

NEW AND IMPROVED HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM

The Homeland Security Advisory System is supposed to indicate threat levels. We don't think it works very well, so we've come up with our own version. We will go through some of the events that have taken place over the past few years and test the new system.

Jan 2003 – George W. Bush appoints Michael D. Brown as director of FEMA and for the first time since the 1960s, annual cuts to federal funds for the New Orleans levees begin. [ORANGE ALERT]

In the months prior to March 2003, 165 US cities and towns passed resolutions opposing the invasion of Iraq and the entire world demonstrated against the war. [GREEN ALERT]

On March 20, 2003, the United States, the UK and the so called "Coalition of the Willing" invaded the sovereign country of Iraq and started their "Shock and Awe" campaign. [RED ALERT]

In April and May 2003, a number of nuclear facilities in Iraq, some under the "protection" of the US military, were looted, damaged and burned. [RED ALERT]

In July 2003, during a visit to the United States, President Bush declared Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi "a good friend". [RED ALERT]

In August 2003, President Bush spent 29 days on vacation at his ranch in Crawford Texas while Vice President Cheney spent the month in Wyoming [YELLOW ALERT]

In November 2003, the US Senate approved Bush's \$87,000,000,000 spending plan to continue military operations in Iraq, 80% for occupation costs and 20% for "reconstruction" [RED ALERT]

On March 20, 2004 worldwide anti-war protests marked the first anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. The people say no to war once again. [GREEN ALERT]

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In April 2004 the world saw photos of inmates of the Abu Ghraib prison being tortured and humiliated by US military in what was apparently standard operating procedure. [RED ALERT]

In August 2004, President Bush returned to his ranch in Crawford Texas for another vacation. [YELLOW ALERT]

In March 2005, 48 town meetings in Vermont voted against the war and to bring their National Guard troops home. Only three towns voted it down. [GREEN ALERT]

On August 1, 2005 Bush made a recess appointment of Bolton, installing him as Ambassador to the United Nations without Senate confirmation. [ORANGE ALERT]

President Bush takes his summer vacation in August of 2005, returning once again to his ranch in Texas. [YELLOW ALERT]

During Bush's vacation, Cindy Sheehan setup camp outside the ranch requesting an audience with Bush and an answer to her question "why did my son die in Iraq?" [GREEN ALERT]

The levees were breached in New Orleans; Bush remained on vacation, Rumsfeld went to a baseball game, Rice went shoe shopping and to a Broadway show in NYC. [RED ALERT]