

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

**“A DHS Intelligence Enterprise: Still Just a Vision or Reality?”
May 12 2010**

Nearly eight months ago, this Subcommittee received testimony from then-acting Under Secretary Bart Johnson – a career law enforcement officer – about his vision for the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

The Chairman of the Full Committee and I were very impressed.

Mr Johnson’s testimony set a new tone for information and intelligence sharing at I&A– one that embraced the key role that state and local police and sheriffs can play in encouraging an alert public to “see something and say something” or “iwatch” as the LAPD campaign in my own congressional district suggests.

He said: “Every day across the country, state, local, tribal and territorial law enforcement and other officials gather information in the course of their work of providing emergency and non-emergency services to their communities. This information may serve as the first indicator of a potential threat to our national security.”

This became crystal clear last week with the apprehension of Faisal Shahzad, the would-be Times Square bomber.

Mr. Johnson suggested a number of practical ideas for intelligence sharing, including a comprehensive outreach effort to make sure that intelligence products provide state, local, territorial, tribal and private sectors with the information they “want, at the time they want it, and in the form they need it.”

He suggested creating a “Single Point of Service” program that handles information requests by state, local and tribal partners and developing an analytic capability and methodology for assessing Suspicious Activity Reporting data.

And Mr. Johnson suggested that I&A should create baseline capabilities and help improve analytic capacity at state and major urban area fusion centers in order to support information-driven decision making by state, local, tribal, territorial and federal homeland security and law enforcement officials.

He nailed it – and this Subcommittee has been wanting to see his vision become reality.

Now that an Under Secretary has been named and confirmed – I’m glad Caryn Wagner is joining us today – we are meeting to evaluate I&A’s progress.

As I’m sure is now clear, we believe I&A’s core mission is to ensure not just horizontal sharing between intelligence agencies, but vertical: up and down between the federal and local government and law enforcement.

Yet the testimony today seems more focused on I&A’s horizontal relationships with other federal intelligence agencies. I confess I am disappointed and wonder whether we are peddling backwards.

We have recent and excellent real life examples of how information shared with and by law enforcement can make all the difference.

It was a beauty supply shop owner who provided key information that led to the unraveling of Najibullah Zazi’s plot to blow up New York subways. And two alert veterans alerted law enforcement to Shahzad’s smoking vehicle planted in Times Square.

An alert public and proactive police force will continue to make the critical difference, especially as terror tactics evolve. After all, they are the ones who know their communities best and will notice first when something odd occurs.

Terrorists want nothing more than to strike us, to cause physical and economic damage, and to make us fear them. They will not give up.

We’ll never be able to achieve 100% security, but we can certainly improve the odds. That is why we are here today.

When Americans are prepared, not scared, they can play a key role in keeping us safe.

My question for the witnesses today is: are we going to implement the inspired vision we heard from Mr. Johnson? How are you leveraging the eyes and ears of the public and local law enforcement to keep our communities and our country safe?

I welcome you both and look forward to your testimony.