

Opening Statement: World Wide Threats
Ranking Member C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
April 11, 2013

Thank you, Chairman Rogers.

First, I would like to acknowledge the leaders of our Intelligence Community, including:

- Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper
- CIA Director, John Brennan
- Director of DIA, Lieutenant General Michael Flynn
- FBI Director, Robert Mueller

Thank you for being here today.

Every year during our Worldwide Threats Hearing, we take a look back at the previous year and take a look toward the future.

2012 wasn't like 2011. 2011 was an unusual year for high profile intelligence victories.

The successful raid on Bin Laden was the culmination of over a decade of painstaking intelligence work.

Although there may be no Oscar-nominated movies about intelligence successes in 2012, make no mistake—every day is an intelligence success.

The men and women of the Intelligence Community are working to keep us safe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

These federal employees work nights, weekends, holidays, and in some of the most remote and dangerous locations around the world to defend the nation.

There are no movies made of these daily successes because these tireless professionals are preventing the attacks that dominate the headlines and inspire big screen movies.

They know that their success often requires anonymity, and we know they work to serve, not for glory.

We know this, and we deeply appreciate all the work of your quiet professionals.

The Intelligence Committee made a commitment to give our intelligence professionals the resources, capabilities and authorities we need to protect the United States.

The Intelligence Community did so amidst grave, and sometimes deadly, challenges, as we saw in Libya. I believe the Intelligence Community is ready to handle the threats we

face in 2013, and I believe this Intelligence Committee is ready to make sure they have the tools, guidance and appropriate oversight to do so.

As we head into 2013, there is a lot of unrest around the world.

The IC must continue to focus its analytical capabilities in the Middle East as that region continues its violent transformations.

We must remain vigilant on Iran, whose antagonism grows, as does its capacity to do harm to us and our allies.

Iran cannot be trusted and we cannot allow it to create a nuclear weapon. A nuclear capable Iran threatens our safety as well as the safety of Israel and the rest of the Middle East.

We must also continue to keep up with events in Yemen where Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, AQAP, is still plotting to kill Americans and disrupt our way of life.

In Syria, we must continue to know all we can about this horrendous situation and find ways to gain influence and supporters in the post-Assad Syria.

The fall of the Assad regime will not end the crisis. The common enemy that unites the various opposition groups will one day fall, and the old divisions will mix with the glut of weapons to make for a volatile situation. We must think ahead, avoid making the mistakes of the past, and never fall back into the trap of thinking military solutions alone can solve complex problems.

Africa too is becoming a breeding ground for terrorists—although we must always take care to keep threats in perspective, and not take actions that could transform remote, regional struggles into movements against the West.

Our eyes must turn more towards Asia, and we need to build our capacity to understand the many languages and cultures there, as well as the governments and the militaries.

North Korea is proving yet again its determination to destabilize the region with overblown, irresponsible, and dangerous actions. The destabilizing potential of North Korea, and its willingness to export proliferation, cannot be under-estimated. But, we also know their pattern of ramping up tensions in order to extract concessions. We need to find a way to break this cycle.

Pakistan is going through another round of internal convulsions, with vast security implications for the region and for the U.S.

China and Russia continue their efforts at economic espionage, and continue to modernize their militaries. Both China and Russia went through important leadership transitions in 2012 as well.

We must also look for broad movements and anticipate the triggers of conflict. Will ideology yield to competition for natural resources—be they food, water or rare earth minerals—as the next motivator for international conflict?

The threats we will face are grave, constant and evolving.

For example, cyber. What many were calling a cyber “cold war” has turned hot.

Countries like Iran are continuously attacking our economic infrastructure, while China and Russia keep stealing our trade secrets by infiltrating the networks of our companies. U.S. industry is spending billions to respond to the attacks and is rightfully looking to the Government to do what it has always done—defend against attacks from foreign governments.

The Intelligence Community is on the front lines of defense—and it must continue to do so.

We in Congress need to do our part as well.

In 2012, the House passed our *Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act*, which would have given the Government the authority to share “cyber threat intelligence” with industry, and would have allowed industry to place a cyber 911 call to Government.

Yesterday, the Intelligence Committee passed the bill out of markup by a vote of 18-2. The markup adopted many amendments that vastly improved our bill—making it more effective and more protective of privacy. These efforts were the culmination of over a year of work with industry and groups devoted to our privacy and civil liberties.

This year, CISPA must become law.

Beyond CISPA, we in the legislature also need to do everything we can to ensure we have a deep bench of cyber security professionals and innovators, by investing in early education in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

We also need to find the right incentives for our best and brightest to go into public service right out of school, starting, for example, by increasing opportunities for Government internships.

Our prosperity and our national security depend on our schools. If they fall behind, we fall behind.

We all realize that this is a tremendous set of priorities, and you have a tremendous burden. It is all being made that much more challenging by sequestration.

People forget when they talk about “sequestration” that it was designed to be bad.

The across-the-board cuts were designed to be so ill-advised and so painful that their mere possibility was to force both sides to come together on a broader budget deal.

That was the threat, but now it's reality.

Now we are facing deep and indiscriminate cuts with no regard to priority or good sense.

These cuts negatively impact our important social programs, and it cuts investments in STEM, the very educational subjects that are crucial for innovation and economic growth, and the very fields that the Russians and Chinese are heavily investing in.

Sequestration also sacrifices our national security. The Intelligence Authorization Act very narrowly spells out what the intelligence community can do, allowing Congress to provide oversight. The flip side is that under sequestration, each of those narrowly defined programs gets the same cut.

It doesn't matter what the priority of the program is, or the timeliness, or even the overall cost-- it's throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Take space programs, for example. To indiscriminately cut a space program by even 9% can force a decision to turn off a well-performing satellite, long before its useful life is complete. If it costs \$1.5 billion to buy a satellite and \$15 million a year to operate and maintain it, then cutting into those yearly costs effectively means you cannot operate or maintain the platform.

A 9% reduction could lead to a 100% loss of capability.

What's worse is that once you stop maintaining a satellite, it turns off—and you can't turn it back on. If you one day want to get those capabilities back—say a country is testing nuclear weapons—you are going to have to replace the satellite for the full cost.

To borrow an old phrase—we are being penny wise, but pound foolish. We are abandoning the car on the side of the highway so we don't pay for gas.

There is, however, a way—and a need—to trim our budgets intelligently. The Intelligence Authorization Acts for FY 2011, 2012 and 2013 managed to limit resources without affecting mission or our dedicated professionals—and we must do the same in 2014.

I look forward to hearing from leaders of the intelligence community on how they plan to address these challenging issues and how they are going to work individually, and together, to do so.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

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