



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson
“Making Homeland Security Intelligence Work
for State, Local, and Tribal Partners:
An Interagency Threat Assessment
Coordination Group (ITACG) Progress Report”

March 13, 2008 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment Subcommittee hearing entitled “Making Homeland Security Intelligence Work for State, Local, and Tribal Partners: An Interagency Threat Assessment Coordination Group (ITACG) Progress Report”:

“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 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. The ITACG is a common sense way to get useful threat information to cops on the beat. By putting federal intelligence analysts together with state and local officers at the NCTC, the ITACG helps build the partnerships we need for real information sharing. Ambassador McNamara’s report makes clear that we’re on our way, but that there’s still much work to be done.

We should start by bringing on five more ITACG detailees from state, local, and tribal law enforcement. And I believe that we should all be on the same page when it comes to the ITACG’s role in producing intelligence. Finally – and I can’t stress this enough – this Committee stands ready to get the word out about the ITACG. I want to hear what the witnesses are doing to market it to police chiefs and sheriffs nationwide, and what we can do to help.”

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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