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HOUSE REPORT ASSESS INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING REFORMS

(Washington D.C.) The Oversight Subcommittee of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence released a report assessing the implementation of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. The report provides a snapshot of how the goals of the Intelligence Reform Act are being satisfied.

It is a mixed story. Some good, needed steps have been taken while other reforms have lagged. The report gauges progress in accomplishing the goals of the Act in key areas, such as:

- Leadership of the Intelligence Community
- Improving Analysis
- Information Sharing
- Civil Liberties
- Personnel, Training, Culture and Security Clearances

While important progress has been made, the Subcommittee had three concerns which permeate its findings:

(1) Lack of urgency – An incremental approach is being used on issues like information sharing, human intelligence reform, and security clearance processing. There must be a greater sense of urgency to correct deficiencies.

(2) Failure to try new approaches to old and new tasks – For example, today analysis largely is still clustered around reporting on the same 10% of the data at the expense of effort being devoted to discover either unknown adversaries or information we do not know about adversaries. Hiring is another challenge. Human resource specialists are still looking for round pegs for to fill holes that now come in a variety of shapes. Coherent education and training plans and programs still lag behind.

(3) Insufficient prioritization – The Director of National Intelligence may be trying to do a little of everything which slows down improvements in key areas. The Director needs to prioritize activities and focus on those that are most important.

On the positive side, progress has been made in some areas including good first efforts to turn the FBI into an intelligence agency with law enforcement responsibilities. Distinct progress has been made in re-tooling of the President's Daily Brief, improving the budget process, and including more diverse opinions in National Intelligence Estimates.

The Subcommittee on Oversight was created by Chairman Pete Hoekstra (MI-02) and Ranking Member Jane Harman (CA-36) in the 109th Congress to review strategic intelligence issues. One of the primary tasks assigned to the Subcommittee has been overseeing implementation of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

All members of the Subcommittee participated in drafting the report and in the numerous hearings, briefings, meetings in Washington and at locations throughout the world to develop an informed judgment of the progress the Intelligence Community is making to achieve the goals of the legislation. The Subcommittee plans to continue thorough reviews of the Intelligence Community, including working with their leadership to develop metrics that will be used to assess further progress.

Members of the Subcommittee are:

Mac Thornberry (R-TX), Chairman	
Robert E. (Bud) Cramer, Jr (D-AL), Ranking Member	
Ray LaHood (R-IL), Vice Chair	
Terry Everett (R-AL)	Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)
Heather Wilson (R-NM)	Silvestre Reyes (D-TX)
Jo Ann Davis (R-VA)	C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)
Mike Rogers (R-MI)	John Tierney (D-MA)
Rick Renzi (R-AZ)	
Peter Hoekstra (R-MI), ex officio	Jane Harman (D-CA), ex officio