

make their stand, we have transformed the U.S. military. We have doubled funding for Special Operations Command, increased the number of unmanned aerial vehicles, and started moving American forces from Cold War garrisons in Europe and Asia so they can deploy rapidly to anywhere in the world. We are increasing the size of our ground forces, and making our troops more lethal and more agile so they can remain on the offense. Over the past seven years, America and our allies have captured or killed hundreds of al Qaida leaders and operatives in more than 24 countries. We will continue to fight the terrorists overseas so we do not have to face them here at home.

We Are Defending The Homeland

Nearly seven years have passed without another attack on American soil. That is not for lack of trying on the part of the terrorists. Our intelligence and law enforcement professionals have worked with our allies to stop major al Qaida attacks – including a plot to blow up transatlantic flights from London and a plan to strike the tallest skyscraper in Los Angeles.

Since 9/11, we have given America's defenders the tools they will need to defend us in this new era. This Administration has used all of these tools to stop new attacks and dismantle terrorist networks. Because the War on Terror will go on, these tools will make it possible for future Administrations to protect the American people for years to come. The Administration has:

- formed a new Department of Homeland Security.
- overhauled our Nation's intelligence community and created a Director of National Intelligence.
- shifted the FBI's focus from investigating terrorist attacks to preventing them.
- created a new National Counterterrorism Center.
- created Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence
- enacted the Patriot Act and tore down the "wall" that once prevented law enforcement and intelligence officers from sharing vital information.
- worked with Congress to pass the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendments Act, which allows our intelligence professionals to quickly and effectively monitor terrorist communications.

We Are Countering The Terrorists' Hateful Ideology With A More Hopeful Vision Of Freedom

America and our allies support emerging democracies in the Middle East. Over the past seven years, we have seen citizens in Afghanistan and Iraq establish representative governments after decades of tyranny. We are standing with brave democratic reformers and dissidents from Damascus to Tehran. We have seen people in Lebanon take to the streets and demand independence, and citizens of former Soviet republics stand up for their right to free and fair elections.

Today, the President also expressed the urgent need for the world to stand for freedom in Georgia. Since the Rose Revolution of 2003, the people of Georgia have held free elections and established democratic institutions. Georgia has also sent troops to Afghanistan and Iraq to help others realize the blessings of liberty. Yesterday Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with members of the NATO Alliance, who agreed that Russia must honor its commitment to withdraw troops from Georgia and to return to the status quo before hostilities began on August 6. The alliance is also considering seriously the implications of Russia's actions for the NATO-Russia relationship, and