

States Military Academy and the values it represents and upholds.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 13.

Message on the Observance of Saint Patrick's Day

March 7, 2002

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

On this day, millions of people in Ireland and throughout the world will gather to commemorate the life of Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. From his days as a slave in Ireland to his work as a missionary years later, St. Patrick demonstrated a courage, commitment, and faith that won the hearts and minds of the Irish people. St. Patrick's Day also serves as a time for people of Irish descent from all traditions and religions to honor their native land and shared heritage.

This celebration is particularly important in the United States, as we recognize the contributions of the millions of Irish-Americans who immigrated to our shores from the earliest years of our Republic. They dedicated themselves to the challenges of building America and achieved success and prosperity. The industry, talent, and imagination of the Irish have enriched our economy and culture. Their strong record of public service has fortified our democracy. And their devotion to family, faith, and community has strengthened our country's character.

On St. Patrick's Day, Americans from every background join in celebrating the rich culture of the Irish and our continued friendship with the people of Ireland. I join me in sending our best wishes for a memorable celebration.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 12. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Directive on the Homeland Security Advisory System

March 11, 2002

Homeland Security Presidential Directive-3

Purpose

The Nation requires a Homeland Security Advisory System to provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people. Such a system would provide warnings in the form of a set of graduated "Threat Conditions" that would increase as the risk of the threat increases. At each Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies would implement a corresponding set of "Protective Measures" to further reduce vulnerability or increase response capability during a period of heightened alert.

This system is intended to create a common vocabulary, context, and structure for an ongoing national discussion about the nature of the threats that confront the homeland and the appropriate measures that should be taken in response. It seeks to inform and facilitate decisions appropriate to different levels of government and to private citizens at home and at work.

Homeland Security Advisory System

The Homeland Security Advisory System shall be binding on the executive branch and suggested, although voluntary, to other levels of government and the private sector. There are five Threat Conditions, each identified by a description and corresponding color. From lowest to highest, the levels and colors are:

Low = Green;
Guarded = Blue;
Elevated = Yellow;
High = Orange;
Severe = Red.