



The Director of National Intelligence (DNI)

The United States Intelligence Community (IC) is a collection of 17 component organizations within six cabinet departments and an independent agency that all carry out intelligence-related functions. The Director of National Intelligence (DNI) oversees the integration of these intelligence functions, spearheads the support the IC provides to the military and senior policy-makers across the government, and serves as principal intelligence advisor to the President.

Creation of DNI Position

The position of DNI was created in accordance with a recommendation of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States, more commonly known as the *9/11 Commission*. In making its recommendation, the 9/11 Commission emphasized a need for a central coordinating authority among the then-16 component organizations of the IC to mitigate administrative and operational barriers, and promote the sharing of intelligence and information.

Acting on the 9/11 Commission’s recommendation, Congress created the position of the DNI through passage of the 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (P.L. 108-458, or IRTPA). The legislation also eliminated the position of the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI). The DCI position had been created by presidential letter in 1946 and formally established through the National Security Act of 1947 (P.L. 80-253). Through a “triple-hatted” arrangement, the DCI simultaneously served as community manager of the IC, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and chief intelligence advisor to the President. With the passage of IRTPA, the DNI assumed responsibility as manager of the IC and principal intelligence advisor to the President, leaving leadership of the CIA to the Director of the CIA.

DNIs to Date

2005-2007	Ambassador John Negroponte
2007-2009	VADM (Ret.) J. Michael McConnell
2009-2010	ADM (Ret.) Dennis Blair
2010-2017	LTGEN (Ret.) James Clapper
2017-present	Former Senator Daniel Coats

Office of the DNI

The IRTPA also created an Office of the DNI (ODNI), an organization of approximately 1,500 IC professionals, including contractors, permanent government employees, and detailees from other IC agencies. The ODNI enables the DNI to facilitate integration of intelligence collection and analysis, information and intelligence sharing, and

budgeting and execution across the other 16 IC components. The ODNI also includes the staff for the President’s Daily Brief.

In 2007, the establishment of the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) enabled the DNI to leverage operational and R&D expertise to facilitate the transition of research results to the IC for operational application.

In July 2018, the ODNI completed a reorganization aimed at optimizing (1) integration of intelligence from across the IC; (2) allocation of National Intelligence Program (NIP) resources; (3) promotion of partner nation and private sector national security partnerships; and (4) development of a strategy for responding to emerging and future threats.

Office of the DNI

Director of National Intelligence	
Principal Deputy Director (DDNI) Chief Management Officer	
Core Mission	
DDNI for Intelligence Integration	
Cyber Threat Intel. Integration Ctr	Nat’l Counterproliferation Ctr
National CI & Security Cntr	National Counterterrorism Ctr
Mission Integration Division	National Intelligence Mngt
National Intelligence Council	
Enablers	
Information Sharing Environment	Partner Engagement
Systems & Resource Analyses	Policy & Strategy
Chief Human Capital Officer	Intel. Adv. Research Proj. Agency
IC Chief Information Officer	Acquisition, Tech. & Facilities
Oversight	
Civil Libs., Privacy & Transparency	Office of the General Counsel
Equal Employ. Opp. & Diversity	Office of Legislative Affairs
IC Inspector General	Public Affairs Office

Source: Adapted from ODNI org chart at <https://www.dni.gov/>.

Responsibilities

According to provisions in the IRTPA, as amended and codified in 50 U.S.C. §3024, and Executive Order 12333 (as amended), DNI responsibilities include

- Ensuring that timely and objective national intelligence is provided to policy makers.

- Overseeing and providing advice to the President and the National Security Council with respect to all ongoing and proposed covert action programs.
- Ensuring accurate intelligence analysis derived from multiple credible sources.
- Establishing objectives and priorities for collection, analysis, production, and dissemination of national intelligence.
- Ensuring maximum availability of, and access to, intelligence information within the IC.
- Managing intelligence and counterintelligence relationships with foreign intelligence entities.
- Overseeing the development and implementation of a program management plan for acquisition of major systems, and doing so jointly with the Secretary of Defense for Department of Defense (DOD) programs.
- Developing personnel policies and programs to enhance joint intelligence operations, and facilitate community management functions.
- Developing and ensuring the execution of an annual budget for the National Intelligence Program (NIP);
- Collaborating with the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (USD(I)) in the USD(I)'s development and execution of the Military Intelligence Program (MIP) (the USD(I) is the senior representative of the Secretary of Defense to the ODNI).
- Leading IC-wide efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness (e.g., providing a service of common concern to two or more IC elements).

Authorities

To carry out these responsibilities (within the following subject areas) the DNI has the authority to:

Acquisition

- Act as the authority for making decisions on major intelligence-related acquisitions, with the exception of acquisitions involving DOD programs. In those cases, the DNI shares authority with the Secretary of Defense.

Advice

- Establish Mission and Functional Managers to serve as principal substantive advisors on intelligence collection and analysis related to designated countries, regions, or functional areas such as cyber threat intelligence.
- Establish councils related to IC-wide management and intelligence integration.

Analysis

- Establish policies and procedures that (1) encourage sound IC-wide analytic methods and tradecraft; (2) ensure analysis based upon all available sources; and (3) ensure competitive analysis of analytic products.

Budget

- Develop and determine the National Intelligence Program (NIP) budget.
- Monitor intelligence budget execution.
- Direct how congressionally appropriated funds flow from the Treasury Department to each of the cabinet level agencies containing IC elements.

- Transfer or reprogram funds, within certain limits, with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval.

Classified Information

- Spearhead security clearance process improvements, and IC-wide security clearance reciprocity policy.

Information Sharing

- Establish uniform security and information technology standards, protocols, and interfaces.
- Develop an IC-wide information sharing architecture.
- Establish, operate, direct national intelligence centers.

Personnel-Related

- Transfer IC personnel for up to two years, with OMB and agency head approval.
- Encourage assignment rotation whereby IC personnel have a chance to work in other IC elements.

Protecting Sources and Methods

- Establish any number of procedures to protect intelligence sources and collection methods to include the security clearance process and classification requirements for IC communications.
- Waive U.S. admission requirements for aliens, if acting jointly with the Secretary of State and Attorney General—a lesser-known example of this protection authority.

Tasking Authority

- Manage and direct the tasking, collection, analysis, production, and dissemination of national intelligence, by approving requirements and resolving conflicts.

Appointments

- Appoint the deputy directors of national intelligence, the Director of the National Counter Proliferation Center, the IC Chief Financial Officer, IC Civil Liberties Protection Office, and the IC Director of Science and Technology.
- Coordinate with cabinet secretaries who require DNI concurrence on nominations of departmental intelligence component heads. Be consulted in appointments to positions for which DNI concurrence is not required: the USD(I), the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and the uniformed heads of Service intelligence elements (including the intelligence element of the United States Coast Guard).

CRS Products

CRS In Focus IF10525, *Defense Primer: National and Defense Intelligence*, by Michael E. DeVine

CRS In Focus IF10428, *Intelligence Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Evaluation (IPPBE) Process*, by Michael E. DeVine

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