INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY JOINT DUTY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTED IN NATIONWIDE PUBLIC TELEVISION SERIES

The Intelligence Community’s award-winning Joint Duty Program is featured in a special documentary airing on public television networks throughout the country. Visionaries, Inc., a nonprofit public television organization, recently unveiled “Learning to Change,” a documentary video in its Visionaries series that provides an inside look into how the Intelligence Community (IC) Joint Duty Program is fostering interagency communication and collaboration to make our nation more secure.

The documentary, hosted by actor Sam Waterston, actualizes the 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act’s mandate for increased IC integration through the personal experiences of several Joint Duty Program participants who discuss the merits of their participation.

“The Joint Duty program ensures that future intelligence professionals and those who lead them understand the scope and complexity of the IC and are better able to integrate and engage its vast resources in support of our mission to protect our nation,” said Director of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair. “Part of my job as DNI is to develop a generation of people who believe that collaborative behavior and enterprise-wide integration is the normal way of business.”

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) launched the Intelligence Community Civilian Joint Duty program in 2006, to instill a new model of collaboration by requiring employees to serve a period of duty outside of their parent agency as a prerequisite for senior level promotion. As a result, Joint Duty personnel gain a deeper appreciation for, and broader knowledge of, the inner workings of American intelligence, and in the process, build the collaborative, information-sharing networks so vital to today’s post-9/11 intelligence mission.

Since its inception the program has facilitated the creation of hundreds of information-sharing networks, encouraged and institutionalized joint behavior, and led to increased collaboration across the Intelligence Community. Today, more than 5,000 IC employees have received Joint Duty assignment credit. All 16 agencies that comprise the Intelligence Community participate in the program.

Underscoring the transformational importance of this program, last September Harvard University’s Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovations recognized the Joint Duty program as one of six recipients of its prestigious Innovations in American Government Award for 2008 from among the over 1,000 programs nominated and considered. For more information on the award see http://www.dni.gov/press_releases/20080910_release.pdf
The documentary already has begun airing in a dozen states but has not yet aired in the Washington, D.C. metro area. For upcoming video airtimes of “Learning to Change” (episode 1503A), please visit http://www.pubtv.net/online/visionaries/air_times.CFM. This list provides airing schedules for two-week increments and is updated daily. The video also is available at www.dni.gov/video.

The Visionaries series were created in 1995 to highlight the rarely told stories of nonprofit organizations around the world that are making a positive difference in and around their communities. It is presented by public television station WGBY in Springfield, Mass. and is distributed to stations affiliated with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) by the National Educational Telecommunications Association. The series has been seen on as many as 200 public television stations around the country.

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