

I want to welcome our guests and our distinguished witnesses to this second open hearing of the Oversight Subcommittee on implementing the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

It has been nearly a year since Congress passed the most far-ranging reform and reorganization of the intelligence community in 50 years. Most of us believed that in an era of unpredictable but potentially catastrophic dangers, intelligence is vital and change was essential.

But we did not pass a new law and then sit back, watching from the sidelines. The Committee Chairman and Ranking Member decided that this Committee would stay involved, attempting to work cooperatively with the DNI and the Intelligence Community in implementing the new law. Part of that effort includes public hearings on how it is going.

I want to emphasize for my part that we are not here just to see whether this deadline is met or whether that relationship is working well. We are here to ask whether our understanding of the world is improved and whether the country is safer. Those were the goals of the bill.

I think we are at the end of Phase I. We have a Director of National Intelligence, a National Counter-Terrorism Center, a National Counter-Proliferation Center, a new National Security Service within the FBI, an Open Source Center, among other changes. Just last week, the DNI announced the formation of the National Clandestine Service to coordinate human intelligence activities across the government.

This is a good time to take a broad look at what has been accomplished and where we should go from here.

We are extremely fortunate to have the benefit of some particularly knowledgeable and experienced witnesses today to share their views and to help guide our efforts:

Former Speaker Newt Gingrich,
Former Deputy Director of Central Intelligence and Director of the National Security Agency, Admiral Bill Studeman, and
Ms. Zoe Baird, President of the Markle Foundation.

We look forward to hearing from each of you and appreciate your help in guiding our efforts.