

During the 1990s, intelligence community budgets stayed roughly even in constant dollars, or slightly declined. Overall capabilities declined. Primarily by taking from other budgets, counter-terrorism funds doubled. The Report states that, “in spite of increased counter-terrorism resources, the overall decreases in Intelligence Community resources made it difficult to expand the counter-terrorism effort significantly to meet the growing threat. . . .The number of people working on terrorism rose steadily, despite overall decreases in Intelligence Community staffing. Nonetheless, the number of people in counter-terrorism remained small.”⁹

One notices a lack of clarity here. The Report spends many pages cataloging why it is difficult to pinpoint how much money was expended on counter-terrorism; yet the document does not really grapple with the contradiction between the high-ranking officials’ complaints about inadequate resources and the fact that, according to the Office of Management and Budget, the intelligence agencies usually got what they asked for. Some excerpts describing this disconnect follow:

- “DCI Tenet testified that the CIA regularly asked OMB for more money, but had little success.”¹⁰
- “Agency leaders testified that their requests for resources were sometimes not satisfied, even though Congress appropriated as much or more than the President requested. This is because OMB often reduces agency requests before sending them to Congress.”¹¹
- “In general, CIA appropriations for counter-terrorism met or exceeded the requests that were submitted by the President to Congress.”¹²
- “[National Security Agency] appropriations consistently met or exceeded Presidential

⁹ Final JIS Report, Tab E, pp. 2-3.

¹⁰Final JIS Report, Tab E, p. 7.

¹¹Final JIS Report, Tab E, p. 9.

¹²Final JIS Report, Tab E, p. 10.