ANNUAL THREAT ASSESSMENT
Strategic Overview
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In the modern world, the U.S. faces increasingly complex threats that must be addressed to maintain national security and international stability. The global security environment is shaped by intersecting pressures, including regional conflicts, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, emerging technologies, and great-power competition. These challenges are increasingly transnational, requiring intelligence capabilities that extend beyond traditional military and diplomatic assessments. The Intelligence Community must prioritize strategic forecasting, international intelligence cooperation, and the anticipation of emerging threats that may develop into direct challenges to Washington. Particular attention must be given to adversarial intentions, evolving military capabilities, and vulnerabilities that could threaten American interests or international stability.

PRINCIPAL THREATS

Iran: Current tensions involving Iran present significant threats to U.S. security and interests throughout the Middle East. The Intelligence Community must monitor Iranian nuclear capabilities, missile development, military activity, and support for regional proxy organizations. Intelligence cooperation with regional partners, including Israel, will be important in identifying emerging threats and anticipating potential escalation. Particular attention should be given to developments that could trigger a broader regional conflict.

Terrorism: Terrorist networks and organizations operating throughout the Middle East and Africa continue to exploit weak institutions, political instability, and ungoverned territories. These networks are capable of operating across borders and exploiting corruption, recruitment networks, and illicit financial systems to sustain their activities. U.S. intelligence must monitor terrorist mobility, financial backing, recruitment, organizational leadership, and potential threats to American citizens and facilities.

Cybersecurity: State and non-state actors are developing technological capabilities that could threaten critical infrastructure, government institutions, private industry, and military systems. Advances in artificial intelligence, autonomous weapons, and drone technology may create vulnerabilities that outpace existing security measures. The Intelligence Community must identify foreign cyber capabilities, technological espionage, and emerging threats to American infrastructure.

Nuclear Proliferation: Nuclear proliferation and the modernization of existing arsenals remain among the most consequential threats to international security. Regional conflicts involving nuclear-capable states could escalate beyond their original scope, creating the possibility of catastrophic consequences. U.S. intelligence must monitor Iranian and North Korean nuclear capabilities while assessing Russian and Chinese nuclear modernization, missile development, and strategic intentions.

Great Power Competition: Strategic competition with China and Russia presents a long-term challenge to American security and international influence. Military modernization, cyber operations, intelligence activities, and competition over critical technologies and strategic resources threaten to undermine existing security arrangements. The Intelligence Community must assess adversarial intentions and capabilities, monitor developments in the Indo-Pacific and Europe, and identify potential escalation involving U.S. allies.

CONCLUSION:

The Intelligence Community must adopt an anticipatory approach to global security. Monitoring nuclear facilities, tracking terrorist networks, assessing foreign military capabilities, and observing technological developments are essential intelligence priorities. However, these efforts must extend beyond identifying immediate threats to understanding the underlying conditions that contribute to international instability. Success within the Intelligence Community should be measured by its ability to reduce strategic surprise, provide objective assessments, protect American interests, and strengthen cooperation with international intelligence partners. Ultimately, the U.S. must be prepared not only to respond to emerging threats but to anticipate them before they develop into major security crises.