



[\[National Security Presidential Directives - NSPDs\]](#)

NSPD-9: *Combating Terrorism*

October 25, 2001

[Text Not Available]

On April 1, 2004, the [White House released](#) the following characterization of this otherwise classified document:

The NSPD called on the Secretary of Defense to plan for military options "against Taliban targets in Afghanistan, including leadership, command-control, air and air defense, ground forces, and logistics." The NSPD also called for plans "against al Qaeda and associated terrorist facilities in Afghanistan, including leadership, command-control-communications, training, and logistics facilities."

In [testimony before the 9-11 Commission](#) on March 23, 2004, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld presented this description of the strategy contained in NSPD-9:

"The objectives of the new strategy were:

- To eliminate the al-Qaeda network;
- To use all elements of national power to do so -- diplomatic, military, economic, intelligence, information and law enforcement;
- To eliminate sanctuaries for al-Qaeda and related terrorist networks – and if diplomatic efforts to do so failed, to consider additional measures.

The essence of this strategy was contained in NSPD-9. It was the first major substantive national security decision directive issued by this Administration. It was presented for decision by principals on September 4, 2001 – 7 days before September 11th. The directive was signed by the President, with minor changes, and a preamble to reflect the events of 9/11, on October 25, 2001."