

Intelligence to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century

The national security challenges facing the United States in the 21st Century are unprecedented in their scope, complexity, and gravity. To address these challenges successfully, the United States must have a national intelligence system that brings together the capabilities of our collection, analytic, and technical communities in a manner that optimally promotes U.S. and global security interests. Indeed, the U.S. intelligence system must evolve significantly from its Cold War roots. It needs to be the engine that helps U.S. policymakers uncover and thwart dangerous threats such as terrorism and proliferation; identify the drivers and potential solutions to political, economic, and social problems; understand the underpinnings of ideological and territorial disputes; and seize opportunities for peace and human development wherever and whenever they arise.

To accomplish its important mission, the Intelligence Community must never be subject to political manipulation and interference. It must always maintain its independence, objectivity, and integrity, providing the President and policymakers throughout the Government unvarnished intelligence and analytic assessments on national security issues. The individuals who lead our Intelligence Community have a special responsibility to protect that mandate.

- **Accordingly, the positions of Director of National Intelligence and the Director of the CIA should be made ten-year term appointments, with confirmation by the Senate. We need to take these positions out of the cycle of partisan political appointments and, at the same time, ensure needed continuity at the helm of U.S. Intelligence.**

The Intelligence Community has grown significantly since the tragic terrorist attacks of 9/11, as there is a strong national consensus for more and better intelligence about the threats facing our Nation, both at home and abroad. The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA) created the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and called for a transformation of the Intelligence Community, but the ineffective implementation of those reforms has resulted in confusion and competition among intelligence agencies.

- **We need a blueprint for the Intelligence Community of the future, so that intelligence missions, budgets, and initiatives comprise a system of complementary organizations working hand-in-hand in support of our collective national security. We have no such blueprint today, and we owe one to the hard-working intelligence professionals whose expertise we rely on each day to keep us safe and secure.**

The intelligence mission of our country must involve more than the departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The security of our Nation will be best protected when we truly have a “national” security architecture that knits together the capabilities and requirements of all levels of government as well as those of the private sector. Until these communities can interoperate with one another in a timely, efficient, and coordinated manner, our adversaries will be able to exploit dangerous gaps that exist among those with responsibility to protect our country.

- **To date, the Federal Government has been remiss in its duty to bring together the tremendously broad and deep capabilities that exist in our Nation. We need to move beyond a Washington-beltway mentality and Washington-centric solutions. We need a national initiative that explores how we can best utilize, coordinate, and leverage the knowledge and talent that exist throughout our great country.**

Unfortunately, there has been precious little progress since 9/11 related to defining and setting the legal and policy parameters of “domestic intelligence.” Backroom discussions that result in Presidential directives of dubious legality are not in keeping with our Constitutional foundations. In light of the seriousness of the transnational terrorist threat, we need to set the appropriate balance between conducting domestic intelligence operations and protecting the privacy rights and liberties of U.S. persons. The FBI, Department of Homeland Security, National Security Agency, CIA, and Department of Defense are all engaged in intelligence activities on U.S. soil, and these activities must be consistent with our laws and reflect the democratic principles and values of our Nation.

- **The President and the Congress must work together to determine what domestic intelligence activities are necessary to safeguard the Homeland. Clear mandates, defined responsibilities, and firm criteria for domestic intelligence operations need to be established so that our intelligence organizations are provided the direction they need as well as the limits they must respect. Stringent oversight of these activities—by the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of Government—must be an essential part of the system.**

Outside the Homeland, there is an enduring need for high-quality and reliable intelligence about developments worldwide that affect the security of the United States and its allies. insight and warning that will serious threats to our security

The CIA has been the subject of much criticism over the years, but it has played an integral role in safeguarding U.S. national security interests for the past 60 years.

There are times when our country's security demands that we take actions abroad to address real and emerging threats to our interests. Sometimes, such actions must be carried out under the cover of secrecy. There has been much controversy surrounding CIA covert action programs over the years, but many of those programs have made major contributions to U.S. foreign policy objectives.

The Importance of Intelligence Partnerships Worldwide

Damaging Leaks of Classified Information

The Role and Importance of Nonpartisan Congressional Oversight of Intelligence