

An Open Letter from Senior Former CIA Officers

A recent public letter by six former CIA employees is a bitter, inaccurate and misleading attack on Former CIA Director George Tenet's leadership and, ultimately, on the CIA itself. That letter came from officers many of whom had not served in the Agency for years and in some cases decades. For the most part, these few individuals did not bear the burdens of rebuilding an agency that had been battered by resource cuts in the 1990s, battling terrorism in the run-up to 9/11 and in its aftermath, or wrestling with the complex problems associated with US involvement in Iraq.

Their letter was written from the comfortable confines of hindsight and from afar. We note they launched their attack before any of them could have had an opportunity to read Mr. Tenet's book.

In contrast, what we saw during the seven years Mr. Tenet was Director was a very different picture than the one presented by these former officers.

We saw a Director who worked tirelessly and passionately to restore, modernize, and enhance the nation's intelligence capabilities.

We saw a Director who cared deeply about the people of the intelligence community – about their welfare, their training, their opportunities and about the diversity of the intelligence workforce.

We saw a Director who understood before most other senior officials in Washington the seriousness of the threat al Qaeda and other terrorists represented and declared war on them long before many in Washington were ready to fight.

We saw a Director who, after 9/11, literally led the nation's counterterrorism fight – aggressively pushing, cajoling, and demanding the best from everyone across the entire US counterterrorism community.

We saw a director who was adamant that his intelligence officers not become policy advocates; to do so would make the objectivity and credibility of all intelligence suspect in the eyes of the recipients. In short, he set an example of what it takes to be a dedicated public servant and the consummate intelligence professional.

And on Iraq, we saw a Director who did not shrink from conveying bad news to policymakers when the war began going badly, and who now has the courage to acknowledge errors that were made and accept the responsibility that belongs to him and the intelligence community he led.

None of us would argue that the CIA's record or Mr. Tenet's is perfect. The CIA is a human institution; Mr. Tenet was just one man directing the nation's intelligence operations during the most tumultuous period in recent history. But the record is dramatically better than the above referenced letter indicates.

Intelligence and the issues of recent years are too complex to deal with in the emotional sound bites we've heard in the last few days. We suggest that everyone take a deep breath, read the book in its entirety, and weigh it thoughtfully against all the other things that have been written and said. It is doubtful that Mr. Tenet expected any more than that in writing this account, but that thoughtful debate has yet to begin.

Ambassador Cofer Black
John O. Brennan
Ambassador Henry A. Crumpton
Robert L. Grenier
The Honorable John E. McLaughlin
Robert Richer

Ambassador Cofer Black

Blackwater USA proudly announces that Ambassador Cofer Black, former Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the U. S. State Department, and former Director of the CIA's Counterterrorism Center has joined our team as Vice Chairman.

As the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Ambassador Black's office, S/CT, had primary responsibility for developing, coordinating and implementing U.S. counterterrorism policy. On behalf of the Secretary of State, Ambassador Black represented the Department on the Counterterrorism Security Group. His office played a leading role on the Department of State's counterterrorism task forces organized to coordinate responses to international terrorist incidents. Ambassador Black's responsibilities included coordinating U.S. Government efforts to improve counterterrorism cooperation with foreign governments, including the policy and planning of the Department's Antiterrorism Training Assistance Program.

Ambassador Black has had a distinguished 28-year career in the Directorate of Operations at the Central Intelligence Agency. Prior to joining the State Department, Ambassador Black was the Director of the CIA Counterterrorism Center. In this capacity, he served as the CIA Director's Special Assistant for Counterterrorism as well as the National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism.

www.blackwaterusa.com/press/cofer.asp

John O. Brennan

Mr. Brennan was appointed President and CEO of The Analysis Corporation (TAC) in McLean, VA in November 2005. Prior to joining TAC, Mr. Brennan had a distinguished 25-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency, serving in a variety of senior positions throughout the Intelligence Community. His last assignment was (interim) Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC). Mr. Brennan was appointed to that position, with the approval of the President, by the Director of Central Intelligence in October 2004. He served as head of the NCTC until August 2005. Mr. Brennan also served as the Director of the Terrorist Threat Integration Center (TTIC) from 12 March 2003 until 6 December 2004. When the NCTC was formally launched in December 2004, all functions and responsibilities of the TTIC were transferred to the NCTC.

www.theanalysiscorp.com/content/About/4-Management.Team.aspx?bioID=10

Ambassador Henry A. Crumpton

Henry A. Crumpton was sworn in as Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the Department of State with the rank of Ambassador-at-Large on August 2, 2005. Ambassador Crumpton joined the Central Intelligence Agency in 1981 and served as an operations officer both at headquarters and abroad. He has served in several foreign field assignments, two as Chief of Station. In Washington, Ambassador Crumpton held senior management positions, including a one-year assignment at the Federal Bureau of Investigation as Deputy Chief of the International Terrorism Operations Section, 1998-1999. Ambassador Crumpton was also Deputy Chief (Operations) of the CIA's Counterterrorist Center, 1999-2001, and led the CIA's Afghan campaign, 2001-2002. Ambassador Crumpton served as Chief of National Resources Division from August 2003 until June 2005.

www.state.gov/outofdate/bios/c/50493.htm

Robert L. Grenier

Robert L. Grenier is a managing director with wide-ranging responsibilities in the firm. Following a 27-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Bob has exceptional experience in global intelligence, security, foreign affairs, and strategic and covert operations. Throughout his career Bob has worked with all levels of government, from representing the CIA at the White House with the most senior officials responsible for national security to service in remote areas in Third World countries.

Bob joined the CIA in January 1979 as a Career Trainee and was assigned to the Near East and South Asia Division. He spent 14 years in overseas field assignments for this division, including multiple tours as Chief of Base and Chief of Station, most recently in Islamabad, Pakistan. His tenure with the CIA included assignments as the Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Near East and South Asia on the National Intelligence Council and as a Special Assistant for Near East and South Asia to the Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs. Bob was instrumental in organizing the CIA's Counter-Proliferation Division, and served as its first Chief of Operations. He served extensively in Pakistan before and following the attacks of 9/11, and for two years was the CIA's representative to the White House on Iraq. His most recent position was Director of the Counter Terrorism Center (CTC), where he led the CIA's involvement in the Global War on Terror.

www.kroll.com/services/ifai/professionals/rgrenier

John E. McLaughlin

Merrill Center for Strategic Studies Senior Fellow

Expertise by Issue:

American Defense Policy; Counterterrorism; Intelligence; Nuclear Policy and Proliferation; Strategic and Security Issues; U.S. Homeland Security; Weapons of Mass Destruction

Background and Education:

Most recently served as acting director of the Central Intelligence Agency from July to September 2004 and previously was the agency's deputy director from October 2000; prior to that, was deputy director for Intelligence, vice chairman for Estimates and acting chairman of the National Intelligence Council; founded the Sherman Kent School for Intelligence Analysis, an institution dedicated to teaching the history, mission and essential skills of the analytic profession to new CIA employees; M.A., international relations, SAIS

http://apps.sais-jhu.edu/faculty_bios/faculty_bio1.php?ID=277

Robert Richer

Mr. Richer became Total Intelligence Solution's first Chief Executive Officer with the formation of the company in January 2007. He came to lead Total Intel from duties as Blackwater USA's Vice-President for Intelligence. Mr. Richer retired in November 2005 from the Central Intelligence Agency as the Associate Deputy Director for Operations (ADDO). As the ADDO, Mr. Richer was responsible for leading the Clandestine Services' worldwide collection and operational efforts with specific focus on national security priorities and threats. He brought to that position more than twenty years service focused on national collection and operational priorities, the Middle East and the war against terrorism. During his years of service he developed unique relationships with key foreign officials and leaders; particularly in the Middle East and South Asia.

Prior to his assignment as the ADDO in 2004, Mr. Richer was the Chief of the Near East and South Asia Division, responsible for Clandestine Service Operations throughout the Middle East and South Asia. In that leadership role, Mr. Richer directed the Clandestine Service's roles in the prosecution of the war in Iraq, reinforced critical relationships with foreign governments and intelligence services on issues of national importance throughout the Middle East and South Asia, and participated in national security policy deliberations.

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