Fact Sheet: Real Progress in Reforming Intelligence

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 did more than create the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) – it charged the Office with significantly reforming and strengthening America’s Intelligence Community. Under the leadership of Director John D. Negroponte, the ODNI has revitalized, reformed, and led the Community to better protect our nation by:

Forging structural change, and dismantling the “stovepipe” mentality that said agencies could produce, and limit within its walls, vital national intelligence.

- The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) is drawing on collected terrorist intelligence from agencies across the U.S. Government – with access to more than 30 different networks – to produce integrated analysis on terrorist plots against U.S. interests at home and abroad. This is being done nowhere else in government – and it was only an aspiration prior to 9/11.

- NCTC produces a daily threat matrix and situation reports that exist as the Community standard for current intelligence awareness. In addition, NCTC hosts three video teleconferences daily to discuss the threat matrix and situation reports to ensure the intelligence agencies and organizations see all urgent counterterrorism information.

- The National Counterproliferation Center (NCPC), the mission manager for counterproliferation, has developed integrated and creative strategies against some of the nation’s highest priority targets, including “Gap Attacks” (focused strategies against longstanding intelligence gaps), “over the horizon” studies to address potential future counterproliferation threats, and a specialized project on priority issues such as the Counterterrorism-Counterproliferation Nexus.

- Created the MASINT Community Executive to provide this important intelligence discipline with a voice at the table, an advocate in budget and policy decisions, and the impetus for further advancement.

- Worked closely with the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to establish the FBI’s National Security Branch to integrate the FBI’s counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and intelligence programs.

- Facilitated the establishment of a National Clandestine Service at CIA with the Director of CIA serving as the National HUMINT Manager.
Ensuring that we collect the right intelligence in the best ways to most accurately and objectively guide national intelligence.

- Strengthened the connection between collection and analysis by appointing Mission Managers for key hard target issue areas and enduring intelligence challenges. The North Korea and Iran Mission Managers have already begun promoting Community-wide integration and providing policymakers with briefings drawing on Community-wide expertise.

- Initiated an Integrated Collection Architecture process to develop an objective architecture and implementation roadmap that looks at various collection disciplines in an integrated fashion.

- Established the DNI Open Source Center to function as a truly Intelligence Community-oriented center of open source expertise on 1 November 2005. The Director of CIA serves as the DNI’s executive agent for the Open Source Center, which builds upon the CIA’s former Foreign Broadcast Information Service.

Focusing and strengthening our analytic work, better ensuring that our policymakers receive the highest-quality analysis to guide their decisions.

- Streamlined production of National Intelligence Council (NIC) products, increasing output and minimizing delays in production time, and implemented more effective explanation of the reasoning behind judgments and the portrayal of alternative views of analysts.

- Acquired new and important items for the President’s Daily Brief (PDB) reflecting the unique strengths of the full Intelligence Community and enhanced strategic planning for the PDB, to better tap expertise within the Community. This will allow for better use of expertise within the Community, better support for the policymaking process, and will provide advanced warning of issues of concern on the medium to long-term horizon.

- Made operational an Analytic Resources Catalog (ARC), which collects and makes available analyst information to IC managers. An Analyst Yellow Pages (based on the ARC) has also been released. It makes contact information and portfolio information available to fellow analysts IC wide.

- Disseminated the first IC Analytic Standards, capturing the best practices from across the Community, the lessons learned from the past, and the goals of reform.

Providing a clear direction to guarantee timely and meaningful results.

- Promulgated the first unclassified National Intelligence Strategy (NIS), linking the Community’s goals to the National Security Strategy and establishing specific objectives and metrics for accomplishment. Also began implementation of a structured, strategic planning process to ensure NIS objectives are met.

- Developed a comprehensive IC-wide human capital plan.

- Established “joint duty” as a requirement for promotion to senior positions.
Directly answering the specific needs of our intelligence customers.

- The DNI created the Requirements Directorate to give the IC’s diverse customers a responsive mechanism with which to articulate their intelligence needs, determine the extent to which the IC is addressing those needs, and facilitating a process to make changes if it falls short of those needs.

- Created the Foreign Relations Coordinating Committee to synchronize Intelligence Community foreign outreach efforts and maximize opportunities for the U.S. to achieve intelligence goals and national policy objectives.

Leading the way with the latest technologies.

- For the first time ever, the Intelligence Community’s Science and Technology (S&T) leadership created a joint S&T plan that identified major unmet needs for the IC as a whole as well as opportunities for broader cooperation to satisfy those needs.

- As part of the overarching plan, S&T initiated several joint programs that target the Community’s most pressing problems and forge cross-Community teams in the process. Some of these teams have already delivered prototypes of innovative new technologies to combat terrorism. S&T is also preparing an ambitious plan to accelerate the deployment and cut the costs of major capabilities that will benefit multiple agencies.

Moving the Intelligence Community forward to adopt a Community-wide technology architecture.

- The Chief Information Officer implemented a classified information sharing initiative that enhanced and expanded information sharing with key U.S. allies. While the success of this program is only one step toward overhauling the IC’s information management system, it represented a paradigm shift in the Community’s information sharing policies.

Working to share intelligence with affected parties outside the Intelligence Community.

- Created a Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment, who recently released the Information Sharing Environment Implementation Plan and Privacy Guidelines that provide the vision and road map for better sharing information within the Intelligence Community and with our fellow Federal, state, local, and tribal counterparts, as well as with the private sector.

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