

AS PREPARED

**Statement of Chair Jane Harman
Committee on Homeland Security**

Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing & Terrorism Risk Assessment

**“Moving Beyond the First Five Years: Evolving the Office of Intelligence and
Analysis to Better Serve State, Local, and Tribal Needs”**

**10:00 A.M., Thursday, April 24, 2008
311 Cannon House Office Building**

- After a string of missteps by the current Administration, the next must get information sharing right. "Success" means figuring out what data to share, putting the technology in place to do so, and establishing rules for access. And of course, each step must happen within the bounds of privacy laws and constitutional protections.
- This is crucial because it is unlikely that the next President, DHS, the FBI, or the wider Intelligence Community will prevent the next terrorist attack. Instead, a diligent police or sheriffs' officer somewhere in America – during the course of his or her daily work – will see something or someone out of place and, guided by timely, accurate and actionable information, will connect the dots that will unravel a plot in-the-making.
- To this end, this Subcommittee has made it an imperative to improve intelligence and information sharing for these “first preventers.”
- If we don't make it work for these officers – and for the State homeland security advisers that work with them – then we will have failed to do what we set out to do five years ago in the Homeland Security Act.
- And as the Department of Homeland Security faces its first presidential transition, we find its Office of Intelligence and Analysis at a crossroads.

- DHS has taken steps to forge a more constructive – and responsive – relationship with the state, local, and tribal customers it serves. In Minneapolis on Monday, I learned from MNJAC, the Minnesota Joint Analysis Center, of a weekly conference call from DHS to link fusion centers together.
- But, on the other hand, it has been a struggle to integrate fully local law enforcement representatives into the Interagency Threat Assessment Coordination Group, or ITACG.
- The Department, and specifically the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, seems to have pursued a variety of missions without a clear focus.
- This is not entirely the Department’s fault.
- What was originally envisioned as a robust intelligence shop for the Department in 2002 was restructured by President Bush in 2003 when he set up the Terrorist Threat Integration Center – later to become the National Counterterrorism Center – outside of DHS.
- Having lost a key function shortly after its creation, I&A has struggled to redefine its intelligence mission.
- It advertises itself as the primary provider of federal homeland security information to State and local customers, claiming to create a new kind of “homeland security” intelligence.
- I&A claims also to play the role of educator: rolling out a basic level intelligence training course for Department intelligence analysts and their state and local customers – with mid and senior level courses on the horizon.

- But the “aggressive schedule” Under Secretary Charlie Allen and his team have described of deploying Department analysts and liaisons as possible to state and local fusion centers around the country has so far been only moderately successful.
- DHS has approached management of the National Applications Office – the NAO – far too casually.
- Let me be clear. As a Member who has fought for years to assure that foreign intelligence surveillance complies with strict legal safeguards, I will not permit the Department to task the nation’s spy satellites for domestic purposes – unless it provides a legal framework to Congress.
- It’s our job today to assess the Department’s progress and to help the next administration get it right.
- The witnesses before us hail from State government and academia. Each will address how DHS and its intelligence shop can make improvements to “get it right” – now and after January 20, 2009.
- I hope the Department is listening: the benchmarks that the witnesses describe for us today will guide the oversight work of this Subcommittee for the remainder of this session and through transition next year.
- Welcome to you all.