

Wayne Allard

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U.S. SENATOR WAYNE ALLARD'S STATEMENT REGARDING 911 COMMISSION REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R.-Colorado) made the following statement on the floor of the U.S. Senate today regarding the release Thursday of the 911 Commission's report:

“The report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States is one of the most important documents in recent history.

“This report makes it clear that if we don't deal with the problem now, it's only going to get worse over time.

“Our nation has a leader who has made it clear that winning the war on terror is a defining moment for the civilized world. Since September 11, 2001, President Bush has taken bold steps to ensure the safety and security of the United States, specifically against terrorist organizations, and the nation-states that support them.

“Specifically, since President Bush has taken office, the United States under his leadership has

- Overthrown two terrorist regimes, rescued two nations, and liberated some 50 million people;
- Captured or killed close to two-thirds of known senior Al Qaeda operatives;
- Captured or killed 45 of the 55 most wanted in Iraq, including Iraq's deposed dictator, Saddam Hussein;
- Hunted down thousands of terrorists and regime remnants in Afghanistan and Iraq;
- Disrupted terrorist cells on most continents; and
- Likely prevented a number of planned attacks.

“This is an astounding record of accomplishment for our commander-in-chief, his national security staff, and the phenomenal men and women of our military services.

“The United States went to war in Afghanistan and Iraq, risking significant loss of life and treasure, to protect our way of life. Our goals are clear and twofold: destroy the nexus of terrorism and weapons of mass murder that personified the two ousted regimes, and create in

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their stead stable, democratic states able to participate in the modern world community.

“We succeeded in our first goal having killed or captured perpetrators and supporters of the enemy terrorists.

“The courageous people of Afghanistan and Iraq are making remarkable progress towards adoption of constitutional reforms to secure momentum toward lasting democratic independence.

“Nevertheless, we still have work to do. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence’s report on Iraq’s Weapons of mass destruction clear identified what we have all known for some time: our intelligence has not performed in a manner that best protects the interests of the United States.

“As a former member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, I can tell you that few employees in the federal government are as dedicated as those who work for our intelligence agencies. They are hard-working individuals who believe that their work is critical to our nation’s national security. That is why it was so frustrating to learn that our intelligence agencies did not connect the dots with regard to the September 11 and again failed to provide reliable information on Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction programs.

“We clearly have a considerable amount of work to do. As the Senate Intelligence Committee recommended, we need to improve the process by which analysts, collectors, and managers fuse intelligence and produce judgments for policymakers.

- We need to greatly enhance almost every aspect of the Intelligence Community’s human intelligence collection efforts.
- We need to address the tendency to build upon previous assessments without taking into consideration the uncertainties inherent in such assessments.
- It is important to note that the Senate Intelligence Committee’s report concluded that the Intelligence Community’s judgements regarding the link Saddam Hussein’s government’s link to terrorist organizations were reasonable.
- Equally important is the Senate Intelligence Committee’s conclusion that the exaggeration of intelligence of the intelligence on Iraq’s WMD capabilities was not the result of political pressure.

“As we prepare for the 9/11 Commission’s report, I think it is appropriate that we thank the people who served on the Commission for their service to this country. Their service will go a long way to helping our nation prevent future attacks.

“I am also heartened that the Commissioners have plans to travel broadly in the United States to inform the public of their findings. The public deserves to know the course of events that lead to the terrorist attacks.

“The recommendations in the report must be studied and considered in a timely fashion. We should not rush to condemn or to drastically alter our intelligence agencies. We should work to give them the resources and leadership they need to do their job.”

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