

Author Says Antiterrorism Efforts Better If Based Locally

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As a former member of the United States Department of Homeland Security, Matt Mayer has plenty of information to share.

Mayer's book, *Homeland Security and Federalism: Protecting America from Outside the Beltway*, can now be found on bookshelves.

Mayer's book shows the effort the U.S. is putting forth in the battle against terrorism, and shows what could be done differently to be more successful.

One of the cornerstones of Mayer's novel is decentralization.

"After 21/2 years in Washington, I've learned that after 9-11 we failed to learn the lessons of history as power is still centralized in Washington. If we want to secure the homeland efficiently and effectively and abide by the Constitution, we need the power out of Washington and into the hands of governors, mayors, and chiefs of police," Mayer said.

Counterterrorism, Mayer says, is a prime example of why decentralization would be successful.

"We have 15,000 FBI agents who are called in to investigate cases all over the country. As soon as they arrive on the scene, they take the power away from local law enforcement who are familiar and comfortable with the area and the case becomes federalized. If we shift the power over to our 1.1 million local law enforcement, there is a much higher chance of detection and prevention," Mayer said.

During Mayer's 21/2 years with the Department of Homeland Security, he worked with state and local governments to help prepare for and prevent terrorist attacks. He also helped design national training and exercise programs for counterterrorism units and was the Policy and operational advisor to the deputy secretary and secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Born in Dayton, Mayer grew up in Westerville and attended St. Francis De Sales High School. Upon graduating, Mayer attended University of Dayton and the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. He graduated with honors from both institutions.

Mayer, 38, lives with his wife and two daughters in Dublin.

He is currently the CEO of Provisum Strategies LLC, an adjunct professor at Ohio

State University where he teaches a class on responses to terrorism in America and Europe, and is a contributor to The Heritage Foundation.

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