

**Statement of Chair Jane Harman, as prepared
Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing & Terrorism Risk
Assessment
Committee on Homeland Security**

“I&A Reconceived: Defining a Homeland Security Intelligence Role”

**10:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 24, 2009
311 Cannon House Office Building**

Mr. Johnson, in your excellent testimony in June you said, “given the number-one responsibility of DHS is preventing terrorism, the primary mission of I&A is to be the recipient and developer of intelligence that creates the kind of situational awareness that we need to stop a terrorist plot and save lives.”

I applauded an I&A mission based upon “two-way” information sharing with state, local, tribal and private sector partners, creating a talented analytical core at I&A, improving coordination among DHS components with regard to intelligence, and assuring that all these efforts respect the civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy of citizens.

While I recognize that guiding principles for an organization serve a valuable purpose, I&A’s history shows us that simply articulating these principles is not enough to drive its organizational mission, strategy, and function to a successful outcome.

This hearing is to drill down – to understand what I&A is doing and will do operationally to implement the principles you ably articulated in June.

Many of us have great confidence that your background and experience equip you uniquely to realize I&A’s potential. In June, I asked you how I&A can make our homeland safer.

The “how,” Mr. Johnson, is why we are here today. Today, I hope you will discuss the new “how” of I&A.

How are you going to accomplish the I&A mission – and expectations you raised in your June testimony?

What progress have you made so far, where have you encountered challenges, and how can this Subcommittee help you address these?

How are you coordinating your efforts – your vision and mission, your supporting strategic plan and corresponding metrics – with other the other elements that contribute to detecting and disrupting those who might potentially do us harm?

This Committee is mindful – as is the American public – of the widely reported cross-country terrorism investigation into a possible al Qaeda cell. My take – and I will not reveal any information received on a classified basis – is that our intelligence community is playing the critical role in uncovering the alleged plot and continues to work in close coordination with law enforcement at all levels in the ongoing investigation. I congratulate you, Mr. Johnson, for your role in the effort.

Welcome back. This Subcommittee needs you to succeed – our nation will be safer if you do.