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Hoekstra Statement on NSA Press Reports

WASHINGTON, D.C. - *U.S. Rep Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, today issued the following statement in response to recent news reports on NSA surveillance:*

“The committee has been made aware of an NSA compliance issue. This issue is not new to the committee, nor unfortunately is the failure of the intelligence community to inform Congress of it in a quick and timely manner when the problem was discovered. NSA management failed at a number of levels and continues to fail to be fully responsive to committee oversight.

“We will continue to insist on careful oversight of these programs. I have serious concerns about the effectiveness of the compliance regime at NSA and have made clear that congressional oversight needs to be conducted at an intense level. For example, a number of documents that the Committee requested on a bipartisan basis at my suggestion have yet to be produced.

“Republicans have long stood for giving the intelligence community the tools and authorities needed to protect our homeland and safeguard the civil liberties of American citizens. The efforts that are conducted by NSA are vital to the safety and security of our homeland, our forces and diplomats deployed overseas and to our allies. This fact is not diminished by today’s news story.

“Still, NSA has to operate within the rules and needs to get its compliance regime in order, so that the American people can have full faith and confidence that the agency is keeping our nation safe and not violating the public’s trust.”