

NEWS ALERT



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Homeland Security Committee

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson “The President’s Proposed FY08 Budget for the Department of Homeland Security: The Office of Intelligence and Analysis”

February 14, 2007 (WASHINGTON) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment Subcommittee Hearing entitled “The President’s Proposed FY08 Budget for the Department of Homeland Security: The Office of Intelligence and Analysis”:

“It has been eighteen months since your appointment as Chief Intelligence Officer, Mr. Allen. During that time you have taken the Office of Intelligence and Analysis to a place where it is finally finding its footing. I know it’s been a challenging road, and I thank you for your service.

With that said, I’m concerned that the President’s proposed budget will leave you hobbled on that road. Last year, the President’s budget provided a 32% increase in funding and 67% increase in staffing for I&A. This year, the President seeks a mere 5% increase in budget and a modest 9% increase in staffing. There appears to be a ‘leveling off’ of the commitment to Analysis and Operations by the President. This ‘leveling off’ is troubling given that your stated goals for I&A are unfulfilled.

Specifically, I am concerned that this budget will not provide adequate resources to support the following goals for I&A: integrating the Department’s intelligence units; fully funding, staffing, and rolling out your State and Local Fusion Center Program; developing a robust border intelligence capability; and protecting the homeland from a WMD attack.

I am not sure what it says about whether you have the full support from the President on these critical initiatives if the resources are not there. If he really believed your initiatives were a priority, surely he could have found more funding somewhere.

Where this leaves you and your Office of Intelligence and Analysis is a mystery. Although the actual dollar and staffing figures for your office are classified, I hope you’ll be able to shed some light on how you plan to prioritize your work over the next fiscal year. This will be challenging for you, I am sure, given the short shrift the President has shown you in his proposed budget.”

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