

HPSCI Markup of FY14 Intelligence Authorization Bill

Opening Statement

HPSCI Chairman Mike Rogers

November 21, 2013

**As Prepared*

Chairman: I hope that all Members of the Committee will support our annual authorization bill. The Intelligence Authorization bill for 2014 before you today should not be a controversial or a partisan one. We have successfully passed three bills in two years and have restored this Committee as a force for meaningful oversight of the national security programs we all know are so critical to keeping the nation safe. The annual authorization bill is the primary mechanism for the Committee to exercise oversight over all intelligence programs and it is critical to our oversight capabilities that we continue to pass authorization bills.

In recent months, we have spent time focusing on amendments to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). In the minds of many, FISA seems linked with our authorization bill. However, this Committee shares jurisdiction over FISA with the Judiciary Committee. As such, bills amending FISA have always moved separately from the authorization bill, and it is my intent that we keep the two separate now, as well.

I remain committed to continuing to work with members to move a FISA bill forward, but I hope we will save any amendments to FISA that Members are interested in pursuing for a later day.

Despite the increased public focus on NSA programs, and the litany of hearings, briefings, and meetings we have had on FISA collection, we have continued to conduct thorough oversight over *all* intelligence programs.

Importantly, this bill continues the Committee's steadfast commitment to providing the Intelligence Community the resources to accomplish its demanding mission of securing and defending America.

This bill sustains today's intelligence capabilities and provides for future capabilities – while staying within the funding constraints set out by the Budget Control Act. The bill authorizes funding that is slightly below the President's Budget request level. However, under current law, this funding level is subject to a sequester of about 10 percent. If that sequester is not replaced or otherwise amended, we will have to work with the Intelligence Community to ensure that IC personnel, operations,

and capabilities are prioritized and that cuts are implemented as wisely as possible.

While there are a number of programs and initiatives funded in the bill worthy of highlighting, I am particularly pleased that the FY 14 bill before us today provides an increase of over \$75 million to enhance the protection of classified information and systems in the wake of the unauthorized disclosures of NSA programs.

I want to highlight that in this bill, we are building upon the good work we have completed together since 2011. In light of the current focus on NSA programs, it is easy to lose sight of all of the bipartisan oversight we have conducted and the significant achievements we have secured from this Committee in recent years.

In the FY11, 12, and 13 bills, we advanced many significant and meaningful policy accomplishments. For example, we:

- Saved the taxpayers billions of dollars associated with an overhead program acquisition;
- Were the first to address insider threats in a meaningful way;

- Increased attention to and funding for counterintelligence programs;
- Curbed personnel growth, which was undermining the availability of resources for operations and future investment;
- Shaped the execution of covert action programs and affected some of the most-important national-security policies; and
- Enhanced investment in cutting-edge technologies critical to the continued security of the nation.

In addition the committee came together to pass our cyber legislation, and has produced two in-depth reports on national security concerns stemming from Chinese telecommunications companies such as Huawei and ZTE, and an ISR performance study. I am pleased that the bill before us continues that great work. And I appreciate the role each of you has played in our oversight.

Before turning to the Ranking Member for his opening remarks, I'd like to thank our professional staff—all of the budget monitors—for working long hours, keeping their focus, and diligently preparing their marks this year, even as so much public attention focused on the NSA. It's easy to forget just how extensive our oversight is across the many departments, agencies, and programs within the IC. While the public face of the

Committee for the past six months has been our necessary response to leaks about NSA programs, our professional staff has done a great job of maintaining constant oversight and it's a bill for which we can all be proud.

[Yield to Mr. Ruppertsberger]