

## Opening Statement of Senator Tom Coburn

### *The Intelligence Community: Keeping Watch Over Its Contractor Workforce*

June 18, 2014

---

Thank you, Chairman Carper, for holding this hearing today, and thanks to our witnesses for being here to talk about the intelligence community's efforts to better manage and oversee its contractors.

The purpose of today's hearing can be captured by one fundamental principle. Good management decisions require getting good data to measure what we're doing, and to know where and how to improve. Without knowing how our resources are currently being used, we lack the ability to make informed decisions about how to plan for the future. And in planning for the future, the intelligence community, like other federal agencies, faces three challenges:

First, the intelligence community became overly reliant on contractors to carry out its mission in the years after 9/11, and now needs to re-balance to make sure that it has the right people in place to meet its mission. Second, the intelligence community needs to improve its own oversight and make sure it can manage the risks of using contractors who work side by side with government employees tasked with protecting our national security. Third, the intelligence community needs to be able to provide Congress with the data and information we need to perform our own oversight. The core contractor inventory is one tool, among others, that the intelligence community can use to help address these challenges.

However, as we will learn today from the GAO, the intelligence community suffers from the same problems as other agencies when it comes to getting reliable data on its contracted workforce. The value of a contractor inventory isn't just about doing a head count. There is no "magic number" of contractors that any agency should have, although there is no question that across our government today, we have too many.

The value of doing an inventory is that when it's done properly, it helps to provide a full accounting of what's going on. It helps you know who you have, what they're doing, and whether you are getting the best value for the American taxpayer.

GAO's report raises a number of questions on the reliability and accuracy of the data we have available today through the core contractor inventory. I look forward to discussing those concerns in detail, and to making sure that we are doing what we need to do to help support the efforts of the agencies we entrust with protecting us continue to improve in this area.