

“Good morning, Chairman Leahy, Senator Specter, and members of the committee. I am pleased to be here today.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) priorities shifted dramatically as we charted a new course, with national security at the forefront of our mission. The intervening six years have seen significant changes at the FBI, and we have made remarkable progress. Today, the FBI is a stronger organization, combining greater capabilities with a longstanding commitment to the security of the United States, while at the same time upholding the Constitution and the rule of law and protecting civil liberties. The FBI uses an enterprise-wide approach to understanding our threats and strategically targeting our resources to dismantle those threats. To stay ahead of national security threats, the FBI uses intelligence not just to pursue investigations, but also to develop greater awareness of the threats we face. The FBI structures its investigations to maximize the intelligence that can be derived from them to ensure that we fully exploit all of the intelligence collected. We also use this understanding to deliberately and strategically decide where and when to take action using intelligence, law enforcement, and other tools to detect, penetrate, and dismantle threats. Today, I want to give you a sense of the FBI’s current priorities, the changes we have made to meet our mission, and the challenges we are facing. I want to touch on some of our accomplishments and discuss long-term strategy for continued improvement of our intelligence operations, our information technology, and our human capital.

### **The FBI’s Criminal Programs**

To meet our national security mission, the FBI had to shift personnel and resources, but we remain committed to our major criminal responsibilities. While Americans justifiably worry about terrorism, it is crime that most directly touches their lives. Currently, we have roughly a 50/50 balance between national security and criminal programs. To make the best use of these resources, we will continue to focus on those areas where we bring something unique to the table and to target those criminal threats against which we have the most substantial and lasting impact.

In recent years, we have moved away from drug cases and smaller white collar crimes, but we have dedicated more agents and more resources to public corruption, violent crime, civil

rights, transnational organized crime, corporate fraud, and crimes against children.

In FY 2007, the FBI’s Criminal Investigative Division handled more than 53,000 cases,

resulting in 17,728 arrests, 21,893 indictments, and 12,406 convictions. We maximized our resources by using intelligence to identify emerging trends and to target the greatest threats.

#### Public Corruption

Public corruption is the top priority of the Criminal Investigative Division. Public corruption erodes public confidence, and undermines the strength of our democracy. Investigating public corruption is a mission for which the **FBI** is singularly situated; we have the

skills necessary to conduct undercover operations and the ability to perform electronic surveillance. More importantly, we are insulated from political pressure.

Today, there are roughly 680 Special Agents dedicated to more than 2,500 pending investigations. The number of pending cases has increased by 51 percent since 2003; the number

of agents working such cases has increased by 62 percent. The number of convictions is high:

in the past two years alone, we have convicted more than 1,800 federal, state, and local officials.

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The Public Corruption Program also targets governmental fraud and corrupt practices. The number of Foreign Corrupt Practices Act investigations has increased dramatically in recent

years, from 13 cases prior to 2004 to more than 75 today, with 33 new matters in 2007 alone. To

combat international corruption, the **FBI**'s Public Corruption Unit has created a number of

target-specific programs. For example, the International Contract Corruption Initiative addresses

growing corruption within the global community. The International Contract Corruption Task

Force addresses the systemic, long-term multi-billion dollar contract corruption and procurement

fraud crime problem linked to the war and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This

multi-agency task force combines the efforts of the **FBI**, the Defense Criminal Investigative

Service, Army CID, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, U.S. AID, and the

Department of State. We have agents on the ground in the Middle East, investigating nearly 60

cases.

Other key initiatives include the Hurricane Fraud Initiative, the Campaign Finance and Ballot Fraud Initiative, the Southwest Border Initiative, and the Capital Cities Initiative.

The Hurricane Fraud Initiative, for example, addresses contract and procurement fraud in

the Gulf Coast region of the United States in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. To date, this initiative has resulted in more than 1,000 investigations, 150 indictments, and 88 convictions. More than 18,000 complaints have been screened, resulting in more than 600 indictments and informations in 20 states.

#### Civil Rights Program

In recent years, we have expanded our Civil Rights Program beyond police brutality and hate crimes, to include the Civil Rights **Cold Case** Initiative and human trafficking issues.

We are focusing more on the quality of our investigations, rather than the quantity, and this renewed focus is paying dividends. For example, 25 percent of cases initiated by the **FBI**'s

Civil Rights Unit resulted in arrests in FY 2007, compared to 19 percent in FY 2006. Of the cases initiated by the **FBI** in FY 2007, 22 percent resulted in a conviction, compared to just 16

percent in FY 2006. Today, there are approximately 141 Special Agents working civil rights

cases. Last year, they initiated 936 investigations and worked 1,584 pending investigations,

resulting in 238 arrests, 193 informations and indictments, and 189 convictions.

We are fine-tuning our administrative guidelines and our reporting requirements, to allow agents to spend more time investigating these vital cases. We are developing an internal database to house all incoming information on Civil Rights Program **case** initiations, so that we

can better identify and analyze civil rights crimes trends and forecast those results to the field

and to our state and local partners.

Two years ago, the **FBI** and the Department of **Justice** began to work with the NAACP, the **Southern Poverty Law Center**, and the National Urban League on the Civil Rights **Cold Case**

Initiative. The Civil Rights **Cold Case** Initiative provides the **FBI**, as well as state and local **law**

enforcement agencies, the opportunity to review civil rights-era **cold** cases, in an effort to bring

closure to families and generations adversely impacted by these crimes.

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As part of the Civil Rights **Cold Case** Initiative, the **FBI** asked its 56 field offices to re-examine their unsolved civil rights cases, and to determine which cases could still be viable for prosecution. Since this initiative began, 95 referrals have been forwarded to 17 field offices. To

date, 52 cases have been opened, and of those cases, 26 are still ongoing. Agents investigating the remaining 26 cases have provided preliminary investigative conclusions for review by the Civil Rights Unit and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of **Justice**, to determine if additional investigation is necessary. Each will need to be assessed for its investigative and legal viability, and for those cases in which we can move forward, we will.

In June 2007, for example, James Seale, a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, was convicted of the kidnapping and murder of Henry Dee and Charles Moore back in 1964. In 2005, Edgar Ray Killen was convicted for his role in the deaths of three civil rights workers in Mississippi in 1964. And in 2003, Ernest Avants was convicted for the 1966 murder of Ben Chester White.”