



Naptown Media Presents:



ARE WE SAFER TODAY?

Title: Are We Safer today? The impact of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, the federal government's adoption, and the impact on national security today.

Logline: Members of the 9/11 Commission explore how well their extensive recommendations for American security have been implemented with an eye to "Are We Safer Today?"

Proposed Broadcast Date: September of 2021, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Overview: The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (the 9/11 Commission) was the last bipartisan commission created to advise the federal government. Commissioners spent almost two years interviewing more than 1,200 people in 10 countries.

The diversity of interviewees ranged from former President Clinton to FBI field translators. 11 Commissioners and 70 staff distilled the intelligence they gained into “The 9/11 Commission Report,” the most significant portion of which is a series of findings and recommendations to the nation to prevent future catastrophic acts of terrorism on US soil.

Now, a decade and a half after the Commission’s report was issued, “Are We Safer Today?” tackles an evaluation of how well the federal government has implemented the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Featuring Chairman Tom Kean and Vice Chairman Lee Hamilton, “Are We Safer Today?” will probe the critical elements of the Commission’s findings and interview major figures to assess the impact on national security today.

Format:

“Are We Safer Today?” will reunite the Commission Members for a two-day moderated group discussion about their work and its acceptance. Enhancing that core content will be backstory segments to set historical context and expert interview segments to balance the opinions of the Commissioners.

- 1) The reunion filming session will be a “Fred Friendly”-style group discussion about their work, their recommendations, and implementation of their recommendations.
- 2) Three of their original areas of investigation have been identified by Gov Kean and Representative Hamilton. These are:
 - a. The problem of inter-agency communication
 - b. The problem of allocation of funding
 - c. The problem of Congressional oversight.

These three subject areas will have special “backstory” treatments, interspersed at appropriate times in the discussion. The backstory segments will include:

- Lookbacks into the historical aspects of the 9/11 attacks related to the particular recommendation;
- the inner workings of the Commission related to the events, intelligence and people that they interviewed or studied;
- how they came to their recommendation;
- Independent assessment of the government’s adoption of the particular recommendation in each backstory segment.

The backstory segments will cover at least one of each of these categories of recommendations.

Special note on format: It is important that the group discussion and the backstory/experts cover the spectrum of good government, from successful polity through half-measures through

failing in implementation. This production is meant to give an honest, balanced view of these historic developments.

Project elements and distribution: The project has three elements:

- 1) A documentary film to be distributed to public television stations nationwide;
- 2) Online availability of the film along with dozens of video shorts that go into detail in areas that could not be covered in the documentary;
- 3) A curriculum guide for high school students and an exploration guide for the general public for use with the online materials.

The Recommendations:

The full list of the Commission’s recommendations falls under these broad categories:

- Attack Terrorists and Their Organizations
- Prevent the Continued Growth of Islamist Terrorism
- Protect against and Prepare for Terrorist Attacks
- How to do it? A different way of organizing government:
 - Unity of Effort: A National Counterterrorism Center
 - Unity of Effort: A National Intelligence Director
 - Unity of Effort: Sharing Information
 - Unity of Effort: Congress
 - Unity of Effort: Organizing America’s Defenses in the United States

The narrative flow of the project will be:

- Set the historical context for a new generation with a review of the threat assessment in 2001, and the conditions that the Commissioners investigated.
- The problem of information sharing and government reorganization in the new reality. What were the findings/recommendations and what is the government doing today? How is our current information sharing different than then?
- The problem of allocation of funding. Where has the money gone? What is the money trail? Where does it lead? What benefits have derived from the allocations?
- The problem of Congressional oversight. How has Congress adapted to the new reality? What was their role in adopting the recommendations of the Commission? What is their process and history of dealing with oversight of the agencies charged with national security? Is their work active and ongoing or reactive to events?
- Revisit the threat assessment from 2001 and compare to a fresh assessment in the current day. How serious is the threat now? How does it compare to 2001? How does the threat from 9/11 terrorist elements rank today with other threats to our national security? “Are We Safer Today?”

Core Participants in the project include: Tom Kean, Chair of the Commission and Lee Hamilton, Vice Chair, will be both primary advisors to and active participants in the project. Additionally this core group is involved:

- All other 8 members of the Commission. This includes:
 - Richard Ben-Veniste – Democrat, attorney and former chief of the Watergate Task Force of the Watergate Special Prosecutor's Office
 - Fred F. Fielding – Republican, attorney and former White House Counsel member.
 - Jamie Gorelick – Democrat, former Deputy Attorney General in the Clinton Administration
 - Slade Gorton – Republican, former U.S. Senator from Washington
 - Bob Kerrey – Democrat, President of the New School University and former U.S. Senator from Nebraska
 - John F. Lehman – Republican, former Secretary of the Navy
 - Timothy J. Roemer – Democrat, former U.S. Representative from Indiana
 - James R. Thompson – Republican, former Governor of Illinois
- Members of the Commission Staff:
 - Philip D. Zelikow – Executive Director/Chair
 - Christopher Kojm – Deputy Executive Director
 - Mike Hurley – Team Leader