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NEWS RELEASE

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Mission Manager for Cuba and Venezuela Announced

J. Patrick Maher
Acting Mission Manager for Cuba and Venezuela

The Director of National Intelligence, John D. Negroponte, announces the establishment of the position of Mission Manager for Cuba and Venezuela. Negroponte appointed J. Patrick Maher, a 32-year veteran intelligence officer, to serve as Acting Mission Manager until a permanent Mission Manager is named. Maher will be responsible for integrating collection and analysis on Cuba and Venezuela across the Intelligence Community, identifying and filling gaps in intelligence, and ensuring the implementation of strategies, among other duties. Such efforts are critical today, as policymakers have increasingly focused on the challenges that Cuba and Venezuela pose to American foreign policy. In this light, the Mission Manager for Cuba and Venezuela will be responsible for ensuring that policymakers have a full range of timely and accurate intelligence on which to base their decisions. Maher will also continue to serve as the National Intelligence Officer for the Western Hemisphere. Prior to assuming his NIO position in August 2005, Maher was the Deputy Director of the CIA's Directorate of Intelligence's Office of Policy Support. Maher joined the CIA in 1974 and spent most of his career as a Latin American specialist. His assignments included that of Issue Manager of the Columbia Working Group and Chief of Asian/Latin America Branch's Middle-Caribbean Division. He received his master's degree from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service and continued with postgraduate work at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Note: The role of the Mission Manager recommended by the WMD Commission and endorsed by the President is a new and important one. There are now six Mission Managers: one for counterterrorism (the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center), one for counterproliferation (the Director of the National Counterproliferation Center), one for counterintelligence (the Director of the National Counterintelligence Executive), and one each for the countries of Iran and North Korea and one for Cuba and Venezuela. Mission Managers will not directly manage operations or analysis, but will instead lead the Intelligence Community at a strategic level.

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