

# U.S. SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY

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**VERMONT**

**Remarks Of Senator Patrick Leahy  
Announcement Of The New  
Department Of Justice National Center  
For Cyber-Terrorism And Cyber-Crime  
Norwich University  
Thursday, October 24, 2002**

It is great to be here with you today in Northfield. Thank you, President Schneider. Thank you, Carl Guerreri from Electronic Warfare Associates of Northern Virginia and George Peterson from ManTech Inc. of Maryland for coming up to Vermont. And I want to commend the Norwich board of directors, who have provided steady and sound advice in working with the university's administration to turn Norwich University into one of the premier learning institutions anywhere.

I am proud to be here as we announce the creation of the Department of Justice National Center for Cyber-Terrorism and Cyber-Crime. This new center, based here at Norwich University, is one of seven national preparedness centers designated in the new Department of Justice Authorization Bill, which just passed the Senate early this month and which I expect the President to sign any day now. This new Justice Department charter is the first Justice Department authorization bill to pass in 21 years. Along with sharpening our focus on domestic preparedness, our legislation also includes scores of other law enforcement improvements, including new steps to improve our crime and drug abuse prevention efforts. I'm especially pleased that we have been able to get this done during the 15 months – so far – that I have been chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

This National Center for Counter-Terrorism and Cyber-Crime will harness the expertise and resources of the federal government, the academic community and the private sector education sector to improve our understanding of terrorism and to combat computer crime. We have taken many steps since last year's terrorist attacks to improve our security, but there is much left to do in addressing the vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure such as our computer systems. We must use creativity and expertise and real-world experience to meet this challenge.

Cyber-crime already was a major concern before the attacks of September 11, and the terrorist attacks have elevated the urgency of defending our critical information infrastructure. Norwich, which has become one of the premier distance learning centers in the world, is well prepared to help take our defenses to a new level. This new center will marshal this expertise, and it will become a perpetual engine for developing new tools and tactics against cyber-crime. Through the work of this center, Vermont's contributions to domestic preparedness will help the entire nation.

And the work and the expertise that the center attracts will also help Vermont in other ways. All of the funds that go to Norwich will remain in the state. The center will stimulate matching investments from contractors like E.W.A. and ManTech. The center will bring new jobs for Vermonters.

The expertise that this center will hold will be shared beyond the Justice Department. The center will also carry out advanced research for the Department of Defense. I secured \$5 million in funding in the Defense Department Appropriations bill for a Special Operations Nanotechnology initiative. Norwich will help our elite military forces digitize its equipment, making it more portable and effective. While the Special Operations Command in Florida will manage the program, our enormously-skilled Green Berets, Delta Force, and SEALs will be the ultimate beneficiaries.

It was a pleasure to work with you all in establishing this center and in securing the funding to launch this promising initiative. With the tradition, pride, and competence that Norwich has fostered, I know you will deliver, for Vermont and for the American people, expertise that will help make our homeland and our way of life more secure.

Thank you.

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