individuals’ feelings being hurt about what I am sharing with them as it relates to facts and what we are sharing with them as it relates to facts. If we were here talking fiction, I would not be able to sleep well at night.

I want to start right now; this is factual. Individuals can go into the record. As a matter of fact, they can go to nationaljournal.com/members/markups/200503/200506812.htm and find it. It is what it is. And if individuals do not want to man up and woman up and lead, the American people need to make other decisions.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the former chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, was removed; not by Democrats, not by the people in his district, but by the Republican Conference. Why? Why? This is Fox News, okay? This is what I am reading right now, Fox News, right off their website. “Smith passed an increase in investment on the Veterans Affairs budget that put veterans first.” He is no longer the chairman because he decided to represent the leadership. He is no longer the chairman of the American people.

I noted when I went and spoke at Memorial Day services this year and Veterans’ Day services on November 11 of last year, that every previous Veterans’ Day and Memorial Day that I was able to participate in as an elected official, one of the first things that I did in the totality of my future, I was able to thank them. And generally the crowds that come to those events are older folks, senior citizens especially in Florida, veterans of many wars. I was able to say “thank you” from our generation, because prior to now, our generation is the first since before World War II that has never been called to war, that had never had the casualties that the generations before us had. And I was able to thank them for allowing us to stand on their backs, to defend their sacrifice.

But I cannot say that any more. I cannot say that any more, because, as was read tonight, the more than 1,500 names that we are in the process of reading, we could have a whole hour just on the Iraq war and our deep concerns over that.

But to continue in the gentleman’s thought process about health care for veterans, I visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center after a few weeks ago and had an opportunity to visit with soldiers who had come back from Iraq and Afghanistan without their legs, hearing their stories, watching the pain etched in their face, and the dedication that they have. To the person, they wanted to go back, and their regret was they were not able to, they had to leave their comrades behind.

These people are struggling to get the health care that they wish they are still enlisted. At home in South Florida and across the country, our veterans, as the gentleman said, 6 months is not an exaggeration for how long our veterans have to wait to get their health care needs taken care of. Is the way that we give them the proud veterans that have served this country?

We sound so soap-boxish, but your actions have to back up your words. It is really nice to stand on the floor and give a good speech and get all choked up, but what matters is how you cast that vote and what your light up on that board when they put it up there says, and you are either with them or against them. The Members that voted against the flag burning amendment that was offered in committee and on this floor and who opposed them, in spite of valiant speeches that were made on behalf of those veterans, should be ashamed of themselves.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, 70 percent of those currently in Iraq and Afghani- stan are under 30, so they are going to need to access this system because they are going to have a lot of years in it.

Mr. Speaker, we are wrapping up here; I think we just have a few minutes left. If you have any e-mails you want to send to us, the address is as follows:

30something.dems@mail.house.gov.

Again, the address is 30something.dems@mail.house.gov.

I received a letter today from a local veteran in Ohio. Korean War veteran Bob Brothers wrote and sent me a copy of a letter to the editor that he was sending. He wrote this after the flag burning amendment that we voted on last week. He calls it, “Conundrum: Congress of the United States is voting on a flag desecration amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. The riddle is, this allows Congressmen to stand under the American flag and declare, I am patriotic. The pun is these same Congressmen vote against mandatory funding for the Veterans Affairs Department. Why are these two items not attached so that courage, honor, and valor become necessary when they enter the Chamber to vote?

‘A veteran is a veteran is a veteran. When a young kid I hit the beach in Korea, I did not see any Congressmen or Congresswomen, and I was not asked my income before going ashore. I will not vote for anyone who tries to show they are patriotic by voting for the flag desecration amendment and voting against mandatory funding for the Veteran Affairs Department. Iraqi Freedom veterans take note: as soon as you are discharged, you will begin a lifelong struggle. We have a long way to go here, and I think the point tonight is, the argumentation in this debate is about Social Security and how we are going to fix a problem that does not exist for 40 years, or are we going to address the veterans issues that we face today.!”

WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I think that we have demonstrated here tonight, as we will in the future, that there are so many issues facing our generation, and we need to make sure that we take this country back in the right direction so that when our generation inherits the results of the decisions that we are making here, that we are not struggling to make sure that we can clean up the mess that was left for us.

Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. Speaker, once again, we had another good 30-something Working Group Special Order. We look forward to coming back after we celebrate our independence on the Fourth of July. As my colleagues know, here on the Washington Mall we have quite a celebration and throughout America in many small towns and cities. We will be coming back to the floor to talk about Social Security, family information, and to talk about how Democrats are part of the solution.

I must say, once again, we are not here to generalize. We have some Republicans on the other end that are totally against the privatization of Social Security and totally for the full funding, as the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SMITH) was, as it relates to veterans affairs, doing better by our veterans. Seventy percent of the individuals who are fighting in Iraq are young people who are doing what they have to do.

Mr. Speaker, with that, we would like to not only thank the Democratic leader but the Democratic leadership for allowing us to come together.

U.S. INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 44 minutes.
Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to discuss for the next 45 minutes the most important topic that will allow us to protect the homeland, provide for the security of the American people and our allies and our troops around the world: our intelligence.

Last Thursday, Mr. Speaker, I had a meeting with the very able and distinguished chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA). We discussed many things, one of which was a source that I had hoped that we could get some information to assist us in understanding the threats in Iraq and the Middle East, and especially in regard to Iran.

I said to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), I am going to make a prediction to you. Based on my source, I said, common wisdom tells us that the winner of the election in Iran that will take place on Friday and Saturday night will probably be the Rafsanjani. He is the name that most pundits have said would be the likely winner in a two-person runoff against the more conservative and not well-known mayor of Tehran. But I said to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), based on information we had, the election was not going to be close; it will be a landslide. But the conservative mayor of Tehran, a relative unknown, had been anointed by Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran and would in fact win the Iranian election.

We all saw the results, Mr. Speaker, on Saturday night and Sunday morning as, in fact, the mayor of Tehran won the election with a margin of 62 to 38 percent, an overwhelming landslide. I raise this issue, Mr. Speaker, because good intelligence and good information is the most critical tool that we can have over the next several years and decades to protect our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, recently information has come to my attention over the past several months that is very disturbing. I have learned that, in fact, one of our Federal agencies had, in fact, identified the major New York cell of Mohamed Atta prior to 9/11; and I have learned, Mr. Speaker, that in September of 2000, that Federal agency actually was prepared to bring the FBI in and prepared to work with the FBI to take down the cell that Mohamed Atta was involved in in New York City, along with other terrorists.

I have also learned, Mr. Speaker, that when that recommendation was discussed within that Federal agency, the lawyers in the administration at that time said, you cannot pursue contact with the FBI against that cell. Mohamed Atta is in the U.S. on a green card, and we are fearful of the fallout from the Waco incident. So we did not allow that Federal agency to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, what this now means is that prior to September 11, we had employees of the Federal Government in one of our agencies who actually identified the Mohamed Atta cell and made a specific recommendation to act on that cell, but were denied the ability to go forward. Obviously, if we had taken out that cell, 9/11 would not have occurred and, certainly, taking out those three principal players in that cell would have totally stopped, the operation that killed 3,000 people in America.

Tonight, I am going to provide some background to my colleagues, because I think this represents a major problem that needs to be focused on by the committees of the House and the Senate, by the leadership of the House and the Senate, by John Negroponte, the new person assigned by President Bush, and a very close colleague to me, to integrate the 33 classified systems overseen by the 15 Federal agencies.

I want to also start off by praising Porter Goss, the director of the CIA. Porter served us extremely well in this country and as chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and he went over to the CIA with an aggressive agenda to change that agency, and he has begun that process. We, in this body, must rally the American people to support the efforts brought forward by Porter Goss and to allow John Negroponte to undertake perhaps the most difficult task in protecting the security of America, a task that will not be easy, given the history of our Federal agency system.

Let me take my colleagues back, Mr. Speaker, to 1999. It was, in fact, the spring of 1999 when I was first involved in taking a delegation of 10 Members of Congress, with the support of my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), and with the support of the Clinton State Department.

The 11-member delegation of five Democrats, five Republicans and myself, along with the State Department employee, traveled to Vienna to meet with five senior leaders of the Russian political parties. Our purpose was to try to reach a framework that could allow for a peaceful resolution of the war in Kosovo on the terms that the U.S. had desired after Rambouillet.

After securing a military plane, my Russian friends told me they were bringing a Serb along with them, a Serb who would be able to understand our position and help us decide and determine whether or not Milosevic back in Belgrade would accept any recommendations that we would develop. I did not know anything about the Serb. I knew the Russians. But I figure I had better ask the CIA what they knew about this Serb so I could be better prepared, and to make sure that the Serb was not a part of the Milosevic regime, because that would cause myself and my colleagues to be in violation of the Hobbs Act because we were at war with Serbia at that time.

So I called George Tenet. I said, Director Tenet, can you give me some information about this Serb? His family is evidently well known. I need to know whether or not he is a part of the Milosevic regime. I need to know any other information you can provide to me because we are going to meet with the Russians and see if they will meet with the Russian leaders to help provide a beginning of a solution to end the war in Kosovo.

He called me back the next day and he gave me a couple of sentences and said, no, he was not a part of the Milosevic regime. And he had strong ties to the Communist Party inside of Moscow and had ties to other leaders in the Russian Government. It was not much to go on.

But at the time, Mr. Speaker, I was chairman of the Defense Research Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. My job was to oversee the funding, approximately $40 billion of defense research money on new systems and new technologies. And one of the most striking technologies was the work being done by the Army’s Information Domination Center at Fort Belvoir, formerly known as the LiWA, the Land Information Warfare Assessment Center. I had been to LiWA several times and was tremendously impressed with not just the ability to provide security for our Army classified systems, but I saw a unique approach to doing well beyond that, data mining, data collation, cutting-edge software tools like Starlight and Spires, able to do profiling. Having plussed-up funding for this facility after talking to George Tenet, I called my friends at the Army’s Information Domination Center and said, can you do something for me as a favor, off the record? And they said sure, Congressman, whatever you like. Would you run me a profile of this Serb, for the same reason I had asked the Director of the CIA. They said, no problem, Congress- man, whatever you like. They would get it for you within a few hours. And they did. They gave me 10 pages of information, Mr. Speaker, about the Serb and his ties. Now, the information was not vetted but it was from a number of sources that the Information Domination Center was able to pull together very quickly. I used that information as we traveled to Vienna to understand who we were meeting with. We had those meetings for 2 days and my colleagues, my five Republicans and five Democrats, and we worked aggressively to establish a framework that would begin the end of the Kosovo war. In fact, it was historic.

When we returned to Washington several weeks later I was contacted by the FBI and they said, Congressman, we would like to debrief you. We would like you to tell us what you know about that Serb that you all met in Vienna. I said, no problem, I will be happy to do it Monday afternoon in my office. The Friday before the Monday, the FBI, my office, page 911. Page. When I called them they said, you have got to call CIA Congressional Affairs immediately, which I did. CIA
Policy makers need an overarching information and intelligence architecture that will quickly assimilate, analyze and display assessments and recommended course of action from many national agencies simultaneously.

Policy makers need tools to aid them in developing courses of action against threats to U.S. policy, interests, and security.

Policy makers need virtual communications with one another.

White House, Congress, Pentagon and at the agency levels should have centers they can go to and receive, send, share, discuss, and collaborate on assessments before they act.


Tasks supported by NOAH’s overarching collaborative environment:
- Provide Multi Issue, Multi-agency Hybrid Picture to White House Situation Room, JCS.
- HUMINT Support:
  - Peacemaking Missions;
  - Humanitarian Aid;
  - Battle Damage Assessment;
  - Develop and Leverage new Technologies of importance to national security;
  - Support Congressional Committees/Hearings;

Apply Analysis of Foreign Threat to Policy:
- Provide Hybrid Situational Awareness Picture of the Threat;
- Incorporate Industrial Efforts of Interests to the Policy Maker;
- Link academicians directly to policy maker; and

National Emergencies.

NOAH can leverage existing networks to address diversions.

NOAH’s Hub Center if linked to other agency centers electronically;
- Each key agency must possess a Pod Site and be connected to the NOAH network;
- The Pod can consist of a large screen and appropriate connect for collaboration. Operations Centers can simply be converted into NOAH;

National Policy makers cannot control agency Pods, agencies must post replicated data on the NOAH system so that sister groups can access.

Support multi-level security requirements and can sanitize and “push” data to many types of users to many levels;

NOAH can allow National, law enforcement and military needs. The situation will determine the mission;

Ties policy maker, military and law enforcement together;

Goals of the NOAH Hub Center is to apply agency operations, strategies analysis, tactical assessments to a course of action for the policy maker; and

Optimizes group of expertise within each organization—experts always on hand regardless of NOAH and Pod Site Network:
- Part of national policy creation and execution system;
- Will existing sites and connectivity where available;
- Will share tools available at LIWA IDC so every agency has same tools;
- All agencies will access data on NRO highway in a replicated format sensitive to classification;
- NOAH’s Global Network will use NRO System as backbone;
- All centers connect to other centers electronically; and

Mechanism for gathering, analyzing, displaying, tailoring, and disseminating all kinds of information quickly at the national level.

Link virtually via a pod site to every participating member agency; and

Pod sites designed to pull together agency resources on single screen level;

NOAH’s is staffed by members from participating agencies. The staff has a 24 x 7, high bandwidth, virtual connectivity to experts at agency Pod Sites. This provides decision makers with real-time situational awareness of adversary picture and courses.

Steps to Achieve NOAH Capability:
- Establish baseline capability by building initial Hub Center and congressional virtual hearing room. Equip White House Situation Room to collaborate with these sites;

Staff the Hub Center with two reps from each of the 28 key participating agencies;
- Link up NOAH Internal and external collaborative environments;
- Hook in Back Up Site for redundancy and begin training on collaborative tools;
- Build the 28 Key Agency Pod Sites along model of the Information Dominance Center at Fort Belvoir, VA;

- Link all Pod Sites to NOAH hub center establish Protocols for Inter-agency data sharing;

Exercise live ability to retrieve, collate, analyze, display disparate data and provide policy makers with course of action analysis at the NOAH Hub Center;

Refine procedures and Protocols.

Agencies Represented in the National Collaborative Center:
- Central Intelligence Agency; Defense Intelligence Agency; National Imagery and Mapping Agency; National Security Agency; National Reconnaissance Office; Defense Threat Reduction Agency; Joint Chiefs of Staff; Army/LIWA: Air Force; Navy; Marine Corps; Joint Counter-Intelligence Assessment Group; ONDCP; and FBI.

Drug Enforcement Agency; U.S. Customs; National Criminal Investigative Service; National Infrastructure Protection Center; Defense Information Systems Agency; State Department; Five CINCs; Department of Energy; Department of Commerce; Department of the Treasury; Justice Department; Office of the Secretary of Defense; National Military Command Center; and National Joint Military Intelligence Command.

Elements to be connected to the national collaborative center would include the White House Situation Room, a Congressional Virtual Hearing Room and a possible redundant, or back-up site.

This document, as you can see, Mr. Speaker, is entitled the NOAH, National Operations and Analysis Hub, Policy Makers’ Tool for Acting Against Emerging Transnational Threats and Dangers to U.S. National Security. This page briefing, Mr. Speaker, was put together in late Fall of 1999.

I asked the Deputy Secretary of Defense, John Hamre, to take a look at this capability. He went down to the LIWA and he came back and he said, Congressman, you are right. I agree with you. This capability is needed. It offers unlimited potential. How about sending me a letter describing your interest, Congressman?
So on July 30, 1999, I sent this 3-page letter to Deputy Secretary John Hamre, Deputy Secretary of Defense, at his request, talking about creating an integrated collaborative center for all of our intelligence. I would like to place this letter in the RECORD at this point in time, Mr. Speaker.

Dear Mr. Speaker, dated October 21, 1999: "Dear Mr. Speaker, I would like to place this in the RECORD.

For the Intelligence Community, a national collaborative environment offers opportunities to improve national security through effective decision-making and policy formulation. This concept of a national collaborative environment supporting policy and decision-making mirrors the ideas you have expressed to me in recent discussions, and it is a tangible way to confront the growing challenges of asymmetrical threats.

The NOAH concept of a national collaborative environment offers the following benefits:

- Full battlefield visualization, threat profiling, robust situational awareness, as well as near real-time support to special missions such as peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, national emergencies or special operations.
- For law enforcement, a national collaborative environment offers investigative and threat profiling support, and field station situational awareness.

Along with its system of connected agency pod sites, NOAH would permit the display of collaborative threat profiling and analytical assessments on a large screen. It would be a national level operations and control center with a mission to fuse and analyze various imaging, data and analytical viewpoints for decision-makers in support of national actions. I see NOAH as going beyond the capability of the National Operations Analysis Hub (NOAH) to fuse and analyze various imaging, data and analytical viewpoints for decision-makers in support of national actions.

I am aware of the initiative to link counterterrorism centers throughout the community. I am aware of the National Operations Analysis Hub (NOAH) to fuse and analyze various imaging, data and analytical viewpoints for decision-makers in support of national actions. I see NOAH as going beyond the capability of the National Operations Analysis Hub (NOAH) to fuse and analyze various imaging, data and analytical viewpoints for decision-makers in support of national actions.

I agree that combating asymmetrical threats challenging national security requires a collaborative, inter-agency approach. The Department of Defense has a unique opportunity to help government officials make more effective decisions in support of national actions. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Mr. Speaker, that was in October of 1999 at John Hamre's suggestion on November 4 of 1999, almost 2 years before 9/11. I had John Hamre and the representatives of the CIA and the FBI in my office. And at John Hamre's suggestion, we went through the 9-page briefing to create an overarching national collaborative center. When I finished the briefing which had been prepared for me with our intelligence officials off the record, the CIA said, Congressman WELDON, that is all well and good, but we really do not need that capability. It is not necessary. We are doing something called CI-21, and, therefore, we do not need to pursue that multi-system approach that you have outlined where we bring in all of these other classified systems.

I was very unhappy with that response because I knew full well the Army and our special forces commands were using that capability at that very moment in a special project against al Qaeda.

So, Mr. Speaker, in 1999 and in 2000 and in 2001, I put language in each of our defense bills calling for the creation of the National Operations Analysis Hub to bring together our disparate intelligence capabilities and systems for 3 consecutive years. And, in fact, one of
those bills required a response by the CIA as to why this system had not been put into place.

But in the meantime, on November 12, 1999, the Defense Information and Electronics Report published an article about a massive intelligence network for shared threat information. On April of 2000, Signal Magazine did another story on a fusion center concept taking root as we kept pushing this process.

Mr. Weldon, the following are both of these articles:

(Dec. 12, 1997)
DEFENSE INFORMATION AND ELECTRONICS REPORT
WELDON: DOD NEEDS MASSIVE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK FOR SHARED THREAT INFORMATION
Senior Pentagon officials are mulling over an idea proposed by Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA) that would link classified and unclassified documents in a massive intelligence clearinghouse that could be accessed by 33 federal agencies—a concept similar in some ways to one floated by DOD intelligence officials but with significantly fewer players involved.

“Our problem with intelligence is that we’re stove-pipped,” said Weldon, chairman of the House’s Armed Services military research and development subcommittee, during a Nov. 8 interview. “Each agency has its own way of collecting data and analyzing it, but they don’t share that information with other agencies. The need is to have a better system of analyzing and fusing data sets across agencies and services—certainly within the Pentagon and the military, but my opinion is that we have to go further than that.”

Weldon first proposed the concept of a “National Operations Analysis Hub” to Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre last July, although the congressman said he kept his initiative quiet until a stronger plan could be developed.

The Pentagon-funded network of agencies would be operated by DOD. According to Weldon, it would pull together large amounts of information to produce intelligence profiles of people, regions and national security threats, such as information warfare and terrorism.

“The NOAH concept of a national collaborative environment supporting policy and decision makers is the idea that I have expressed to me in recent discussions, and it is a tangible way to confront the growing asymmetrical threats to our nation.”

Weldon wrote in his July 30 letter to Hamre.

The NOAH concept, however, was not wholeheartedly embraced by Hamre, who met with Weldon last summer and told the congressman that he kept his initiative quiet until a stronger plan could be developed.

Because LIWA is already short of resources, the Army is apprehensive about taking on any new tasks, Hamre told Weldon.

Weldon’s interest in LIWA, increasingly focused on agency synergy, was reported in the July 21 letter to Hamre, also urged the Pentagon to support additional future funding for LIWA, citing critical budget shortfalls that he said had kept the agency from making progress in providing intelligence files from Army commanders (Defense Information and Electronics Report, July 30, p. 1).

“Due to the massive amounts of data out there, and you have to be able to analyze it and create ways to focus on that data so its relevant to whatever you’re interested in,” he said, “I’ve put my support completely for LIWA. “Well the Army has already done that.”

While Weldon continues to push for NOAH to be patterned after LIWA, he sees it operating on a much larger scale. Impressed by its ability to pull together huge amounts of both classified and unclassified data, Weldon noted LIWA’s Information DOMINANCE Center can create in-depth profiles that could be useful to the CIA, FBI and the White House. Yet most federal agencies don’t even know LIWA exists, he added.

“Right now the military is limited to its own sources of information,” Weldon said. “I’ve heard of an attempt to connect the Office of Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and [the Office of the Secretary of Defense] assets with federal law enforcement agencies.”

Meanwhile, officials within the Defense Department’s intelligence community have been considering another way to amass intelligence information through a concept called the Joint Counter-intelligence Assessment Group. A DOD spokeswoman said proponents of the idea, for now, are unwilling to disclose details about it. She was also unable to say whether a formal proposal to Hamre had been made yet.

In Weldon’s July 30 letter to Hamre, however, Weldon alludes to an ongoing “initiative to link counterintelligence groups throughout federal agencies” that would “link information from the law enforcement agencies,” Weldon wrote. However, Weldon said in the interview he believes JCAG is simply more “stove-pipped.”

“I also have seen what the Army has done at LIWA, which has created a foundation for creating a higher-level architecture collabo-

rating all of these efforts,” his July letter states.

NOAH would link together almost every federal agency with intelligence capabilities, including the CIA, National Imagery and Mapping Agency, the Energy Department, the CIA and the FBI. Both Congress and the White House would be offered a “node for briefing capabilities,” meaning intelligence agencies could detail situations on terrorist attacks or wartime scenarios.

“It’s mainly for policymakers, the White House decision makers, the State Department, military, and military leaders,” he said.

Although information sharing among the intelligence community has yet to be formalized through NOAH or JCAG or a similar system, military officials have said they need some kind of linked access capability. Intelligence systems need to be included within the Global Information Grid—the military’s vision of a future global network that could be accessed from anywhere in the world, said Brig. Gen. Manlyn Quagliotti, vice director of the Joint Staff’s command and control, communications and computers directorate, at a recent information assurance at a conference in Arlington, Va.

“We need a more integrated strategy, including help from [the Joint Staff’s intelligence directorate] with Intelligence reports or warnings of an attack,” he said.

If Quagliotti’s vision of the challenge for achieving “information superiority” is the need to unite networks and network managers under one command structure with strong situational awareness capabilities, some military officials have argued that the challenge is the overwhelming amount of information, the ability to access that information, and the ability to react to information, which means that networks become more crucial to the warfight” she said.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST WAXES
[From Signal, Apr. 2000]
Creation of a national operations and analysis hub is finding grudging acceptance among senior officials in the U.S. national intelligence community. A centralized intelligence mechanism would link federal agencies to provide instant collaborative threat profiling and analytical assessments for use against asymmetrical threats. National policy makers, military commanders and law enforcement agencies would be beneficiaries of the hub’s information.

Pursued by a resolute seven-term Pennsylvan-ia congressman and reminded by recent terrorist and cyberthreat activities, the U.S. Defense Department is rethinking its earlier aversion to the idea, and resistance is beginning to crumble. Funding to establish the national operations and analysis hub (NOAH), which would link 28 federal agencies, is anticipated as a congressional add-on in the Defense Department’s new budget. An initial $10 million in funding is likely in fiscal year 2001 from identified research and development accounts.

 spearheading the formation of NOAH is Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA), chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives National Security Committee’s military research and development subcommittee. He emphasizes that challenges facing U.S. leaders are beginning to overlap, blurring distinct and ju-ncture at LIWA, which has created a foundation for creating a higher-level architecture collabo-
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This central national-level hub would be composed of a system of agency-specified nodes, or “pods,” that link federal agencies and services associated with growing national security concerns,” Weldon reports.

“NOAH would link the policy with action results from the analysis and information provided by the individual pod.” Automation and connectivity would allow the to talk to each other in a computer-based environ-ment to share data and perspectives on a given situation.

The congressman believes that NOAH should reside within the Defense Department and is modeling the hub’s concept on a U.S. Army organization he closely follows. He says the idea for NOAH comes from officials in several federal agencies. However, it is also based on his own experience with the U.S. Army’s Intelligence and Security Command’s (INSCOM’s) Land Warfare Information Activity (LIWA) and Information Dominance Center. Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Pattered after LIWA (SIGNAL, March, page 31), NOAH would display collaborative threat profiling and analysis with the aid of a variety of electronic tools, the hub would support national actions, Weldon discloses.

The congressman is conscious of other ini-
tiatives such as linking counterintelligence across the federal government, and he is aware of the Central Intelligence Agency’s (CIA’s) counterterrorism center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI’s) Na-tional Infrastructure Protection Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia and a new human intelligence (HUMINT) special operations center, “We don’t need another
other agencies to obtain database information to assess massive amounts of data and Weldon contends. "LIWA's Information like NOAH is so critically necessary," knowledge of that organization, he confirms. and LIWA, the CIA and FBI agents had no the State Department. When he explained were seeking information on Karic to brief officials and trips to facilities in the region. is quick to recall vignettes about Russian of- ference collection and analysis capabilities in cyberterrorism." He is convinced that cur- rent legal technology diversions, espionage, nar- cotics, terrorism, [ballistic misile] proliferation, il- legal arms transfers, and information warfare and cyberterrorism." He is convinced that cur- rent collection and analysis capabilities in various intelligence agencies are stovepiped. "To some extent, this involves turf protec- tion of jurisdiction only inhibits our nation's security intelligence, which is too narrow in scope, to pro- vide a governmentwide capability. Each agency with a pod linked to NOAH would provide two staff members assigned at the hub, to serve as an intelligence community. Data brought together in "this cluster would be used for fusion and profiling, which any agency could then request," he maintains. NOAH would not belong to the Army, which would continue with its own intel- ligence capabilities as would the other serv- ices. There would only be one fusion center, which would handle input from all federal agencies and from open sources, Weldon ex- plains. "NOAH would handle threats like in- telligence operations instability in various regions of the world. We need this ability to respond immediately." The congress- man adds that he recently was briefed by LIWA on very limited and classified profile information, which he describes as "potentially explosive." In turn, Weldon arranged briefings for the chairman of the House National Security Committee, the Speaker of the House and other key congress- sional leaders.

"But this kind of profiling capability is very limited now. The goal is to have it on a regular basis. The profiling could be used for sensitive technology transfer issues and information about security breaches," the congressman allows. LIWA has what he terms the fusion and profiling state-of-the- art capability in the military, "even beyond the military," Weldon is pressing the case for NOAH among leaders in both houses of Congress. "It is essential that we create a governmentwide capability under very strict controls." Weldon adds that establishing NOAH is not a funding issue; it is a jurisdictional issue. "It is a case of where they are and where they are not," he adds. "Some agencies have the data on hand regardless of the issue. This ap- proach ties strategic analysis and tactical assessment to a course of action. ['Before the U.S. can take action against emerging threats, we must first understand the rela- tionship to one another, their patterns, the people and countries involved and the level of danger posed to our nation,' Weldon says]"

So we have pushed the process, Mr. Speaker. We pushed it in legislation passed by this Congress 3 years in a row. I pushed it publicly in magazine articles, in newspapers, in speeches before intelligence symposiums and agen- cy briefings; but the CIA continued to balk.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I have one of the report languages from H.R. 5408, the conference report printed October 6, 2000, the section entitled \"Joint Re- sponse on Establishment of National Collaborative Information Analysis Capa- bility.\"

That section is as follows: Joint report on establishment of national collaborative information analysis capability (sec. 950). The House bill contained a provision (sec. 950) that would: (1) require the Secretary of De- fense and the Director of Central Intel- ligence to prepare a joint report assessing al- ternatives for the establishment of a na- tional collaborative information analysis ca- pability; and (2) require the Secretary of De- fense to complete the data mining, profiling, and analysis capability of the Army\'s Land Infor- mation Warfare Activity; and (3) restrict further funding until such capability is in place.

The Senate amendment contained no simi- lar provision. The Senate recedes with an amendment that would: (1) require the Secretary of De- fense to prepare a joint report assessing al- ternatives for the establishment of a na- tional collaborative information analysis ca- pability; and (2) require the Secretary of De- fense to complete the data mining, profiling, and analysis capability of the Army\'s Land Infor- mation Warfare Activity. The amend- ment would not require the Senate to re- quest the Senate to make appropriate use of such capability to provide support to ap- propriate national defense components.

Mr. Speaker, to push this process, a report came back from the CIA dated May 1, 2001, just a few short months before 9/11. And I will read one sentence in this report in the summary: "A single overarchng collaborative solution addressing the totality of mission re- quirements is not possible. They were using it in 1999 and 2000. I knew they were using it, but was not quite sure of the date until 2 weeks after 9/11."

Mr. Speaker, exactly 2 weeks after 9/11, before I lost some very good friends, Ray Downey, the chief of all rescue for the New York City Fire De- partment and one of my best friends, was the chief of all rescue at Ground
Zero when the first tower came down. It was Ray Downey who had taken me through the Trade Center in 1993 when bin Laden hit us the first time. It was Ray Downey who convinced me in the late 1990s to introduce legislation, eventually signed into law by President Clinton, requiring the CIA to make recommendations to prepare for the next terrorist threat.

My legislation was passed, became law, and created what is now known as the Gilmore Commission, chaired by Virginia Senator Jim Gilmore. Ray Downey was one of those commissioners. The Gilmore Commission and Ray Downey gave us three reports before 9/11 of recommendations of things we should be doing to prepare for the next terrorist attack. And they gave us those three reports before 9/11 occurred. In fact, almost 40 percent of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission were actual recommendations of the Gilmore Commission. But because the attacks happened, it did not get as much visibility.

On September 11, Ray Downey was killed. I brought his wife and five kids to my district 1 month after 9/11, and 40,000 constituents came out to honor Ray as an American hero at a parade ending at our county park.

We also lost one of my neighbors, Mr. Speaker, a fellow graduate of Westminster University, Michael Horrocks who served our Nation in the Navy, was a pilot on one of the planes that was commandeered on September 11. Michael left behind a young wife, a teacher in my district, and two young children in the Rosslyn Media School District. In fact, we built a playground in Michael’s honor at the school of the two children.

Mr. Speaker, September 11 touched all of us; 3,700 of us were wiped out. Two weeks after 9/11, my friends from the Army’s Information Dominance Center in cooperation with special ops brought me a chart. This chart, Mr. Speaker, this chart. Two weeks after 9/11, I took the basic information in this chart from the White House. I had asked for a meeting with Steve Hadley, who at that time was Deputy National Security Advisor. The chart was smaller. It was 2 feet by 3 feet, but the same information was in the center.

Steve Hadley looked at the chart and said, Congressmen, where did you get that chart from? I said, I got it from the military, I said, This is the process; this is the result of the process that I was asking you to implement in 1999, to our government to implement, but the CIA kept saying we do not need it.

Steve Hadley said, Congressman, I am going to take this chart, and I am going to show the man that I was working with, his name was Ray, he announced the TTIC, the Terrorism Threat Integration Center, but Mr. Speaker, I still have concerns, and I rise this evening to express those concerns.

This capability was produced in 1999 and discovered by the IIDC, the Information Dominant Center. I asked them to update me on al Qaeda, to show me what they can do today at the IDC. This, Mr. Speaker, is al Qaeda today. It is obviously impossible for anyone watching our television monitor to see what is on this chart. I have had this chart magnified by a large factor and have large copies in my office.

Each of these little individual people are cells of al Qaeda. We are the group of al Qaeda, clusters of al Qaeda around the world. In fact, Mohamed Atta’s cell is identified in this chart. This chart, Mr. Speaker, was prepared through the national collaborative efforts of our IDC, Mr. Speaker, open source data. That chart was produced with open source data.

What troubles me, Mr. Speaker, is in talking to my friends in the defense community who work with the NCTC, I have learned that quite possibly the NCTC cannot duplicate this capability. That is a question I plan to get answered this week because we have a card and they could not go after someone with a green card.

I have also been told, Mr. Speaker, that it was because of the fear of the lawyers of the fallout that had occurred on the Waco attack in Texas and small town in India, that Mr. Speaker, if that is, in fact, the case, that is an outrage and a scandal. If our reason for not going after the Mohamed Atta cell was because of the fear of the fallout from Waco, then someone needs to answer this question.

The bottom line process in all of this, Mr. Speaker, is that this capability, which the CIA said we did not need, which the CIA said was not necessary, was, in fact, baseline used by the military, both the Army and Special Forces command did something the CIA did not do. It identified the key cell of Mohamed Atta prior to 9/11, and it actually gave us a suggestion to deal been reformed. It is now known as the story needs to be investigated. This information needs to be pursued.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in spite of the CIA’s refusal to implement a national collaborative center, thank goodness the President did recognize it in January of 2003, standing in this very chamber, in the State of the Union speech, he announced the TTIC, the Terrorism Threat Integration Center. Mr. Speaker, the TTIC is identical to the NOAH, the same design, linkage together in one location of all 33 classified systems.

But, Mr. Speaker, we proposed that in 1999, 2 years prior to 9/11. The administration put it into law in January of 2003. That is the same capability that the CIA said we do not need that, Congressman; we cannot do that, Congressman; we have better ways to assess emerging threats. TTIC has now been reformatted, and we have a new name, the NCTC, the National Counterterrorism Center, but Mr. Speaker, I still have concerns, and I rise this evening to express those concerns.

These concerns need to be addressed. This capability was produced in 1999 and discovered by the IIDC, the Information Dominant Center. I asked them to update me on al Qaeda, to show me what they can do today at the IDC. This, Mr. Speaker, is al Qaeda today. It is obviously impossible for anyone watching our television monitor to see what is on this chart. I have had this chart magnified by a large factor and have large copies in my office.

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What troubles me, Mr. Speaker, is in talking to my friends in the defense community who work with the NCTC, I have learned that quite possibly the NCTC cannot duplicate this capability. That is a question I plan to get answered this week because we have a
very new and very capable leader of the NCTC that hopefully will tell me I am wrong, that they can produce this kind of capability to understand a threat group like al Qaeda.

I rise tonight, Mr. Speaker, to raise the intelligence community oversight. We can never allow ourselves to return to the days prior to 9/11, to the days where individual agencies or individual agencies that think that they have all of the answers in providing security for our country and intelligence agencies and policy-makers. Mr. Speaker, we can never return to the days of 1999 and 2000, and I hope this is not the case today, but back in those days where the agency bureaucrats were fighting with each other over who would take credit for the best information. Let me read a couple of excerpts, Mr. Speaker.

Back in 1999, when I was pushing the CIA to establish this collaborative capability and our military was actually using that capability, focusing on emerging threats like al Qaeda, this conversation went back and forth. Mr. Speaker, September 1999. This is, by the way, written from military intelligence officers, a summary of notes to me.

At the military’s inception, the CIA drags its feet and limits its support to the effort. In an off-the-record conversation between the DCI and the CIA representative to this military unit, a man that I will call Dave and our military intelligence officer explains that even though he understands the military’s effort is against the global infrastructure of al Qaeda, he tells me that the CIA will, and I quote, never provide the best information on al Qaeda, end quote. Why would they not do that? Because of the effort that they were taking as part of a finding they had on bin Laden himself and if the military’s project was successful it would, quote, steal their thunder. Steal the CIA’s thunder.

Dave went on to say that short of the CINC, General so and so, calling the Director, George Tenet, directly, the CIA would never provide the best information to the military on al Qaeda. To my knowledge, that information was never provided.

Mr. Speaker, never again can America allow intelligence bureaucrats to argue back and forth over who is going to steal whose thunder, that you have for that capability, focusing on emerging threats like al Qaeda because a military intelligence unit got information that is supposed to be under their authority and jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to read all these pages, but this classified information that I have to back up what I have given in unclassified format, will be provided and has been provided for the chairman of our intelligence oversight committee and our armed services oversight committee.

Again, I have to ask the question, why did the 9/11 Commission not investigate this entire situation? Why did the 9/11 Commission not ask the question about the military’s recommendation against the Mohamed Atta cell? Why did the 9/11 Commission not document the internal battles and disputes between agency personnel going after the same terrorist organization al Qaeda?

If we are truly going to have an understanding of the need to reform our intelligence system, then we have to be honest with the American people about the past. 

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because I am very troubled by what I have seen and by what I have heard. I have interviewed and talked to some very brave military intelligence officers who, back in 1999 and 2000, were involved in protecting America. They knew what we needed, and they were trying to do it. As I have read to you, there were some in other agencies, especially the CIA and some in DIA, who were saying you cannot do that, that is not your area. That is our area. You cannot steal our thunder. That is our job, not your job.

Never again, Mr. Speaker, can we allow agency bureaucrats to argue over who is going to get the credit for solving the next attack or planned attack against us. I do not rise tonight, Mr. Speaker, to embarrass anyone. I rise tonight because of my own frustration. We knew 6 years ago that direction we had to go. The agency said we do not need that, Congressman, we know better than the Congress. Trust us.

Thank goodness President Bush put that system in place when he took office. If we had had that system in 1999 and 2000, which the military had already developed as a prototype, and if we had followed the lead of the military entity that identified the al Qaeda cell of Mohamed Atta, then perhaps, Mr. Speaker, 9/11 would never have occurred. Certainly taking out the Mohamed Atta cell and two of the terrorists that were with him, would have had a profound positive impact in shutting down the major plan against us that moved forward on September 11, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I have placed these documents in the RECORD because I want our colleagues to have a chance to read them. I want our colleagues to see the facts and the information, and I want to support our chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) as they move forward with an investigation.

We have to ask the question, why have these issues not been brought forth before this day? I had my Chief of Staff call the 9/11 Commission staff and ask the question: Why did you not mention Able Danger in your report? The Deputy Chief of Staff said, well, we looked at it, but we did not want to go down that direction.

So the question, Mr. Speaker, is why did they not want to go down that direction? Where will that lead us? Why do we not want to see the answers to the questions I have raised tonight? Who made the decision to tell our military not to pursue Mohamed Atta? Who made the decision that said that we are fearful of the fallout from Waco politics?

Were those decisions made by lawyers? Were they made by policymakers? Who within the administration in 2000 was responsible for those actions? This body and the American people need to know.

CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE, JUNE 27, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

Mr. Chairman, I have a point of personal privilege.

Mr. Chairman, I believe, under the traditions of the House, the Chair is the Speaker of the Whole House, and the Chair has an obligation to call the vote in the manner in which the vote was arrived at under the voice vote. It is my question whether the ayes or the noes will prevail on a recorded vote. The question is what happened on the floor at that particular time. In this instance, the yea prevailed, and the Chair said the noes prevailed.

A number of years ago, we had very heated debates on this floor from the Republican side, from Mr. Walker, because they felt that they were insulted, especially when cameras came into the Chamber, that the Chair would call votes against their interests when they clearly prevailed on the voice.

The Chair was admonished by the Speaker of the House, and we went back to what was the traditionally fair point of view.

So I would ask the Chair in the future, and future Chairs, to recognize that the Chair is calling the event that takes place in front of the Chair on the floor not what the practices to be, and may be correctly so, the outcome of the vote later on in the day when the recorded vote is taken.

Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote on the Chair’s ruling.

CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE, JUNE 27, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 337, the previous question is ordered.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the minimum time for electronic voting on any motion to recommit may be 5 minutes, notwithstanding that it would be the first vote in a series.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, we cannot hear.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my objection, and I support the gentleman’s motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?