Partisanship should stop at the water’s edge. One of the greatest incentives for cooperation is the imperative of ensuring the safety and security of all Americans. The National Security Program is devoted to developing innovative and consensus-driven solutions to the nation’s most challenging national security and foreign policy concerns. That includes figuring out how to work with international partners like Turkey, prevent a nuclear Iran, address the evolving terrorist threat, and make cyberspace safer. The National Security Program tackles these challenges and more as it strives to make the United States a safer country and the world a more secure place.

FOREIGN POLICY PROJECT
America’s relationships with countries across the globe have serious implications for the lives of everyday Americans. As the Arab world struggles to define itself, as Iran pursues its nuclear program, as old allies such as Turkey grow unstable and undependable, as Russia becomes a new and often troubling partner in a post-Cold War world, and as Latin America struggles with democratic institutions, the Foreign Policy Project is developing realistic and robust bipartisan policy recommendations to guide U.S. foreign policy.

HOMELAND SECURITY PROJECT
Ten years since the 9/11 Commission released its report citing the failure of imagination that contributed to our vulnerabilities on 9/11, the Homeland Security Project aims to ask the tough questions and present policy solutions to ensure our nation is safer and more secure. The threat facing our nation has evolved in the past decade. Technology has forever transformed the nature of state secrets and personal privacy, putting individuals’ financial and personal data, as well as a nation’s classified materials just a few clicks away from determined thieves. A clever hacker could damage the nation’s electric grid and other critical infrastructure processes through manipulation of online control systems. All of these issues and more inform the Homeland Security Project’s core mission as an active, bipartisan voice on homeland and national security issues. With terrorist threats and tactics becoming more complex, the project works to foster public discourse, evaluate reform, provide expert analysis, and develop proactive policy solutions on how to best address emerging security challenges.

SECURITY PROGRAM
FOREIGN POLICY PROJECT

HIGHLIGHTS

Preventing a Nuclear Iran

For more than six years, the Foreign Policy Project has conducted rigorous analysis on the growing threat of a nuclear Iran—the most urgent national security risk facing the United States—and has developed a comprehensive strategy to prevent it. In 2013, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Ed Royce (R-CA) and Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY) sponsored bipartisan legislation aimed at preventing a nuclear Iran—including important BPC proposals on requiring regular, publicly reported assessments of Iran’s nuclear progress—that was passed by the House by an almost unanimous margin. Meanwhile, the Foreign Policy Project’s regular analysis of International Atomic Energy Agency reports on Iran’s nuclear program marked a rise in BPC’s Capitol Hill presence and influence: the Foreign Policy Project is now sought out for its expertise on Iran (as well as other Middle East issues) with invitations to testify before Congress and to work with members on U.S. policies toward Iran.

After Gezi Park: Turkey and the U.S.

After the Arab uprisings, the Foreign Policy Project leaders noticed Turkey’s waning cooperation with the United States and its growing domestic troubles, and they worried that one of America’s strongest regional allies was in jeopardy. The project was prescient: in May 2013, massive protests erupted in Turkey and the U.S.-Turkish relationship became strained. And so, BPC’s Turkey Initiative leaders traveled to Turkey to meet with government officials in the immediate aftermath of the Gezi Park protests. The result was three major papers on Turkey: The Roots of Turkish Conduct, U.S.-Turkish Cooperation Toward

It’s tragic that bleedingly obvious, common sense [foreign policy] observations are so rare as to be praiseworthy. But they are. Good job, @BPC_Bipartisan.

—Claire Berlinski, American novelist and journalist living in Istanbul, reacts to BPC’s From Rhetoric to Reality via Twitter
a Post-Assad Syria, and From Rhetoric to Reality: Reframing U.S. Turkey Policy. Each presented an evaluation of U.S.-Turkey relations and made bipartisan recommendations for improving the ties of this vital alliance—a unique contribution on a topic that is too often ignored in Washington.

**Latin America: Challenges to Democracy**

In 2013, while the world was transfixed by struggles with democracy in the Middle East, that same struggle occurred, unnoticed, much closer to America’s borders. Whereas military dictators, brutal Marxist guerrillas, and one-party systems affected much of Latin America’s democratic evolution throughout the 20th century, the current slow pace of democratic progress in some Latin American countries is due to the rise of radical populist governments. Foreign Policy Project Senior Fellow and former President of Colombia Álvaro Uribe testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere on “Challenges to Democracy in the Western Hemisphere.” President Uribe also spoke at a Foreign Policy Project event on Latin America; he expressed hope that Colombia will begin negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) to end a half-century of armed guerrilla conflict.

**International Impact**

When combining the report and the event pages, BPC’s From Rhetoric to Reality received more than 7,000 total views, placing it among the top ten most popular pieces of content on BPC’s website in all of 2013. What’s more, 62 percent of the visitors viewing the report were from Turkey.
Iran’s Approach To Nuclear Weapons Capability

The Foreign Policy Project provided detailed analysis of Iran’s nuclear progress and how it impacts U.S. national security, including the acceleration of the rate at which it is producing 3.5% enriched uranium.

“(A) paper for the Bipartisan Policy Center ... points a way forward for the two NATO allies. One problem, as the paper makes clear, is that the incoherent policies of Erdogan’s Turkey have dragged it into conflict with virtually everyone in the Middle East and beyond.”
—The Weekly Standard

“Netanyahu fears—as do some influential members of Congress—that any so-called ‘first step’ agreement without major Iranian concessions is dangerous. One of his concerns, says Blaise Misztal, an Iran expert with the Bipartisan Policy Center, is that an interim deal ‘will become the final deal.’”
—Time

Former Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky

From BPC blog post “A Tale of Two Irans in New IAEA Report.”
Acting Director of Foreign Policy Blaise Misztal testified before the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, on Iran as a threat to the United States.

September 10, 2013
BPC Senior Fellow and former President of Colombia Álvaro Uribe testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, on challenges to democracy in the Western Hemisphere.

October 30, 2013
Stephen G. Rademaker, a Foreign Policy Project advisor, testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittees on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations and Middle East and North Africa, in support of the House resolution to establish a war crime tribunal for Syria.

Iran. The project continues to promote a bipartisan strategy to prevent a nuclear Iran, including funding for International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of Iran’s nuclear facilities and encouraging involvement from Congress and the administration in a final nuclear deal between Iran and other nations.

Turkey. The Turkey Initiative will continue to monitor events in and around Turkey as the Syrian civil war continues and as Turks vote in two elections.

Sequester. The project will continue to work with the Economic Policy Project on the analysis of defense budget issues, including a consideration of alternatives to the sequester cuts.

“...The difficulty of the talks are a sign of how far both Iran’s nuclear program and Western sanctions have progressed and how hard it is to roll them back, said Blaise Misztal, director of the Foreign Policy Project at the Bipartisan Policy Center, who has testified before Congress on Iran’s nuclear program.”

—USA TODAY
Leadership

1. Thomas H. Kean  
Former Governor of New Jersey and 9/11 Commission Co-Chair

2. Lee H. Hamilton  
Former Representative and 9/11 Commission Co-Chair

3. Carie Lemack  
Director of the Homeland Security Project

HOMELAND SECURITY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Jihadist Threat

“Al-Qaeda and sympathetic groups are situated in many more countries, maintaining a presence in 16 theaters of operation,” wrote Homeland Security Project Co-Chairs Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton in USA TODAY. “But it is important to understand that no al-Qaeda threat has ever remained purely localized.” In September 2013, the Homeland Security Project released the first in an annual series of reports, Jihadist Terrorism: A Threat Assessment, on emerging threats facing the nation from jihadist terrorists. The report provides a comprehensive review of al-Qaeda and its affiliates—as well as other extremists who may target U.S. interests—and makes recommendations on how best to counter these threats and protect the homeland. The report also sheds light on the al-Shabaab terror group, which, in September 2013, led a deadly attack in Kenya. The Homeland Security Project responded quickly, briefing Hill staff and the press about the group to inform the dialogue around the tragedy.

Taking on Intelligence-Sharing and U.S. Drone Policy

The Homeland Security Project hosted events in 2013 that focused on two of the most pressing security challenges of the day: intelligence-sharing and U.S. drone policy. In “Does the Public Need to Know? Journalistic Perspectives on Sharing Intelligence,” members of the media and leaders in the intelligence community discussed how

“While the core of al-Qaeda is reeling from 12 years of relentless pressure, its ideology is still winning new converts even on our soil. The future face of terrorism is decentralized and more diffuse, creating a challenge for law enforcement because it can surface anywhere, often without warning.”

—BPC Homeland Security Project Co-Chairs Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton in USA TODAY
to make information-sharing both transparent and secure. This included how to tackle the balance of sharing information with the public regarding serious national issues (such as last year’s attacks in Benghazi) without compromising sources, methods, and secure information. And at “Analyzing the Legal and Moral Implications of U.S. Drone Policy,” both legal and policy experts examined the use of drones. Panelists evaluated issues like the current frameworks for the use of drones, the ramifications of a “drone court,” the targeting of American citizens abroad, and whether or not Congress should look at what these policies mean for the country.

The State of Intelligence Reform
The Homeland Security Project kicked off a series of events leading up to a July 2014 event to commemorate ten years since the release of the 9/11 Commission report. Panelists—including former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center Michael Leiter, former Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission Philip Zelikow, and The Wall Street Journal’s Siobhan Gorman—evaluated the state of intelligence reforms since the 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, determining if in the post—Edward Snowden era, U.S. intelligence capabilities are where they need to be to meet the threat facing the nation.

Cybersecurity: A Guide
The concept of protecting our cyber infrastructure is challenging and developing effective policies requires analysis from a range of experts and perspectives. The Homeland Security Project developed a guide to many reports on cybersecurity from experts across the country, as well as from resources from businesses and news sources. The guide provides a helpful starting tool for cybersecurity researchers who seek a wide array of opinions and information. As the nation and the world become increasingly connected online, American society must continue a healthy and necessary discussion of the challenges, dangers, and opportunities that global connectivity creates.

Jihadist Terrorism: A Threat Assessment quickly became the second most popular piece of content on BPC’s website.
The Wall Street Journal's Siobhan Gorman, former Majority Staff Director for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Michael Allen, former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center and BPC Homeland Security Project Task Force Member Michael Leiter, and former Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission Philip Zelikow chat after a BPC panel discussion on the state of intelligence reform.
Homeland Security Project

April 11, 2013
BPC Homeland Security Project Director Carie Lemack submitted a written statement for the record to the House Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, regarding knives on planes. Her statement was mentioned in opening remarks during the subcommittee’s hearing.

The Homeland Security Project also gave briefings on both domestic terrorism and radicalization to the Senate and House Homeland Security minority and majority staff.

**Facts from BPC's Jihadist Terrorism: A Threat Assessment**
As of September 2013

16 The number of theaters of operation where al-Qaeda and allied groups have a presence.

20K+ The number of people on the TSA No-Fly List.

108 The number of congressional committees and subcommittees that oversee the Department of Homeland Security.

"This is a time as we all know of very strong partisan division. Therefore it’s so important that we maintain a bipartisan approach. Republicans and Democrats should agree on the most important problems and divisions facing this country from terrorists abroad and at home to ensure the country’s safety."
—Former Governor of New Jersey Tom Kean

Coming Up in 2014

**10th Anniversary of 9/11 Commission Report.** A decade later, the 9/11 Commission continues to demonstrate that cooperation and collaboration are both feasible and necessary in the name of homeland security. The Homeland Security Project will assess the progress made toward implementing the 9/11 Commission recommendations. But it will also look at lessons learned from the commission itself and at emerging threats.