

Budget Authority

The DCI already has authority to review and approve budgets, personnel, and resources for virtually every aspect of the national intelligence program. Yet, despite this authority, the DCI still actually controls only about 15 to 20 percent of the actual intelligence budget. It is not surprising that as a result, he has been unable to provide necessary leadership within the Intelligence Community, as exemplified by DCI's inability to fully mobilize the Intelligence Community in response to his "declaration of war" on al Qaeda. The DCI has understood the terrorist danger as much as any human being could; yet he didn't have command of all the troops, so to speak, to get the job done. That's why the DCI needs the authority both to manage and oversee the execution of the Intelligence Community budgets.

The DCI as Head of the CIA

The report's recommendation to separate the positions of DCI and head of the CIA is likely to be counterproductive. A number of experts agree with this proposition. During the open hearings just completed in the intelligence committee Judge Webster, the former head of the CIA and the former head of the FBI, said, in reaction to the suggestion to split the DCI from the CIA: "I would strengthen the DCI. I would not have a head of the national intelligence unless that [head of] national intelligence was actually running something."

In his written testimony to the Committee, Anthony Lake, former National Security Advisor, also supported maintaining the CIA under DCI control. Furthermore, the 2001 Hart-Rudman Commission report took this position, as did the 104th Congress House Intelligence Committee staff report, which stated: "Indeed, the testimony of former DCIs and other former senior IC officials all concur that the DCI needs an agency 'of his own' -- i.e., the CIA -- if he is to have any real power within the IC."

At this stage, the operational authority vested in the head of the CIA comprises a substantial amount of the power of the DCI. Removal of that authority now would separate him from his