

Wolfowitz testified that his work with the “Rumsfeld Commission” in 1998 concerning the ballistic missile threat to the United States made clear to him that “resources for intelligence had been cut too deeply.” DCI Tenet testified that the CIA regularly asked OMB for more money, but had little success. This led to a shortage of trained agents and other resources.

Former FBI Director Freeh testified that the FBI did not have sufficient resources to “maintain the critical growth and priority of the FBI’s counterterrorism program.” From 1996 to 1999, Congress increased appropriations substantially, but from 2000 to 2002, requests for additional funds were denied. As a result, FBI Headquarters units that dealt with Islamic extremism had insufficient resources. According to Mr. Freeh:

For FY 2000, 2001, and 2002 FBI counterterrorism budgets, I asked for a total of 1,895 Special Agents, analysts, linguists, and others. The final, enacted allocation I received was 76 people over those three years. . . . Thus, at the most critical time, the available resources for counterterrorism did not address the known critical needs.

The House and Senate Intelligence Committees typically authorized more for the Intelligence Community in the years before September 11 than the Congressional appropriators eventually approved. As Chart 1.1 indicates, only in one fiscal year (FY1996) did the appropriation exceed the authorization.

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