



BRAVERY, SERVICE, AND DEDICATION

A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

America is Attacked

Nineteen Al-Qaeda militants hijacked four planes, killing almost 3,000 people and triggering an evolution of America's approach to border security. Two planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. The third plane was flown into the Pentagon. The final plane, Flight 93, crashed in a Pennsylvania field during an attempt by flight crew and passengers to regain control of the plane.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

Terrorism Response Task Force Created

The US Customs Service created the Terrorism Response Task Force to coordinate all investigative and intelligence leads related to the September 11th attacks. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) creates the Federal Air Marshal Program. One hundred and twenty-five Customs agents travel on behalf of the FAA on commercial flights until a sufficient number of air marshals are trained.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

Customs Agents Arrive at Ground Zero

Agents from Field Offices across the United States arrive in New York City to assist with rescue and recovery efforts, searching for human remains, evidence, and sensitive information in government buildings.

OCTOBER 8, 2001

Office of Homeland Security Created

President Bush signs Executive Order 13228, establishing the Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council. Its mission is to "develop and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from terrorist threats and attacks."

NOVEMBER 4, 2001

Customs Agents Arrive at Fresh Kills

The Fresh Kills landfill, named for "fresh water" in Dutch, is used as a sorting location for Ground Zero evidence. Customs agents combed through thousands of pounds of wreckage, looking for evidence. More than one million tons of materials from the World Trade Center was sorted at Fresh Kills.

NOVEMBER 5, 2001

Ground Zero Evidence Tested for Hazardous Materials

The Department of Health and Human Services issues a memorandum addressing concerns that materials collected from Ground Zero were contaminated. US Customs surveyed evidence stored at the US Customs Service Evidence Vault in New Jersey and found that materials from Ground Zero contained up to 25% chrysotile asbestos.

FEBRUARY 26, 2002

Agents Report Back to Regular Duty

Agents working at recovery sites across New York and border entry points across the country return to regular duty.

APRIL 23, 2002

Congress Thanks Customs Agents

The House of Representatives issues a recognition of the men and women of the US Customs Service, 6 World Trade Center Office for their hard work, commitment, and compassion during and immediately after the attacks.

NOVEMBER 25, 2002

Department of Homeland Security Created

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 created the Department of Homeland Security, bringing together 22 federal departments in an effort to unify homeland security efforts.