

November 17, 2016

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Full Committee Hearing

Intelligence Community Support to the Department of Defense

Opening Statement of Chairman Nunes

The Committee will come to order. Before we begin, I want to remind our Members, our Guests, and our Staff that we are at the unclassified level for today's hearing.

I am also obligated to remind the witnesses that providing false information to this committee or concealing material information from this committee is a crime punishable by law.

Today, we welcome Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work, and Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Marcel Lettre, who will discuss the critical support that our Intelligence Community provides to our warfighters and to the Department of Defense. Thank you for being here.

The United States faces grave security threats today. From terrorism threats to aggression by nation-states to cyber attacks, the intelligence community provides our military with critical information across the full spectrum of conflict. Yet when the IC and DOD do not integrate effectively, we risk intelligence failures that put our warfighters' lives at risk.

We are here today because the DOD and the IC have failed to adequately respond to the concerns raised by this Committee on a range of critical national security issues, including those raised by the Committee during the World Wide Threats hearing this past February.

The Committee is alarmed by the manipulation of intelligence at U.S. Central Command, as we documented in our August report. Further, an ongoing Committee investigation has found that recent DOD and IC facilities planning has been plagued by significant flaws, including a disregard for more cost effective alternatives. Despite repeatedly raising these concerns, the Committee has not seen any meaningful corrective actions by the DOD or the IC.

I want to thank the Department of Defense Inspector General's Office for their ongoing investigations into both these issues. Once they are complete I will invite the IG to present their findings in open session. If necessary, we may ask the three of you to return following the conclusion of those investigations.

I also commend the work of the Government Accountability Office, which recently released a report finding that the DOD "did not follow best practices when conducting its Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex consolidation analysis of alternatives process."

Thank you for being here, and with that, I would like to recognize the Ranking Member for any opening comments he would like to make.