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Intelligence Support to the Department of Defense

Statement for the Record

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence



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INTRODUCTION

Chairman Nunes, Ranking Member Schiff, and distinguished members of the Committee, I am here today to discuss how the Intelligence Community (IC) has been supporting the Department of Defense (DoD), particularly since the advent of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). The unclassified nature of this statement precludes us from discussing in detail many aspects of this intelligence support. As a result, we would welcome any opportunity to meet with you in closed session to fully discuss our intelligence support.

NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

The IC is well postured to support the needs of warfighters facing today's crises while preparing for tomorrow's challenges. ODNI and members of the IC work very closely together to ensure the DoD has the intelligence resources it needs to meet worldwide national security challenges. At the same time, IC-military partnerships have matured significantly, facilitated by improved communications among ODNI, IC elements, DNI representatives, and military commands. Before I discuss some specific ODNI initiatives, for the sake of context I would like to review some of our most pressing national security challenges to put our support to DoD into context.

We are living in a world of unpredictable instability, in which two-thirds of the nations around the world are at some risk of crisis in the next few years. There are two key factors driving the scope and complexity of unrest which span political, economic, security, cultural, and ethnic sectors: massive humanitarian crises and perpetual regional instability. The civil war in Syria, and unrest in other parts of Africa, has created the largest migration of refugees and displaced persons since World War II, resulting in strains on infrastructure and resources throughout Europe, as well as threats to civil and cultural stability. Many migrants and refugees have been able to transit through Libya because of the unrest.

We should expect new terrorist entities to arise and a cycle of violent extremism to continue for the foreseeable future, while our more traditional issues like Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea will continue to challenge us. Here are some of the national security threats that require reliable and timely intelligence every day. They are crucial for DoD to anticipate and respond to rapidly unfolding events across the globe.

Violent extremism, which has been on an upward trajectory since the late 1970s, has generated more IC collection and analysis against groups, members, and safe havens than at any other point in history. These include: the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; al-Qa'ida with its nodes in Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Yemen; al-Shabaab, al-Qa'ida's affiliate in East Africa; and Iran, the foremost state sponsor of terrorism, which continues to exert its influence in regional crises in the Middle East through the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force, its terrorist partner Lebanese Hezbollah, and proxy groups.

In addition, we must continue to provide intelligence to assist in the transition of our mission in Afghanistan by supporting the Kabul government against persistent hurdles to political stability including eroding political cohesion, assertions of authority by local powerbrokers, recurring financial shortfalls, and countrywide, sustained attacks by the Taliban.

Next, we must posture ourselves for the “new normal” in the Arab world, which brings with it increased instability and violence, and we must help accelerate the transition to a representative government in Syria.

Concurrently, nation-state efforts to develop or acquire weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, or their underlying technologies constitute a major threat to the security of the United States, its deployed troops, and allies.

Cyber threats continue to be an area of growing concern. We must defend against a broader array of increasingly sophisticated cyber threats from state and non-state actors. In the next few years, the effect of innovation and increased reliance on information technology on our society’s way of life and our mission in support of DoD probably will be far greater in scope and impact than ever.

We should expect China to continue to pursue an active foreign policy—especially within the Asia Pacific region—highlighted by a firm stance on competing territorial claims in the East and South China Seas, causing regional tension as China continues to construct expanded outposts.

Finally, Moscow seeks to accelerate a shift to a multi-polar world with its military foray into Syria marking its first use of expeditionary combat power outside the former Soviet bloc in decades.. We must continue assessing the impact of Russia’s willingness to covertly use military and paramilitary forces in a neighboring state, and the anxieties in states along Russia’s periphery, to include European allies.

ODNI SUPPORT TO DoD

Since the advent of the ODNI, the Secretary of Defense and the DNI have established the Director of Defense Intelligence (DDI) on the DNI’s staff and dual-hatted the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (USD(I)) to fulfill this role. As Deputy Secretary Work also noted in his statement, the dual-hat role of the DDI serves as a bridge to enhance integration, collaboration, and information sharing between the national and defense intelligence communities in support of national security objectives. As a member of the DNI staff, the DDI assists the DNI in bringing greater synchronization between the wider IC and the Defense Intelligence Enterprise.

The recently-updated May 2007 Memorandum of Agreement between the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence and the January 2008 memorandum, Roles

and Responsibilities of the Director of Defense Intelligence, detail the areas of emphasis for the DDI and serve as the foundation for much of the success we have achieved to date.

In addition to the DDI role, we also worked with the Departments of Defense and State to ensure that decision-making responsibilities regarding military intelligence dissemination policy were re-aligned to the USD(I). For example, through the establishment of the Military Intelligence Disclosure Policy Committee, the IC and DoD are now able to synchronize and align the sharing of national and military intelligence with foreign governments, thereby streamlining and clarifying policy for our elements in the field.

Within ODNI, I established a National Intelligence Manager for Military Issues (NIM-MI) to help address the most pressing issues facing our military customers by leveraging capabilities and organizations across the IC. This office is responsible for directly interfacing with the Joint Chiefs of Staff Director for Intelligence (J-2), the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Combatant Commands, and Service Intelligence Centers to facilitate and support trans-regional DoD intelligence requirements.

ODNI is supporting the DoD by assisting and advising in the development of the Integrated Defense Intelligence Priorities (IDIP) to enable DoD to provide a set of consolidated and coordinated inputs into the National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF). Through the IDIP we are working closely with DoD to develop and focus National Intelligence Priorities that support military issues reflecting Department, Service, and Combatant Commanders' top concerns.

The National Intelligence Program (NIP)-Military Intelligence Program (MIP) Lanes of the Road is another effort to improve resource management. For years, the IC attempted to draw lines between the "national" and "military" intelligence programs. Developments in IT and collaboration after the September 11th terrorist attacks increased the need to delineate and revise the two programs. Through review processes in 2005 and 2010, an integration working group, and a signed memorandum, ODNI and USD(I) established "lanes in the road" between the NIP and MIP that have resulted in more efficient allocation of resources between national and military missions.

Next, the IC has increased collection, operational coordination and integrated mission management to enable more effective support to DoD. By establishing IC-wide analytic production standards to improve analytic accuracy, we have increased DoD and warfighter confidence in IC analytic judgments. The IC's adoption of new analytic techniques and methodologies and the creation of real-time collaboration spaces for analysts and other intelligence professionals have fostered increased integration and enabled greater military operational support.

The IC also has made significant, measurable improvements in acquisition management processes and procedures, resulting in improved critical support to DoD. IC Major Systems Acquisitions now use a standardized framework and rigorous reviews to assess progress against

Program Management Plan cost, schedule, and performance goals. IC resource allocation decisions have yielded increased collection capabilities with more efficient focus on DoD high-priority intelligence requirements. New processes monitor the IC's collection and analytic postures and measure return on investment for key IC programs in support of DoD.

The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) is another important IC-wide initiative that is strengthening our relationship with DoD and our military partners. Investing in high-risk, high-payoff research programs has the potential to provide the United States with an overwhelming intelligence advantage over future adversaries. IARPA research has been funded at over 154 universities and 257 businesses. Many of these programs already have yielded unique intelligence support to military operations and DoD technology acquisition.

Enhanced information sharing capabilities already have increased the availability of intelligence to DoD and warfighters. The IC IT Enterprise (IC ITE) began moving the Community from agency-centric information technology (IT) solutions to one that is single, secure, coherent, and integrated. When the transition to IC ITE is completed, this improved infrastructure will provide the Community increased discovery and access to information based on mission needs to provide more timely, tailored, and actionable intelligence products in support of warfighters and policymakers. IC ITE modeling and alerting capabilities are already in use to support military operations, specifically, to predict the path of material support to ISIL fighters which enables more effective U.S. air strikes.

As I mentioned earlier, cyber threats continue to be an area of growing concern. We must defend against a broader array of increasingly sophisticated cyber threats. The Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center (CTIIC) provides integrated all-source intelligence analysis related to foreign cyber threats and cyber incidents affecting U.S. national interests. CTIIC facilitates and supports efforts to counter foreign cyber threats, including those by DoD centers responsible for cybersecurity and network defense, U.S. Cyber Command, and Combatant Commands.

We have made significant advances in support of DoD, but we still face several challenges in the future. Amid operational requirements, along with evolving Homeland and cyber threats, we must respond to demands for increased levels of intelligence. The IC must maintain an anticipatory and agile posture against emerging threats and opportunities in support of DoD's global mission. Initiatives must keep pace with changes in threats and increased technological demands, and we must attract a next-generation workforce.

I am optimistic about the future. Because of our mission and our professionalism, today's IC remains a pillar of stability during transition. The people of the IC—government, contractor, and military—are a constant in U.S. national security. Going all the way back to George Washington and his Culper Ring of spies, we have conducted intelligence to reduce uncertainty for our decisionmakers. That can be the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon, or it can be a warfighter in a foxhole. The reason we keep evolving and getting better is because of the people of the IC.

Apart from all the specific programs and initiatives is another crucial “sociological” change across the IC, fostered by a program ODNI has championed—joint duty. This IC-wide initiative has driven integration at every level. By getting IC employees out of their home agency for short term assignments, we are driving coordination and partnering. Jointness, a practice well known to DoD, is helping us slowly break down the stovepipes of the IC, and transform us into an integrated community. We still have work to do, but joint duty is already paying dividends. Literally thousands of IC officers have done joint duty rotations, not only gaining new skills and abilities as IC officers, but also bringing their experience to a new effort. Civilian employees have also deployed to the war zones over the last 15 years. That has inculcated a sense of urgency to support our troops in harm’s way, the likes of which I’ve not seen over my career. My war was Southeast Asia; back then, you rarely saw civilian employees in the war zone. Now, thanks to joint duty, this has become the standard – one that is benefiting both the IC and DoD.

Finally, you may have seen recent media reports that Defense Secretary Carter presented me with the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award, the department’s highest civilian honor. While I was honored to receive it, this was not an award for me. This was an award that recognized the amazing work of the men and women of the ODNI, and their efforts in support of the Department. At the award ceremony, Secretary Carter noted “In a dynamic and competitive world, organizations that succeed do so because they’re open to change.” This key point is reflective of the incredible work done each day by the ODNI to lead the integration of the IC. Change is never easy, and in government, never fast. But we are always stronger as the sum of many parts.

We cannot eliminate uncertainty. However, we are providing insight and analysis to our warfighters that help their understanding and make uncertainty at least manageable. This means our national security decisionmakers can make educated decisions with an understanding of the risk involved. In this time of change, when we don’t know what challenges we will face next, I am confident that our unique accesses and insight will continue to help our national leaders and warfighters manage the inevitable uncertainties in our future.