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A Plan for the Restructuring of the Department of Homeland Security; the Need to Improve DHS's Effectiveness

The purpose of this paper is to give recommendations to (POTUS) on how to better integrate the different intelligence and homeland security agencies in order to improve its effectiveness and generate more useful information (United States, 2006). The DHS was established a few years ago and, it absorbed national agencies that controlled security before its formation (United States, 2006). Most of the previous agencies were incompetent and ceremonial (United States, 2006). This made them insufficient to provide utmost security to US citizens. This paper gives recommendation to POTUS on how to improve the functionality of DHS through effective combination and reformation of the agencies that make up the department. Though the process is quite challenging, there is the need for POTUS to implement strategies to rationalize the DHS and make it competent of defending US homeland security (United States, 2006).

One suggestion to POTUS on how to restructure DHS is to implement an adaptable culture approach of the department (United States, 2006). This is whereby the department will operate as one entity instead of many small units that respond to explicit category of incidents. This strategy will get rid of overlapping of duties by the small units. It is also cost effective because the department will be able to meet both homeland and non-homeland security challenges using same resources (United States, 2006). Developing an adaptable culture approach of the DHS will enable POTUS to work together with the head



of the department and thus take full control of the country's security (United States, 2006).

Security matters involve the collection and management of information by the security department and officers. This information is necessary in upholding homeland and non-homeland security (United States, 2006). For effective operations of the department, POTUS should introduce a new guiding principle to guard against the confidentiality and common rights of the American citizens (United States, 2006). He should appoint people to occupy the positions of Civil rights and liberties officer (CRLO) and privacy officer (United States, 2006). The CRLO should have the responsibility to protect common rights of all Americas citizens (United States, 2006). The responsibility of the privacy officer should be to ensure that DHS uses the best technologies in gathering, use and revelation of information about US citizens (United States, 2006). The aim of establishing the two positions should be to improve the performance of the department. The two officers will ensure that security of the country improves without violation of human and confidentiality rights. They will also ensure that the DHS increases its ability to access significant information to curb acts of terrorism in the country. By implementing this suggestion, POTUS will ensure that security of the country improves because the department will be able to access more useful and actionable information.

Even though DHS has so far been successful in its various tasks, it needs immediate streamlining to include intelligence fusion center (IFC) whose duty should be to improve communication concerning the country's border security (United States, 2006). Moreover, POTUS should also restructure the department and include a division to deals with the terrorist danger. These two sections of DHS would improve the department's effectiveness by conducting unbiased judgments about information collected by the department (United States, 2006). They would also allow analysts to look at the data available and provide early warnings to the department on any imminent insecurity (United States, 2006). POTUS should implement the above suggestions so as to improve the DHS and provide a platform for the department to collect more useful information about the security in the country.



References

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