

General Hayden, welcome to this subcommittee hearing. And I say to my colleagues, I know you know in this important open hearing that this is an opportunity for us to engage General Hayden and as we stand up the DNI over the important issues that we as an oversight committee can be involved in with you, General Hayden.

We know that we have got a tough job ahead of us, but we want to assist you. We think al Qaeda is weaker, but the events of the last month have shown, both in London and in Egypt, that the terrorist threat is growing and is spreading across Europe, Asia, and Africa. So from our own experience with 9/11 we have learned that better intelligence is essential to counter the threat, but where are we right now?

General Hayden, I want to thank you for the time that you have given to the chairman and to me to allow us to come down to engage you informally in discussions about where you are; and I want to repeat today what I said to you then: This is an opportunity for you to report to us where you are. Because, as I said, we want to assist you in this effort. I know this is early on and I know as we are standing up we are not quite yet where we might want to ask what do we need to do now to help you to -- what do you know already that isn't working? So I think it is important for us to hear from you as to how your startup is going, what changes have been made already.

Because when we passed last year the Intelligence Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act of 2004, we came up with an important plan and we put it into law. But the challenge is for you now to implement that. And, again -- I am going to repeat it over and over again -- but we want to assist you. So we look forward to your testimony today.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity for us to engage in this issue in an open hearing. This is the first of three open hearings, that we will have two more when we get back after the August recess. I think both of those are intended to be open hearings, one before the subcommittee and one before the full committee as well. So thank you, General Hayden.