



---

**PRESS RELEASE**

---

For Immediate Release: August 11, 2004

Contact: Carrie Sloan or Harald Stavenas  
(202) 225-2539

**Opening Statement of Chairman Hunter**  
*Hearing on Intelligence Implications of the 9-11 Commission Report  
for the Department of Defense – Part II*

The committee concludes its two-day series of hearings on the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission with a distinguished panel of outside witnesses. I am pleased to welcome to the committee this afternoon:

Honorable John J. Hamre  
President and CEO  
The Center for Strategic and International Studies  
(former Deputy Secretary of Defense)

Lieutenant General William E. Odom, USA (ret.)  
Senior Fellow  
The Hudson Institute  
(former Director of the National Security Agency)

Dr. Lowell Wood  
Senior Scientist  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

This fourth hearing is primarily concerned with the implications of the 9-11 Commission's proposed intelligence reforms on the Department of Defense. While there is broad agreement that we can, should, and must do better in the intelligence business, the public debate so far has largely taken place with a narrow focus on avoiding a repeat of the failures that led to September 11th.

While that's understandable, we must ensure that reforms don't have undesirable and unintended consequences. For instance, recommendations to weaken the relationship between warfighters and the defense intelligence assets that support them could undermine our military edge, put our soldier's lives at risk, and ultimately weaken national security by degrading our military performance. That question was beyond the purview of the 9-11 Commission, but it is an issue that Congress and the President must deal with as we work to reform the intelligence community.

-more-

Today, we're going to review a few of these ideas with some expert witnesses. Dr. Hamre is, of course, familiar to us from his distinguished service as Comptroller and Deputy Secretary of Defense in the last administration. General Odom is an accomplished intelligence professional and the author of "Fixing Intelligence." Dr. Wood is one of the most creative people at Livermore National Laboratory, having appeared before this Committee last month as a member of the Electromagnetic Pulse Commission. Gentlemen, thank you for coming. I look forward to an engaging hearing as we review several ideas for reforming intelligence.

###

<http://armedservices.house.gov/>