

Senate Committee On Foreign Relations
Chairman Richard G. Lugar
Opening Statement for Hearing on
The Changing Face of Terror
June 13, 2006

Today the Foreign Relations Committee meets to begin a series of hearings on the issue of global terrorism and our international efforts to combat it.

The dramatic and tragic events of September 11, 2001, caused a sea change in how Americans viewed terrorism. No longer was this a phenomenon that occurred only in distant places, with victims unknown to us. While many Americans -- often working in the service of our State Department or military -- had lost their lives in terrorist acts overseas in recent years, the September 11 attacks on our homeland seared the images of terrorism in the minds of Americans forever.

Americans were jarred out of our complacency, and our remedies as a government in the aftermath of the attacks have changed the way we travel, the way we move across our borders, the way we manage international trade and finance, and the way we approach our foreign policy.

Through tireless work with our partners overseas and here at home, we have made progress. We have forced Al Qaeda from its base in Afghanistan and severely disrupted its central leadership. The recent news of the successful joint U.S.-Iraqi strike against Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, and the foiled terrorist plot in Canada clearly indicate that our investments and those of our partners are meeting with some success.

However, it is equally clear that military operations alone will not win the longer war on terrorism. The State Department's recent report on counterterrorism trends notes that, while Al Qaeda's leadership is now on the run, its finances and logistics disrupted, and its Afghan safe-haven gone, the core leadership continues to provide ideological guidance to followers worldwide. It has lost much of its operational capability, but it has increased its emphasis on propaganda activity, and it continues to inspire terrorist cells in many parts of the world. Its political will has not been undermined.

We also are seeing an increase in suicide bombings around the world -- the July 7 bus and subway attacks in London that drew on British citizens as suicide bombers was a particularly noteworthy occurrence. The Near East and South Asia regions of the globe remain hard hit by terrorism, accounting for almost 75 percent of the attacks and 80 percent of the fatalities last year. Attacks on journalists serving in foreign countries also are on the rise. And observers are noting more frequent occurrences of home grown terrorist cells here in North America -- the Canadian plot being the most recent example.

All of this shows that despite our operational and tactical successes, the root causes of terrorism and the intense ideological motivations behind this phenomenon persist. How, then, should we go forward? What new forms is terrorism taking, and how are groups changing their tactics? What are their central aims and motivations, and how do we as a nation project to affected

populations worldwide an image of hope rather than enmity? Does our current strategy sufficiently account for the roles of diplomacy, international exchange, and foreign assistance in this battle, so that we can reach Muslims and others who currently hear a message of hate and revenge from within their most radical ranks? How do we counter not just Osama Bin Laden's tactics, but enlist support to discredit his strategic plan and vision within the worldwide Muslim community? And how do we artfully use "soft power" to deny the terrorists their favored havens of unstable societies and uncontrolled territories?

The purpose of today's hearing is to receive a report from those currently and formerly on the front lines of the U.S. counterterrorism effort about how we are doing, how terrorists are adapting and changing their operations, and where we are headed in the short and longer term.

First we will hear from two government officials who are key players in our international efforts to combat terrorism.

Vice Admiral John Scott Redd is the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center. In this capacity, Admiral Redd heads an entity that develops plans, conducts analysis, and provides assistance to all elements of the government that are involved in disrupting or preventing future terrorist attacks. Admiral Redd commanded the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet in the mid-1990s. He also served as Director of Plans on the Joint Staff, and was a deputy to Ambassador Paul Bremer at the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad.

Ambassador Henry Crumpton is the State Department's Coordinator for Counterterrorism, and has responsibility for coordinating and supporting all U.S. Government policies aimed at countering terrorism overseas. Ambassador Crumpton served with distinction for many years in the CIA, as an operations officer, as a Chief of Station, and, most recently, as the leader of the CIA's Afghan campaign in 2001 and 2002.

On our second panel we will hear from two accomplished public servants who have entered the private sector.

John McLaughlin is currently a Senior Fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and is a former Acting and Deputy Director of the CIA. Mr. McLaughlin had a long and distinguished career in the Agency's analysis directorate and has chaired the National Intelligence Council.

Daniel Benjamin has served on the National Security Council staff, and in this capacity had responsibility for the breadth of programs encompassing U.S. counterterrorism efforts. He is a former foreign correspondent for Time magazine, and is the coauthor of "The Age of Sacred Terror," which was selected as a "Notable Book of 2002" by the New York Times and the Washington Post. His latest book, "The Next Attack," examines the evolution of the terrorist threat since September 11, 2001, and the conduct of the war on terror during that period.

I appreciate our witnesses being here today and look forward to their testimony.

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