

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20511

June 9, 2011

**STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE JAMES R. CLAPPER
ON THE RESIGNATION OF MIKE LEITER AS NCTC DIRECTOR**

Mike Leiter's leadership was critical in safeguarding the homeland and protecting the nation's interests these last four and a half years. He has led the National Counterterrorism Center as acting director and director during one of its most challenging and demanding periods, as well as a time of unparalleled success.

Mike has served two Administrations since 2007 and they have come to know him as I have -- as an individual of the highest integrity and commitment to our nation's most pressing counterterrorism activities.

As the President noted, Mike will be leaving the NCTC, the counterterrorism community, and the nation in a significantly stronger position to confront the terrorist threats we face. On behalf of the entire Intelligence Community, I want to express my gratitude to Mike for his commitment and remarkable leadership that have helped keep our nation safe.

Deputy Director Andy Liepman will serve as the NCTC acting director until such time as the President nominates and the Senate confirms a new NCTC director, and I know that during this time of transition, the men and women of the NCTC and their interagency partners will remain focused on our nation's fight against terrorism.