

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20511

27 JAN 09

Dear Colleagues:

America's Intelligence Community (IC) is the best in the world and has never been stronger than it is today. This strength is the result of an IC populated with dedicated professionals who care deeply about the security of our country and our national interests. As I depart, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and deep appreciation for your service and professionalism.

It seems like yesterday that you welcomed me aboard as the nation's second DNI. But since February 2007, we have traveled a great distance together in two brief years. At the top of the list is the passage of revised FISA legislation and revision of Executive Order 12333. These documents lay a foundation to provide the IC the structure and tools needed to continue our work, while expanding privacy and civil liberties protections to all Americans. We also participated in the establishment of the Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative (CNCI) to focus efforts on protecting our cyber infrastructure, a major step toward addressing current threats and future challenges.

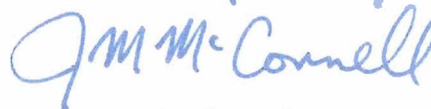
Together we established the government's first-ever civilian joint duty program, and began the transformation of the analytic community by linking analysts across the globe through state-of-the-art tools such as A-Space and the Library of National Intelligence.

We created the National Intelligence Coordination Center and published Vision 2015, the way forward to a fully networked and integrated enterprise. We also established the Strategic Enterprise Management process to help our Community plan, program, and budget against current and future threats. Your hard work and dedication to the mission are what will make stronger integration and collaboration possible as you move forward making the IC even more effective. Having worked with you side by side, and knowing your professionalism and respect for our laws and values, I am fully confident that improvements in our mission performance will continue.

Much remains to be done. But I know that you will continue to build on the progress already made. The safety of our homes, and our Homeland, depend on it. I am more certain than ever that you are equal to the task.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve our great nation with you.

Sincerely, *with greatest respect,*



J. M. McConnell