

NEWS ALERT



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Homeland Security Committee

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson

“Homeland Security Intelligence at a Crossroads: the Office of Intelligence & Analysis’ Vision for 2008”

February 14, 2008 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment Subcommittee hearing entitled “Homeland Security Intelligence at a Crossroads: the Office of Intelligence & Analysis’ Vision for 2008”:

“I join with the Chair in here concern about the Department’s progress with the ITACG. The message, Mr. Allen, is clear: get the ITACG done right and get it done right now. Through this Committee’s efforts in the 9/11 Act, you have been elevated to Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis.

With your new authorities and influence, we expect nothing less than your total commitment to the success of the ITACG. The 9/11 Act and the White House’s National Strategy for Information Sharing impose new obligations on you and your staff to improve information sharing.

Please correct me if I’m wrong, but I don’t see how the proposed 9% increase in new funding for your office and the Office of Operations Coordination will help you satisfy those new obligations, such as: developing and managing the ITACG to its full potential; providing the privacy and civil liberties and other training programs that are necessary for your staff at the Department and with your State and local partners; rolling out additional staff to State and local fusion centers on the “rigorous” schedule you described to us last year; creating and managing the Homeland Security Information Sharing Fellows Program on the scale envisioned in the 9/11 Act; or establishing a Rural Policing Institute.

Mr. Allen, I hope you’ll level with us about whether you have what you need to finally make intelligence work for the Department. If you don’t have the funding, a new title and new authorities are not going to change a thing. I look forward to your frank testimony about what you’ve got in this proposed budget, how you’re going to prioritize your work, and what more you really need to be successful.”

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