for securing the border with pre-existing resources in this business proposal. It will outline the areas of concentration, certain pay back packages, and federal, state and local involvement to help secure our borders.

Introduction

The US government through the Department of Homeland Security is responsible for undertaking unified approach to ensure that the country is secure from all manner of threats. Even though the department was initially established with the mandate of securing the nation against anyone who is aiming at disturbing the way of life of the Americans while the charter of the department entails getting ready and responding to all threats and dangers (Chen and Kim, 1). Nevertheless, in order for the department to be able to fully execute its roles, it is vital that the citizens of the US have total confidence with the department. This plan outlines measures that would be adopted in order to ensure that the following five objectives are achieved since once five objectives have been achieved, the US borders will have been effectively secured. The five objectives are:

- a) Avert terrorism and boost security
- b) Safeguard and manage US borders

- c) Apply and enforce the immigration regulations
- d) Safeguard and secure cyberspace
- e) Improve national readiness and resilience

Averting terrorism and boosting security

Since September 11th attacks that took place in the United States soil, terrorism has become a major security concern in the US. Indeed, even though various measures that can be said to be strict have been adopted to address the terrorism over the years, it is obvious that the threat of terrorism is still real in the United States (Chen and Kim, 1). Thus there is a need for the threat of terrorism to be effectively addressed once and for all.

The homeland security is given the mandate of averting terrorism in the US. Thus, it is vital to highlight how; terrorist attacks can be averted, how illegal acquisition of various ingredients that can be used by terrorists can be averted, and how the risk of attacks to major events, leaders, innocent citizens and residents as well as buildings can be reduced or the attacks be avoided altogether.

In order for terrorism to be averted and security to be enhanced, an approach that is more integrated and involves the community has to be implemented. In addition to that, it is also vital that the Department of Homeland Security cooperates with other stakeholders as that is the only way that the department will be able to recognize, examine, and stop terrorism threats at their initial stage. However, it is also crucial to

acknowledge that the Homeland Security department also shares the responsibilities of averting terrorism with other state agencies and departments such as Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Department of Justice and other partners that even entail international partners.

How to avert terrorist attacks

In order to avert terrorist attacks in the United States, the following measures will be adopted:

- a) Collect, analyze, and distribute terrorism data by ensuring that any data and information that is obtained regarding terrorism is distributed to all security partners and stakeholders so that they are aware of any impending attacks and implement necessary strategies to ensure that the attacks are avoided. Indeed, it should be responsibility of Department of Homeland security to ensure that vital data sources that among others comprises of biometric data are collected and screened on regular basis (FBI, 3).
- b) Prevent and interrupt procedures by capitalizing on the intelligence, data sharing, functional, technological, and policy developing aspects within Department of Homeland security to expedite a unified and synchronized action. There is also a need to put in place various sources of intelligence and establish how the intelligence collected will be capitalized upon by been analyzed to help

spot some of the behaviors and attitudes that could help spot those who exhibit behaviors that are closely related to those of a terrorist.

- c) Since the transport network has been for many years a prime target for terrorists, there is a need to put additional measures in place that will ensure that the security of the transport system is strengthened. Indeed, it will be vital that some more police officers are deployed to airports, bus stations, train stations and ports since it has been found that the presence of a uniformed police officer can act as a visual deterrence.
- d) In order to address the increasing cases of violent radicalism in the country, problem solving measures that are community based should be supported while also measures should also be adopted in order to ensure that people from different backgrounds are able to freely integrate with one another. Apart from that, efforts should be made to encourage people to know those who live in their neighborhoods since in most cases, it has been found that majority of the attacks are carried by people who were thought to be good neighbors.

How to prevent illegal acquisition of hazardous ingredients that can be used in making explosives

Over the years, terrorists have used different materials that they could have easily sourced from various sources to develop explosives that they have used in their attacks. From that view, it can be explained that there is a need to ensure that measures

are put in place in order to make the acquisition of chemical, biological, nuclear and other materials that could be used in making explosives becomes almost impossible (FBI, 1). Thus, it is recommended that:

- a) All materials that are likely to be used in creation of explosives are identified and classified. Thereafter, only licenses sellers would be allowed to sell those materials and can only sell them to people who have got genuine use of the materials.
- b) It will also be crucial that necessary actions are taken to ensure that anyone who unlawfully acquires such materials is stopped in his/her tracks before they can go ahead and start making explosives that they intend to use in the attacks.
- c) Finally, it will be crucial that the department is able to identify, trace, and avert the hostile application various explosive materials weapons through establishment of the U.S. Government's universal nuclear detection ability through the Global Nuclear Detection Architecture, examining, and researching on nuclear and other various radioactive materials, enhancing nuclear forensics competences as it will make it possible to reduce those who are smuggling nuclear materials, and close regulation of chemical facilities that are of high-risk as that will leave the facilities with no options apart from ensuring that the ideal measures are put in place to ensure that major nuclear and biological incidents are avoided (Potter, 1).

Minimizing the risk of attacks on leaders and key infrastructures

For many years, terrorists have always sought to attack leaders as well as key infrastructures since by executing such attacks, the impact of the attacks will be big and they view that as a way of showing that they are effective and that the government agencies that are supposed to be enhancing security are not capable of executing their roles thus instilling fear into the members of the public. Thus, it is crucial that adequate measures are adopted to ensure that leaders as well as various infrastructures are protected from the attacks. To do that, the following measures are proposed:

- a) Carry audit of all leaders and infrastructures as that will make it possible to find out the leaders and infrastructures that are more likely to be targeted by the terrorists
- b) Put measures in place that will ensure that the identified leaders and infrastructures are fully protected such that even if any attacks were to be carried out, the attacks would be ineffective

From a review on the discussions on how to enhance security and prevent terrorist attacks, it is evident that the measures proposed can be effectively executed while using resources that are already in place. Nevertheless, in order for the measures to be effective, there will be a need for an effective control and monitoring system to be put in place. Some of the performance indicators that should be considered include;

- a) The number of potential incidents that have been reported by the members of the public in a given period of time
- b) The number of imported cargo screened and found to contain hazardous materials that be used in making explosives
- c) The number of unannounced checks that are carried out in dealers of hazardous materials in order to find out whether they are selling the hazardous to anyone or only to those who have the required regulation
- d) The number of foiled attacks within a given period of time

Safeguarding and managing of US borders

Safeguarding and effective management of the US borders is crucial to the security of the country since it is through the borders that foreign criminals illegally get into the country while drugs and other harmful products also get into the country through the borders. Thus, in other words, it can be explained that if the borders were to be effectively managed, then it would be easier to manage the national security. Nevertheless, the US is quite a large country and the effective management of the borders has for many years proven to be a major challenge since criminals such as drug dealers constantly use innovative techniques to ensure that they do not get to cross the border and bring with them banned drugs. In addition to that, there is a need to secure the United States Southern border while at the same time addressing the transnational

organized crime. The measures that can be adopted to achieve that are outlined in the succeeding paragraphs.

Preventing unauthorized entry

Illegal entry to the US will be prevented by embracing an innovative risk-based procedure at both point of entries and points of departures. Indeed, by making use of existing intelligence, techniques, and data that has been gathered prior to the passengers arriving through land, air or sea, the law enforcement officers will be well placed to intercept any threats before they can be launched.

Prevent unauthorized export

The law enforcement should be able to avert illegitimate export by thoroughly scrutinizing people, as well as other items leaving the country in all airports, land border crossings, ports, and known international mailing centers. Indeed, the use of this approach will make it possible for law enforcement departments and other government agencies to identify and apprehend those who are involved in illegal export and exit in the United States of America.

Implementing and enforcing the immigration law

In the United States, majority of families in the country have a link to immigration. On the other hand, while some immigrants have taken a great risk and

ensured that they have done their best in ensuring that they make America great, there are thousands of illegal immigrants in the country and if necessary measures are not to be adopted, the number of the illegal immigrants in the country will continue to increase at unprecedented rates (Obama, 3). In that view, in line with the overall objective of securing the border, there is a need for the immigration department to implement various measures that will ensure:

- a) An effective border management system is put in place
- b) The interior enforcement is effective
- c) The legal immigration system that is in place is capable of handling 21st Century immigration challenges
- d) Ensuring that the immigration system in place is responsive to the developments that are taking place.

In order to ensure that the immigration system is effective in executing its mandate while also ensuring that American 'open door system' is not abused the following strategies have to be executed by the immigration unit:

- a) Advocate for legal immigration through uniting of families, offering refugee status to those who genuinely claim for refugee, promoting economic prospects, and advocating citizenship. In addition, the department should also work to help the immigrants who are highly skilled to secure work permits or other types of visas once they have completed their high education

learning so that they are able to fully achieve and exploit their potential in the United States.

- b) The US immigration services should be effectively managed through provision of customer focused immigration assistance and information services both at home as well as abroad; ensuring that any information that could be required by the migrants is easily available to the immigrants, auditing the immigrants register in order to always confirm that only the immigrants that are legal and fully deserve various benefits on offer are the ones that receive those benefits.
- c) Thwart illegal entry, reinforce implementation, and decrease drivers of illicit immigration through enhancing situational consciousness of the various US borders, making certain that only the ones that are in foreign countries and are qualify are awarded visas to enter the United States, singling out the foreigners who are criminals and pose threat to the society so that they can be removed from the US and repatriated back to their home countries, and developing innovative and effective database systems that can be used by schools as well as organizations so that they can be able to check whether the students joining schools or immigrants seeking employment in the USA are legally in the country or not.

- d) Apprehending, detaining, and deporting those who have been found to have committed crimes together with other foreigners who are considered as a threat to or the society since by doing that, the use will become more secure.

Safeguarding and securing cyberspace

Even though the unprecedented technological revolutions that have been experienced over the years have had many positive impacts, it is also vital to note that the technological innovations have also had negative impacts. Indeed, as far as the USA is concerned, in every single day, the US faces uncountable threats in its cyberspace. The threats vary and among others comprises of theft of vital information such as trade secrets, credit card information and other various crucial information. The threat is mainly executed through cyber invasions as well as denial-of-access attacks against vital websites and other infrastructure. The Department of Homeland security is mandated to work in corporation with the government as well as various private sector partners in order to ensure that the cyber security is enhanced.

How to reinforce the security and flexibility of vital infrastructure against cyber-attacks as well as other hazards

One of the measures to implement entails boosting of the interchange of information and intelligence on risks to vital infrastructure while also advancing prompt situational consciousness abilities that warrant machine and human interaction

and visualization through enhancement of the volume, appropriateness and nature of cyber threat reporting that is made available to different stakeholders.

The cybercrime unit should also collaborate with those who own and manage vital infrastructure since by doing that, it will be easy to ensure delivery of key services and operations through establishment of successful partnerships to establish a national emphasis and decide collective actions, offering help to various stakeholders.

Pinpoint and comprehend interdependencies and ensuing impacts among vital systems through use of regional risk evaluation initiatives, organization-specific assessment, asset and network-specific evaluation, as well as cross-sector risk assessments.

Work together with various agencies as well as the private sector in order to establish and put in place effective cyber security measures as well as the ideal approaches through voluntary partnership with the owners and managers of the private sector and other government agencies.

Improve national readiness and resilience

Even though the US government cannot be said to have slept on the job when it comes to watchfulness and efforts to safeguard the United States as well as its citizens against key attacks, disruptions, and unexpected disasters, it is obvious that some planned attacks will take place. In that view, the test of the government is to have in place various measures that will ensure that attacks and disruptions are avoided at all

costs and even if the attacks and disruptions were to occur, they should have minimal impact to the society.

In order to do that, one of the strategies that should be adopted would entail encouraging people on individual basis as well as the communities to reinforce and enhance their own readiness by been involved in public and community initiatives that are aimed at establishing mutual understanding of various potential risks as well as the resources that are available in undertaking the preparations on what to do next if disasters were to strike.

Apart from that, it is also vital that the necessary measures are put into place in order to ensure that whenever disasters strike, minimal times are taken to recovery. For example, it is important that scenes of despair as was the case some years ago when hurricane Katrina struck are avoided.

Optimizing the existing resources in order to achieve border security

From the discussions, it is evident that a lot of resources that are required to enhance border security as well as the security of the US at large are already in place. Nevertheless, it is obvious that the resources that are already in place are not fully exploited. In the succeeding paragraphs, the measures that should be adopted in order to enhance border security will be discussed.

Full utilization of existing resources

The security docket has many resources that are available at its disposal. Nevertheless, the resources are not fully exploited to enhance security. Thus, it is ideal for an audit of all the resources that are available to be carried out and then ideal measures implemented to ensure that the resources are fully exploited. Indeed, the normal vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, water craft, and intelligence that is at the disposal of the department have to be put into full use.

Cooperation

One of the ways through which the border security would be enhanced entails the close cooperation between the various government agencies that are involved in homeland security. Indeed, from a review of some of the attacks as well as insecurities that have been experienced in the United States, it can be explained that the lack of close cooperation between the various security agencies and other stakeholders has to blame. In that view, it is vital that the president convenes security meetings with top security officials and order them to implement measures that will enhance close cooperation between all the security agencies and by doing that the border will be secured (Orsini, 33, Desai, 58).

Security personnel motivation

The other approach that will enhance border security entails adopting different measures that will ensure that the security personnel are motivated. Indeed, majority of studies that have been conducted in the past have found that police officers among other security officers are likely to be thorough in their roles only when they are

motivated. Thus, it is crucial that measures are put in place in order to ensure that the police officers are motivated. Some of the measures are discussed below:

- a) Offer flexible working option: By offering the security officers the option to work on flexible basis, the officers will feel value and they will do their best to enhance border security
- b) Offer incentives to officers who are best performing: In order to encourage best performance from the officers, the best performing officers should be offered various incentives. For examples, officers who work a certain number of overtime hours could be compensated by been enrolled in prestigious learning universities to pursue various courses that would enhance their careers.

Conclusions

In conclusion, it can be explained that securing the US border is an important issue that requires to be urgently addressed since if the borders are not effectively secured, the security of the country might get out of control. Nevertheless, the fact that the government has other expenses implies that it will always be a challenge for the government to allocate sufficient resources in securing the US border. In that view, this paper has proposed for the government's optimization of the current resources in order to ensure that the borders are used. To be precise, the paper proposes that various incentives should be used to encourage existing security workforce to work overtime and odd shifts in order to secure the borders. In addition, the existing resources such as

normal vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, water craft and intelligence and are at the disposal of the department of homeland security should be put into full use.

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