

# Smarter National Security Spending

*Recommendations for Cuts to Balance the Budget and Protect Individual Liberty*

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>
\$3 billion	TSA: Body scanners offering limited security benefits and presenting unanswered health concerns.
Unknown	TSA: hand-held scanners less effective than dogs, which cost \$25,000 each
\$450 million	DHS: Homeland security earmarks
\$3.8 billion	DHS: Fusion centers
\$1.7 billion	DHS: state and local law enforcement assistance
\$7.3 billion	DOJ: grants to state and local police agencies
\$1.9 billion	DOJ: 10% reduction to Border and Transportation Security Directorate Activities potentially duplicating DHS functions
< \$1 million	DOJ: fusion center support to local law enforcement
< \$1 million	DOJ: Enhancing Fusion Center Awareness and Performance
Unknown	Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI)
\$250 million	DOJ: Enhancements for National Security
\$234 million	FBI: advanced electronic surveillance duplicating NSA functions
\$460 million	FBI: 10% reduction to FBI defense-related activities potentially duplicating DOD functions
At least \$1.2 billion	DOD: National Security Agency “spy centers” potentially duplicating the functions of fusion centers
< \$1 million	DOD: WHINSEC’s “strategic communications campaign plan”
<b>Over \$20 billion</b>	<b>Total potential savings</b>

## Transportation Security Administration

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### Full body scanners

- **Cost Savings:** \$3 billion over 8 years
- **Program Description:** Body scanner devices capture full body images of a traveler's naked body, offering limited security benefits and presenting unanswered health concerns.
- **Source:** "GAO says airport body scanners may not have thwarted Christmas Day bombing" by Spencer S. Hsu, *Washington Post*, March 18, 2010, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/17/AR2010031700649.html>

### Hand-held bag scanners

- **Cost Savings:** Unknown; however, British contractor Smiths Detection spent \$3 million on lobbying alone, suggesting contracts well beyond that amount
- **Program Description:** Sabre 4000 hand-held detection units cost \$25,000 each, but while capable of detecting explosives and other contraband, are less effective than dogs according to Lt. Gen. Michael L. Oates, director of the Joint IED Defeat Organization.
- **Source:** "TSA comes to your bus stop: DC Metro adopts random bag search policy" by Lisa Simeone, *Cogitamus*, December 18, 2010, <http://www.cogitamusblog.com/2010/12/tsa-comes-to-your-bus-stop-dc-metro-adopts-random-bag-search-policy.html>.

## Department of Homeland Security

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### Homeland Security Earmarks

- **Cost Savings:** \$450 million from FY 2010 to FY2011
- **Program Description:** According to the Center for Investigative Reporting, "Critics say that at best, earmarks frequently ignore procedures designed by the federal government to ensure taxpayer funds are well spent. At worst, they're used to reward campaign contributors or powerful political constituents in a lawmaker's district." Despite facing no particular security threat, West Virginia alone received over \$50 million, mostly from Customs and Border Protection.
- **Sources:** "Who's winning the most in homeland security earmarks?" by G.W. Schulz, *Center for Investigative Reporting*, October 20, 2010, <http://centerforinvestigativereporting.org/articles/interactivewhoswinningthemostinhomelandsecurity earmarks>

### Fusion centers

- **Cost Savings:** Unknown; at least \$327 million in direct funding and \$812 million for related information-sharing technology, according to Secretary Napolitano; as much as \$3.8 billion per year.
- **Program Description:** Information-sharing clearinghouses operate without standard procedures or clear lines of oversight, involving state & local police alongside federal counterparts, private

sector intelligence sources and even active duty military intelligence. The *Washington Post* reported in December 2010 that: "The Department of Homeland Security...does not know how much money it spends each year on...fusion centers, which bring together and analyze information from various agencies within a state....DHS has given \$31 billion in grants since 2003 to state and local governments for homeland security and to improve their ability to find and protect against terrorists, including \$3.8 billion in 2010. At least four other federal departments also contribute to local efforts. But the bulk of the spending every year comes from state and local budgets that are too disparately recorded to aggregate into an overall total."

- **Sources:** Remarks by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to the National Fusion Center Conference in Kansas City, Mo. on March 11, 2009, [http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/speeches/sp\\_1236975404263.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/speeches/sp_1236975404263.shtm); "Monitoring America" by Dana Priest and William Arkin, *Washington Post*, December 21, 2010, <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/top-secret-america/articles/monitoring-america/>.

### State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance

- **Cost Savings:** \$1.687 billion in FY2011
- **Program Description:** DHS funding has supported the migration of high technology surveillance equipment from the battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq to the streets of cities and towns across America, such as Memphis TN (where electronic license plate readers scan nearby vehicles, automatically analyze the associated records, and alert officers of potentially relevant records or intelligence reports while patrol cars boast military-grade infrared cameras) and Austin, TX (where the Texas Department of Public Safety has used drone aircraft equipped with high-resolution, infrared and thermal-imaging cameras to conduct monitoring and surveillance operations).
- **Sources:** "Domestic use of aerial drones by law enforcement likely to prompt privacy debate," by Peter Finn, *Washington Post*, January 23, 2011, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/22/AR2011012204111.html>; "Monitoring America," by Dana Priest & William Arkin, *Washington Post*, December 21, 2010, <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/top-secret-america/articles/monitoring-america>; "Table 17.2. Federal Grants to State and Local Governments—Budget Authority and Outlays," *Analytical Perspectives: Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2011*, p. 262, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2011/assets/spec.pdf>

## Department of Justice

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### Justice Department grants to state & local police agencies

- **Cost Savings:** \$7.3 billion
- **Program Description:** Trimming Justice Department grants (except for the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Institute of Justice) would save \$7 billion, including \$480 million in grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance criticized from across the political spectrum for their ineffectiveness: “Although it has been shown that police initiatives can reduce crime if they are guided by a clear plan to target resources at a specific problem, simply spending more federal dollars in a vague effort to ‘put more officers on the streets’ has proved to be an ineffective and inefficient use of resources — especially since few of these dollars are allocated on a competitive basis.”
- **Source:** “Backgrounder” by Brian M. Riedl, October 28, 2010, p. 4, <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2010/10/how-to-cut-343-billion-from-the-federal-budget>; *Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Fact Sheet*, [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/JAG\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/JAG_Fact_Sheet.pdf); *An Open Letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees*, by National Taxpayers Union, Americans for Tax Reform, American Conservative Union, and Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, <http://www.ntu.org/news-and-issues/budget-spending/eliminate-federal-law-enforcement-block-grants.html>.

### Border and Transportation Security Directorate Activities

- **Cost Savings:** \$1.9 billion
- **Program Description:** Proposed Justice Department activities related to border and transportation security amount to \$4.146 billion in mandatory spending, in addition to \$19.411 billion in discretionary funds. Reducing the discretionary amount by 10% in FY2011 could help focus this spending on necessary programs and identify activities duplicating functions already addressed by the Department of Homeland Security (or components including Customs and Border Protection and the Transportation Security Administration).
- **Source:** *Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2011*, Table 32-1: Budget Authority and Outlays by Function, Category, and Program, p. 73, [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2011/assets/32\\_1.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2011/assets/32_1.pdf)

### Fusion Center Support to Local Law Enforcement

- **Cost Savings:** \$750,000
- **Program Description:** “The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), in collaboration with local, state, and federal partners, developed a program to provide resources for fusion centers, including training in intelligence analysis, technical support, IT infrastructure for implementing information sharing systems, and policy guidance regarding the sharing of personal information.”
- **Source:** “Section 8: Countering Terrorism and Domestic Emergencies,” *2010 Program Plan: Resources for the Field*, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ProgramPlan/section8.htm>

## Enhancing Fusion Center Awareness and Performance

- **Cost Savings:** \$500,000
- **Program Description:** coordination between Fusion Centers to share best practices and institutionalize partnership efforts through cooperation and coordination with major stakeholders such as the DOJ, DHS, the IACP, the Major City Chiefs Association, the Major County Sheriffs Association, National Sheriffs' Association, and the fusion center community.
- **Source:** "Section 8: Countering Terrorism and Domestic Emergencies," *2010 Program Plan: Resources for the Field*, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ProgramPlan/section8.htm>

## Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI)

- **Cost Savings:** Unknown (grant amount to be determined)
- **Program Description:** The SAR process gathers information about behaviors and incidents potentially unhinged from reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. It also provides an infrastructure for agencies to systematically gather, document, process, analyze, and share behaviors and events in a futile effort to identify supposed precursors of criminal activity. As early as 2008, The National Research Council recommended greater oversight of datamining programs, and suggested that "agencies using or planning to adopt such tools for counterterrorism purposes should first be required to thoroughly evaluate their effectiveness, lawfulness and impact on privacy."
- **Sources:** "Section 8: Countering Terrorism and Domestic Emergencies," *2010 Program Plan: Resources for the Field*, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ProgramPlan/section8.htm>; "Data mining for terrorists is an exercise in futility, advisory panel claims," by Jaikumar Vijayan, Computerworld, October 13, 2008, [http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9116999/Data\\_mining\\_for\\_terrorists\\_is\\_an\\_exercise\\_in\\_futility\\_advisory\\_panel\\_claims](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9116999/Data_mining_for_terrorists_is_an_exercise_in_futility_advisory_panel_claims).

## Enhancements for National Security

- **Cost Savings:** \$245 million
- **Program Description:** The proposed 2011 budget includes \$145 million in enhancements for the FBI's national security programs, and \$100 million for the Justice Department's National Security Division. This funding supports counterintelligence and cyber-security programs that threaten the privacy of law-abiding Americans and should be subjected to more rigorous oversight.
- **Source:** *Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2011*, p. 96-97, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2011/assets/justice.pdf>

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## Federal Bureau of Investigation

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### Advanced electronic surveillance

- **Cost Savings:** \$233.9 million
- **Program Description:** Electronic surveillance tools that threaten the privacy of law-abiding Americans are also unproven and demonstrably unnecessary: among the many investigations of

(real, imagined, or concocted) 'homegrown' terrorism, none leading to successful prosecution have relied on datamining and the connecting of electronic dots. Advanced electronic surveillance programs may also duplicate existing NSA functions.

- **Source:** "DOJ Budget Details High-Tech Crime Fighting Tools" by Jason Ryan, *ABC News*, May 9, 2009, <http://abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/Story?id=7532199>.

### Defense-related FBI activities

- **Cost Savings:** \$460 million
- **Program Description:** Proposed FBI activities related to defense would cost \$4.602 billion in FY2011, and could duplicate functions already addressed by the Department of Defense. Reducing FBI activities related to defense by 10% could help focus funding on necessary programs and identify activities pursuing potentially redundant functions.
- **Source:** *Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2011*, Table 32-1: Budget Authority and Outlays by Function, Category, and Program, p. 41, [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2011/assets/32\\_1.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2011/assets/32_1.pdf)

## Department of Defense

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### National Security Agency "spy centers"

- **Cost Savings:** \$1.2 billion for a single facility alone
- **Program Description:** The NSA's on million-square-foot "spy center" in Utah will house duplicative data from the nation's intelligence community, which is already collected in databases including the FBI's Guardian system, each of over 70 fusion centers around the country, and dozens of Joint Terrorism Task Forces.
- **Source:** "Security Digest," by G.W. Schulz, Center for Investigative Reporting, January 13, 2011, <http://centerforinvestigativereporting.org/blogpost/20110113securitydigestourlistofsecuritystoriesthatmatterjan39>.

### WHINSEC's "Strategic Communications Campaign Plan"

- **Cost Savings:** At least \$2 million since 2002
- **Program Description:** The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC, formerly called the School of the Americas or SOA) maintains a "proactive public affairs effort in direct support of the Institute" to deflect public criticism about, for example, training manuals describing "'coercive techniques' such as those used to mistreat the detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq."
- **Source:** "America's Army Fights Back: The PR Plan for the Pentagon's 'Demonstration Village,'" by Diane Farsetta, PRWatch, August 24, 2005, <http://www.prwatch.org/node/3936>.

