

**Opening Statement for
Ranking Member C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Joint Hearing with the SSCI on September 11th Anniversary
September 13, 2012**

Good morning. First, I want to echo my colleagues in remembering those who lost their lives and family members ten years ago in the tragedy of September 11th. It was a day that changed our lives forever. I have served on the Intelligence Committee for the last nine years. I believe it is our responsibility to give our intelligence professionals the resources, capabilities and authorities they need to keep us safe... and prevent another 9-11.

Director Clapper and Director Petraeus, thank you for testifying here today. Director Clapper, you have expertise in many national security areas... and we can always depend on you to tell it like it is. Director Petraeus, you have a great reputation for service for your country. You have a unique perspective because you wore the uniform for years. I would like to thank you both for your service and commitment to our national security.

I would also like to thank the Senate Intelligence Committee for agreeing to this joint hearing. Last week's passage of the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2012 in the House represents the true bipartisan spirit we must have to meet our responsibilities to the nation and the Intelligence Community in our role of conducting effective oversight. The bill was the result of hours of research, hearings and long negotiations. It is a good bi-partisan product.

When Republicans and Democrats can find common ground, it's a big deal. Not fifteen minutes after Chairman Rogers and I worked out some final details, the earth shook. It wasn't the shock of bi-partisan cooperation, it was the earthquake. I urge the Senate to quickly take up the Bill and send it to the President.

We are here today to review for the American public the progress we've made since 9-11 and what we need to do improve for the future. I applaud the work that has already been acknowledged here today on overcoming new challenges, intelligence sharing, working together as a team in missions like the Osama Bin Ladin raid, and breaking apart stovepipes within the Community. I also want to talk about the incredible work that has been done to facilitate these changes.

Advances in technology have progressed at an amazing rate in the last decade. This allows the Intelligence Community to collect large amounts of information, but that also brings the challenge of analyzing it all... and finding the needle in that larger haystack. New software systems help sort out the unimportant fact from the key piece of data that can save lives. In addition, the community has encountered technological roadblocks based on outdated legislation that doesn't address the way information is sent today. Congress helped the community get through them while protecting privacy and civil liberties.

If there is something the last ten years has taught us - we cannot get behind. Fighting new threats and the explosion of new technology requires our Community to adapt and remain agile. We must continue to strike the right balance between

investments in research and development for the war of tomorrow while continuing to fight the war of today.

An area of great concern for me is cyber security. While I'm pleased that we are beginning to fully acknowledge the full impact of the threats to our cyber networks, I believe more progress needs to be made protecting our critical infrastructure and our nation's secrets. Our corporate intellectual property is being stolen every day. Our pilfered ideas are ending up in foreign products. We can also see the potential damage a cyber attack can cause like in South Korea where their banking system was recently shut down. Besides denying depositors access to their money, critical investment data was lost. I have long warned that an attack like this on the United States could have a devastating long-term impact on our economy.

I am encouraged to see that we are making progress. We have a new Cyber Command that leverages the brainpower of the National Security Agency. We also have an ongoing pilot program with the defense industrial base that shows promise for a collaborative cyber defense. In addition to this, as the President said to Congress and the nation last week, we continue to invest in education in science, technology, engineering and math, which will be the key to keeping us on the cutting edge. Today I hope you'll comment on our progress against cyber threats and our direction forward.

Finally, I would like to hear today about how you both are continuing the progress of reforms after 9-11 to deal with future threats we might not even contemplate today. As I've said, I believe we should have an agile Intelligence Community, one that can adapt and remain ahead of nation states and bad actors. Have we learned enough?

Ten years after terrorists attacked our nation do we think creatively about the next attack? And do we have enough investment in research and development to continue to remain the premiere Intelligence Community in the world? Our nation deserves nothing less.

#####