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Is Homeland Security "The Last Comic Standing?"

By Carl Hampton

The Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), the brainchild of this current administration, has an operating budget for 2006 of \$40.6 billion. After three years and more than \$100 billion, have we really reached the point where we can sleep better at night with the knowledge that our "Leaders" are doing everything possible to protect us against those terrorists attacks.

According to the Government Accountability Office ("GAO"), nothing has changed since the inception of the DHS in 2003. During their most recent test of nine US border crossings: California, Texas, Arizona, Michigan, New York, Idaho and Washington, the GAO investigators were able to penetrate all nine border crossings using fake ID's and phony names.

Terrorists or criminals can "pass freely into the United States ... with little or no chance of being detected," the GAO concludes in testimony given to the Senate Finance Committee. The investigators used readily available computers and software to create these counterfeit driver's licenses and documents. None of the Customs and Border Protection agents "ever questioned the authenticity of the counterfeit documents." The GAO also said similar tests in 2003 produced similar results.

According to the DHS, it has trained border agents to spot fake documents and the agents intercepted more than 75,000 last year, but the job is complicated by the huge variety of legitimate documents. More than 8,000 are used to enter the country, including easy-to-forge licenses and birth certificates.

So let me make sure I understand this: three years, \$100 billion, the complete erosion of our Civil Liberties, invasion of our privacy during phone calls, surveillance on our bank accounts and arresting citizens and denying them legal counsel, but yet the test results are the same as 2003. Am I missing something here or is the DHS the biggest joke ever played on the American public.

Why is it that whenever we get near to a budget or increased funding hearing for the DHS at the Senate Finance Committee we seem to suddenly be bombarded with new terrorists threats or new information about a pending attack? Do they really think we are all that stupid or is it that they just have so little respect for us, they just don't care!

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So what did we get for our money and loss of Civil Liberties? Michael Chertoff, the Homeland Security Secretary, applauded increased funding and changes to the Department of Homeland Security's organization during a ceremony at the White House in October last year where President Bush signed the FY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations Act. He outlined an integrated Preparedness Directorate to enhance coordination and deployment of preparedness assets and training at a cost of \$4 billion.

What were they doing for the last three years? Secretary Chertoff, earlier this year, outlined a new six-point agenda which included the following: the creation of an Office of Intelligence and Analysis to be led by a Chief Intelligence Officer by separating and elevating the Information Analysis component of IAIP. Wow this sounds important. He also wants to establish an Operations Office, which will include the Homeland Security Operations Center. Then there's the Office of Policy and the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

I am now sure there must be a department within DHS that has an operating title of Formation of Stupid Titles for Departments to Increase Funding.

Have an opinion or a question you would like me to answer, then write me!

Your" Money Matters By Carl Hampton From the Author of "From Credit Despair To Credit Millionaire"

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Homeland Security Equipment – Gas Masks

By Andy Jones

Homeland security is the number one goal for the United States Government and it should be goal for all the citizens. The deadly attacks on Sept. 11 and the recent London bombings have highlighted the importance of safety and security and emergency preparedness throughout the world. The homeland security threat level has been raised to elevated status by Texas homeland security department. As per the Texas homeland security department the elevated level is defined as:

There is a significant risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the actions recommended under lower threat levels, agencies should consider:

- Increasing surveillance of critical infrastructure and significant locations.
- Coordinating emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions.
- Assessing and disseminating information and warnings as appropriate.

Emergency preparedness was discussed elaborately on National Public Radio (NBR) and was emphasized that safety equipment like gas masks need to be procured by every citizen of the United

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States and be prepared for any disaster from future terrorist attacks. They also mentioned that it is time for people to consider these warnings seriously and an action plan to safeguard themselves and their loved ones need to be formulated.

There are a number of products available on the market to protect you and your family from unexpected attacks on your safety, including products like gas masks that could be specified as Homeland Security equipment. Whether you are facing an intrusion of your privacy or a terrorist attack directed at your workplace, there are products available from fire safety equipment, gas masks to surveillance equipment which can provide an extra layer of protection. Even when your home may be insured against damage, insurance will not protect your health in the event of a fire. Even though you may never need to reach for the fire extinguisher, it is always safer to have it on hand in the event of an emergency.

Gas masks can provide you safety in the event of a breach of homeland security, such as a chemical or biological attack. They can also be used in industrial and agricultural environments in which there are a large number of airborne pollutants. When you need protection for both your eyes and respiratory system, consider the gas masks which has been approved by the EU and NATO as a personal protection device.

There are surveillance equipment like video surveillance equipment which would help guard your premises and aid you further in improving your safety and security. You may also look into audio surveillance equipment such as our phone line analyzer to ensure that your data transfers and conversations are protected. Homeland Security and the related products can help you take action to ensure your safety and that of your loved ones.

More information about of gas masks and how they work is at

<http://www.bestsafetyapparel.com/learnmore.html>

and to learn more about homeland security

equipment visit

<http://www.bestsafetyapparel.com/arre.html>

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