

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Fiscal Years 2003-2008

STRATEGIC  
PLAN

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# A MESSAGE

## FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Just over two years have passed since September 11, 2001, a day which will forever be remembered as one of the most tragic in world history. It will also be remembered as a day in which the heroic spirit of America awed the world, for on that day our Nation's finest and bravest in New York and Washington sacrificed their lives in order to preserve the lives of others.

Indeed, the protection of life and liberty is the cause of our time. It has transformed the mission of the Justice Department. In its service, the men and women of law enforcement have brought new meaning to sacrifice and new depth to duty. On every level of law enforcement, in every area of battling terrorism and fighting crime, we are committed to a new strategy of prevention. It is a strategy as serious as the threats we face; a strategy grounded in reality, measured by results, and accountable to the people of the United States of America.

In this spirit, we have constructed America's defense - the defense of life and liberty - upon a foundation of prevention, nurtured by cooperation, built on coordination and rooted in our constitutional liberties. We have forged new relationships of cooperation with other nations and domestic agencies. We have fought for and won necessary counterterrorism tools for law enforcement. Within the Constitution, we will continue to do everything in our power to prevent further terrorist acts.

The Department of Justice FY 2003-2008 Strategic Plan reflects this commitment. It demonstrates our firm resolve to prevent future attacks and our continued diligence in combating crime in the United States. The Plan outlines our ongoing efforts to protect all Americans while preserving their constitutional freedoms.

The Plan describes the Department's commitment to:

- Prevent terrorism and promote America's security;
- Enforce federal laws and represent the rights and interests of the American people;
- Assist state, local, and tribal efforts to prevent or reduce crime and violence; and
- Ensure the fair and efficient operation of the federal justice system.

In advancing these goals, we will fight crimes that are most injurious to the Nation and its citizens: terrorism and espionage; violent crime, including firearms offenses; the trafficking of illegal drugs and associated violence; crimes against children; bias-motivated crimes and racial discrimination; corporate crime; cybercrime; fraud of all kind, including tax and identity fraud.

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The plan also describes our commitment to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement organizations, where most of the Nation's crime fighting is done. Finally, it reflects our determination to preserve the integrity and safety of the justice system by protecting the persons and facilities in our courts, by incarcerating criminals, and by preparing offenders who have served their sentences to re-enter society as contributing members.

Securing life and liberty. That is our charge. And on behalf of our fellow citizens, what is asked of us - what is expected of us - we will accept. And what we accept, we will achieve.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Ashcroft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.