

**Statement of
Chairman Bennie G. Thompson
Committee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing &
Terrorism Risk Assessment**

**“Moving Beyond the First Five Years: Evolving the
Office of Intelligence and Analysis to Better Serve State,
Local, and Tribal Needs”**

**10:00 A.M., Thursday, April 24, 2008
311 Cannon House Office Building**

The 9/11 Act was clear: homeland security doesn't happen just in Washington, D.C.

Preventing the next terrorist attack requires new and strong partnerships with State, local, and tribal leaders, especially in law enforcement.

Put simply, our police and sheriffs' officers in the course of their crime-fighting duties are in the best position to stop a terrorist plot in its tracks.

If we don't have a Department or an intelligence office that knows how to meet their needs, we're failing.

This is especially important when it comes to intelligence, because intelligence is the “glue” that should be holding the Department's many pieces together.

It should be telling them – based on State, local, and tribal needs – how they should be working their missions.

My advice would be for I&A to focus on doing three or four things well for these customers instead of fifty.

That way, the Department can be more responsive.