

# One lesson from 9/11: Abolish Dept. of Homeland Security, says Cato

*By Allen McDuffee*

After the Sept. 11 attacks, Congress created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The idea was to improve the coordination and communication of 22 already-existing federal agencies to bolster the U.S. counterterrorism efforts.

But the Cato Institute's David Rittgers [argues](#) that if the last 10 years has taught us anything, it's that DHS needs to be abolished.

DHS has too many subdivisions in too many disparate fields to operate effectively. Agencies with responsibilities for counterfeiting investigations, border security, disaster preparedness, federal law enforcement training, biological warfare, and computer incident response find themselves under the same cabinet official. This arrangement has not enhanced the government's competence. Americans are not safer because the head of DHS is simultaneously responsible for airport security and governmental efforts to counter potential flu epidemics.