

The Intelligence Transformation Act – H.R. 4104

Implements Key Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission

- **Goldwater-Nichols for the Intelligence Community.** H.R. 4104 starts from the fundamental premise that tighter integration of intelligence agencies is critical to strong intelligence capabilities. Looks to successes of Goldwater-Nichols reforms of the Defense Department as a model for transforming the Intelligence Community. Co-sponsors believe H.R. 4104 is the truest to the Goldwater-Nichols model of the proposals on the table today.
- **Director of National Intelligence.** Creates Director of National Intelligence, separate from the CIA Director. The Director of National Intelligence has no fixed term, the CIA Director has a fixed term. Not a czar, not a new bureaucracy – an intelligence unified combatant commander.
- **Mission-oriented task forces.** “Jointness” and integration of efforts in mission-oriented task forces. Just like Goldwater-Nichols overcame the Defense Department’s tendency to fight an Army war, Navy war, and Air Force war, this structure would transform the Intelligence Community’s separate signals intelligence campaigns, human intelligence campaigns, and imagery campaigns into a unified intelligence effort.
- **Agencies “organize, train, and equip.”** Pulls power up to Director of National Intelligence from the heads of the intelligence agencies. Makes agency heads responsible for “organizing, training, and equipping” intelligence forces just like Goldwater-Nichols did for the military service chiefs.
- **Joint assignments.** Joint assignments across the Intelligence Community as a condition of promotion to senior ranks, modeled on Goldwater-Nichols.
- **Red teams and competitive analysis.** Establishes an Alternative Assessment Unit for devil’s advocacy at the National Intelligence Council to challenge assumptions in all National Intelligence Estimates. Preserves competitive analysis – does not collapse everything into CIA control.
- **Information sharing.** Gives Director of National Intelligence the sole authority over classification systems, personnel clearances, and privacy protections to break down info sharing stovepipes. Mandates integrated information networks and tools for collaboration and data discovery – again, to break down vertical hierarchies and promote info sharing.
- **Budget authorities and acquisition oversight.** Unlike most Director of National Intelligence proposals, budget execution authority does not change; funds are still appropriated to the Defense Department, State Department, etc. But the Director of National Intelligence is given stronger authority, and real ability, to move money around during the year to enforce tasking and to address priorities. HR 4104 creates a Joint Intelligence Comptroller to allow the Director of National Intelligence full transparency into the budget. And reverses the burden of appealing reprogramming decisions so that the agency heads and the Secretary of Defense have to bring their appeals to the President to overrule the Director of National Intelligence. Also creates joint Director of National Intelligence-Secretary of Defense acquisition oversight and milestone approval mechanism.