



Center for Strategic & International Studies  
Washington, DC

**PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT INTERACTION:  
A CRITICAL COMPONENT IN THE INTELLIGENCE FRAMEWORK FOR HOMELAND  
SECURITY**

The CSIS Transnational Threats Project (TNT) hosted its fourth annual Transnational Threats Audit on April 26, 2006. This off-the-record closed forum provides a platform for Fortune-500 senior corporate security executives and national security experts to analyze the scope and effect of transnational threats to the public and private sectors. This year's conference focused on the emerging need for new mutually beneficial interactions between the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) and the private sector.

CSIS' President Dr. John Hamre provided introductory remarks on the importance in crafting a partnership between the private sector and the government. This was followed by The Honorable William Cohen, former Secretary of Defense and current Chairman and CEO of the Cohen Group, providing the morning keynote. Secretary Cohen presented an extensive analysis on the current and evolving changes in the global economic and political landscape. He emphasized greater need for cooperation between the private sector and the government to counter vulnerabilities that directly impact U.S. economic and national security.

This year's Audit presented its widely recognized and successful assessment panel on current and future transnational threats. Daniel Benjamin, Senior Fellow in CSIS' International Security Program, discussed the broad nature of the Jihadist threat, specifically, networks versus homegrown terrorists. He emphasized that the U.S. is "the gold standard for Jihadists." However, Europe will remain an area for intense activity. Dr. Mihail Roco, Senior Advisor for Nanotechnology, National Science Foundation, discussed the evolution of nanotechnology in the commercial sector. In 2005, worldwide research and development in nanotechnology reached \$8.6 billion. With continued research in nanobiotechnology, human life could potentially be extended by 20 years. Dr. Daniel Lucey, Director, Center for Biological Counterterrorism & Emerging Diseases, Washington Hospital Center, addressed the global spread of H5N1 avian flu. He described 6 phases of pandemic flu developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and we are currently at phase 3 pandemic alert. He went on to explain that WHO had developed a protocol to work with nations where phases 4 or 5 begins.

The second panel addressed the relationship between the private sector and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Panel speakers included David Shedd, Associate Deputy for National Intelligence and Chief of Staff to Ambassador Negroponte; Robert Moore, Executive Director, Global Security Group, Merck & Company; and Charles Allen, Chief Intelligence Officer, Department of Homeland Security. The panel recognized that the private sector has a unique vantage point on issues of critical importance to protecting national security and



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economic interests and can provide the DNI with strategic understanding of the landscape that American corporations are operating in. U.S. corporate concerns and insights can be of value to the DNI as he deploys the nation's analytic and collection capabilities. A dialogue between the DNI and private sector would enhance the inclusion of those interests in the development of U.S. national intelligence priorities.

Keynote luncheon speaker, Henry Crumpton, Coordinator for Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State, discussed terrorist tactics, the goals of Al Qaeda, and how Al Qaeda views the private sector. He explained that Al Qaeda not only considers the private sector as a target but also as a source of intelligence collection to exploit knowledge through recruiting science technicians and other experts. He went on to say that they also see the free market as a way to raise capital and they can adapt to environments, using the private sector as their cover.

The Transnational Threats Audit is hosted by TNT's Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG). The PSAG is composed of 30 senior corporate security executives, representing Fortune 100 companies from a cross-section of key infrastructure sectors, and senior national security specialists. Since its inception in February 2003, the PSAG regularly convenes in off-the-record sessions to discuss mutual concerns of information sharing, improved national security measures, and political global security threats with ranking U.S. government officials and the intelligence community. The group is co-chaired by Carol Hallett, of Counsel, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Robert Littlejohn, Vice President of Global Security, Avon Products.