

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
PATRICIA A. MCNERNEY'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT,
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO
TESTIFY ON THE "NATIONAL SECURITY BUREAUCRACY FOR ARMS
CONTROL, COUNTERPROLIFERATION, AND NONPROLIFERATION
PART II: THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE"
FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2008 AT 2:00 PM

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to discuss our role in protecting U.S. national security and ensuring that we are responding appropriately to today's nonproliferation and international security challenges.

When Secretary Rice began her tenure, she called on the Department of State to transform the way we think about diplomacy and to consider how we might best use our diplomatic tools to meet today's threats and prevent tomorrow's problems. Thanks to the vision of Secretary Rice, we reshaped our structure, moving away from a system designed to address the challenges presented by the Cold War toward a structure more capable of countering today's nonproliferation and international security challenges including the potential use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by terrorists. By creating a robust Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN), which incorporates a strong arms control component, strengthening the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs,

and expanding the Bureau of Verification and Compliance's mandate to include treaty implementation, Secretary Rice not only effectively enabled the Department to better respond to the challenges of the post-9/11 world, but strengthened our commitment and ability to support the nonproliferation and arms control regimes already in place.

The former Bureau of Verification and Compliance, now the Bureau of Verification Compliance and Implementation (VCI) has enhanced our ability to foster the achievement of treaty requirements: implementation; effective verification; and full compliance. VCI leads the U.S. Government effort to verify compliance with arms control, nonproliferation and disarmament agreements or commitments – including those which may not involve detailed, written agreements. In addition, as a result of the reorganization, VCI assumed responsibility for the implementation and verification of important treaties that protect our security, such as the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the Moscow Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty, the OSCE Vienna Document, and the Strategic Arms Reduction (START) Treaty. At the time, Secretary Rice judged that implementation of existing agreements logically fit with the work of the then Verification and Compliance Bureau and thus in July 2005

announced that its mandate would be expanded to include implementation and its name would also reflect that additional responsibility.

The Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM), as a member of the T Family, received a few additional slots but was largely unaffected by the reorganization of the T Family Bureau in 2005. The Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM) is the Department of State's principal link to the Department of Defense. The PM Bureau provides a strategic focus on the growing conventional weapon proliferation challenge, and provides policy on security assistance, military operations, defense strategy and plans, and defense trade. PM also maintains the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement which is responsible for humanitarian demining, mine action, and small arms/light weapons initiatives. Given the nature of the work where PM leads, during the reorganization the Foreign Consequence Management (FCM) program, which leads U.S. government coordination for an overseas WMD event, was moved into the WMD Terrorism Office within ISN. In doing so the FCM Office is able to more directly coordinate and receive support from the WMD expertise within ISN and take advantage of the relationships being formed within the international community to combat WMD.

The evolution of the “T Family” of Bureaus, and the development of ISN’s role as the Department of State’s lead on international security and nonproliferation

efforts, have been driven not only by changing times, but also by the essential need for a single, integrated Bureau empowered to engage the international community on the United States' behalf. By merging two Bureaus of the Department, and removing the redundancies lingering from the 1999 merger of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency into the Department of State, the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation is able to perform that vital role.

As a Bureau that covers both traditional and non-traditional security threats, I believe we have thoroughly and effectively enabled each office to examine and monitor the multifaceted elements of nonproliferation and arms control. Our offices not only focus on conventional, nuclear, missile, chemical and biological threat reduction; WMD terrorism; but also on the nexus between WMD and terrorism, and on complex regional affairs and their affect on nonproliferation and international security. By placing a greater focus on counter proliferation and global cooperative threat reduction in addition to multilateral and bilateral engagement, we have enhanced our national ability to engage on issues of proliferation concern.

As part of the reorganization, some offices were merged to remove redundancies, but other offices were created and still others expanded in response to today's national security challenges. For example, two offices responsible for

chemical and biological policy and export control efforts were combined into an office of Chemical and Biological Weapons Threat Reduction. New offices were created that are responsible for WMD Terrorism and for Counterproliferation Initiatives. We added the Office of Strategic Planning and Outreach to lead the Executive Directorate for the Secretary of State's International and Security Advisory board, as well as to maintain our national security policymaking planning and development. We brought into our Bureau the Office of Missile Defense and Space Policy, in order to integrate those efforts more closely into our efforts to combat WMD. As a result of these and other changes, we have three Deputy Assistant Secretaries and thirteen offices focused on advancing U.S. nonproliferation and security objectives. This enables us to have a clear, efficient and effective path forward to achieve U.S. national security goals.

We have transformed our internal organization to better address proliferation interdiction and conventional weapons detection and destruction, improve engagement and employment for scientists, technicians and engineers with WMD related expertise in areas of concern, and enhance our ability to detect and counter WMD smuggling. At the same time, our ability to develop effective policies and guide action related to "traditional" arms control responsibilities has been strengthened. Whenever possible, we have sought to build upon the substantial

nonproliferation foundation already laid before us. We have also focused substantial effort on working within the G-8 to expand multilateral efforts to counter the WMD threat posed by terrorists and proliferant states.

Tasked with engaging our colleagues within the interagency as well as our partners internationally to overcome both the emerging and traditional nonproliferation and security challenges, ISN has devoted its efforts to the successful resolution of complex problems such as dismantling the A.Q. Khan network and helping Libya fully implement its commitments to eliminating its WMD programs. Countering Iran and North Korea's efforts to acquire WMD and ballistic missile systems of increasingly longer range and greater payload through the use of multilateral, bilateral, and unilateral efforts has also been a key focus. As a Bureau, we continue to vigorously support the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the four multilateral export control regimes – as a critical part of our mandate. We see these as important tools to limit the spread of WMD in the Twenty First Century and continue with our international partners to look for ways to strengthen the nonproliferation regime. I am proud of the work that the ISN Bureau and its highly skilled Civil Service and Foreign Service Officers have done in leading the U.S. Government's nonproliferation and security efforts.

With an engaged and active workforce, we continue to seek to address today's nonproliferation and security challenges. For example, the Office of WMD Terrorism, one of the offices newly created in the 2005 merger, directly confronts the nexus between terrorism and WMD. One of the many efforts of that office has been to spearhead the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, which now has 71 partners.

Our Office of Regional Affairs plays a central role on key issues such as countering the nuclear weapons ambitions of North Korea and Iran, and promoting nonproliferation and international security dialogues with key friends and allies, such as the pending civil nuclear agreement with India, and other bilateral and multilateral aspects of our efforts to combat WMD. The Regional Affairs office is a leader in the Department's efforts, in conjunction with our friends and allies, to change Tehran's assessment of the costs and benefits for continuing with prohibited nuclear activities which would give Iran the ability to produce fissile material for nuclear weapons. Moreover, Regional Affairs, in coordination with EAP and VCI, also helps lead the Department's efforts – now actively underway – to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible elimination of North Korea's nuclear weapons and nuclear programs.

We have also expanded the mission of some offices. The office of Cooperative Threat Reduction works on both highly technical and highly important policy issues. Cooperative Threat Reduction includes a great mixture of civil and foreign service personnel and technical experts – in this case 8 physical scientists. The office was refashioned under the reorganization to lead USG redirection of WMD scientist around the world, efforts to expand the Global Partnership, and bio-security and chemical security engagement efforts.

ISN's offices also actively support our Under Secretary's participation in meetings of the National Security Council (NSC) and in his role as Senior Advisor to the President and Secretary of State on Arms Control and Nonproliferation matters. Examples can be found in the policy development and implementation of our nonproliferation and security goals in the East Asia and Middle East regions, specifically on matters related to the curtailment and dismantlement of North Korea and Iran's nuclear weapons program.

Since each of our thirteen offices has a clearly defined mission that contributes directly to advancing U.S. national security objectives, we have been able to attract and retain exceptionally qualified and motivated individuals. With

more than 180 Civil Service employees and Foreign Service Officers, we feel confident that the quality of work produced by our Bureau reflects positively on the caliber of its employees and the quality of our work environment. All ISN employees have been strongly encouraged to take training courses at the Foreign Service Institute and other outlets to continue to enhance their skills and expertise. A new T Family Award for Excellence in International Security Affairs was also created to recognize outstanding Foreign and Civil Service employees in the ISN Bureau. Tasked to work on some of the most pressing national security issues of our time, ISN provides its employees with a vibrant, stimulating, challenging, and professionally rewarding work environment.

We have been able to maintain and attract a large number of highly-trained personnel from the nation's top universities with graduate degrees in both technical and policy areas who have played an integral role in shaping the State Department's policy. We continue to engage our colleagues in Human Resources on matching skill sets with open positions and have found that our Bureau's reputation and responsibilities attracts a broad selection of candidates for our job openings and disagree with the claim that we operate with skills gap. When a slot recently opened for a mid-level career entry position, more than eighty prospective candidates applied. When we advertised an opening at the Presidential

Management Fellows Career Fair, we were heartened that over 110 talented individuals -- approximately 20 percent of the entire Fellowship pool -- applied for just one of our positions. ISN continues to attract professional technical experts from the several prestigious Science and Academic Fellowship programs including: the Jefferson Science Fellowship, Foster Fellowship, and the Association for the Advancement for Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship. This year 25% of the total AAAS diplomacy fellows serving at the State Department chose positions in the ISN Bureau, a clear indication of where some of the best and brightest technical experts are choosing to make their contribution to government.

We pride ourselves on our ability to attract, retain, and promote personnel. An example of this commitment to the Bureau can be found in a former Office Director in AC, who after joining the intelligence community found that he missed the dynamism of ISN, being at the epicenter of nonproliferation policy, as well as the camaraderie in the Bureau. One year later we were able to re-hire him, not only because of his valuable expertise and experience, but also because he was eager to return to ISN's vital work. He now serves as a Senior Advisor in the Bureau. Since his return, he led the first U.S.-North Korea experts' discussion on disablement at the 2007 Denuclearization Working Group Meeting in Shenyang,

China and was a member of the first U.S. team of experts in the Six-Party process to visit and assess the DPRK's Yongbyon nuclear complex. Not only is this a success story for our Bureau, but it demonstrates our commitment and ability to attracting experienced professionals in the international security field.

This is but one example, and while we acknowledge that there are people who did leave during or after the merger, we would also like to note that there are many others who have joined, who have returned, or who have turned down offers by other agencies and bureaus because they value the vital role they are able to play in security issues in ISN. The men and women of ISN value our Bureau's mission and the extraordinary work they are a part of every day. As the PDAS leading the ISN Bureau, I am proud of the men and women of the ISN Bureau and their dedication to nonproliferation, arms control, and enhancing international security.

As Senator Lugar noted when he participated in the announcement of the reorganization by Secretary Rice in 2005, the changes made by Secretary Rice to enhance our counterproliferation, counterterrorism and threat reduction efforts "are important reforms that will both streamline governmental action and provide greater safety for all Americans." We have worked hard to achieve success

internationally as well as domestically, through implementing the Secretary's and the President's vision in creating a workforce prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. I look forward to any questions you might have for me and would like to thank you for your time.