



(U) After SSCI Report, CIA Receives Support from the Public, Elected Officials, and Others

Since the 9 December release of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) Study of CIA's former Detention and Interrogation Program, the Agency has received an outpouring of support via statements, letters, emails, phone calls, and social media messages from the general public, as well as elected officials, former President and Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) George H.W. Bush, and others.

The supportive comments, many of which were written directly to CIA employees, focused on gratitude: "Thank you for your service of protecting the US"... "Keep up the great work"... "I believe you did what was needed to protect our country"... "You did the best you could."

Former President Bush in his statement said, "I learned firsthand that [CIA employees] are among the very finest people serving in the United States government—whose selfless and often dangerous work, always behind the scenes, went unheralded." He added, "I felt compelled to reiterate my confidence in the Agency today, and to thank those throughout its ranks for their ongoing and vitally important work to keep America safe and secure."

Six Minority Members of the SSCI, including Vice Chairman Saxby Chambliss, issued a letter to employees of the CIA on 11 December, stating, "We write today to express our support and admiration for your tireless efforts to protect this Nation....we want you to know that we stand with you in defense of this Nation and are in your debt." To read the full letter, [view this PDF](#).

SSCI Chairman Senator Dianne Feinstein issued a public statement on the same day, following Director Brennan's remarks. "The vast majority of CIA's employees are dedicated and skilled professionals," she said. "I am pleased the Director announced some of the reforms that have been and will be implemented at the CIA," she added.

Positive feedback via the CIA's Facebook page:

"Our family, with pride and care, thank you for the service of protecting the US, our interests around the world. WELL DONE and keep up the great work!"

"Thank you for your service. God Bless America."

"Mr. Brennan and all that work for him: God Bless you all. Keep up the good work."

"I've looked up your [Facebook] page to simply say, "Thank you." I believe you did what was needed to protect our country."

"God Bless you guys and gals. Thank you for what you do."

"Thank you, John Brennan, for standing up for your agency and people that work for you. You got my support. Thank you again."

"God bless you! Hold your heads up. We have your back."

"We should all stand with Director Brennan and support the CIA."

The following feedback arrived from the public via email and fax:

"I appreciate so much for what the CIA has done and continues to do to keep us safe. I just wanted to say thank you one and all for the service you provide. I'm sorry for the scrutiny the agency is now under. May you continue, without opposition, to keep us all safe."

"The country [on 9/11] turned to you to ensure it never happened again. Your response, your efforts have been incredible. Please know that I, for what it's worth, admire and respect the Agency and the brave men and women who stand guard for this country. My deepest respects and gratitude to all of you."

"My daughter has done four (Approved for Release: 2020/08/03 C06505865] 18 months in Afghanistan. As a dad, I have two words to say to you: Thank you."

"Thanks to all of you for what you do and for your service to this country. There are many who support what you do and we cannot comprehend the sacrifices that are made on your behalf to ensure the safety and freedoms that our nation enjoys. Keep up the great work! I'm thankful for what you do."

"As a patriot myself, I am very proud of what the Agency has accomplished that goes all too often unrecognized by those who benefit from its actions. Please convey to [CIA employees] that they are treasured by those Americans who have defended our freedoms!"

"As a citizen of the United States, I appreciate the dedication of the men and women of the CIA in protecting the security of this country. You have a difficult job and you are performing that job with excellence."

"God bless the people of the CIA. I believe most Americans love you people and your dedication to keep us safe. Folks in America support the CIA and pray for your people. I'm proud to be one of them."

"As someone who took the oath of service to the military, I appreciate all that the CIA has done and been doing to further the interdiction and cessation of those who would do harm to this country."

"I am a former [Royal Air Force] policeman who spent many years of my life working to stop all forms of terrorism. I applaud all the necessary action your staff took. The vast majority of people in the United Kingdom are extremely grateful. You did what you had to do. Thank you again."

"I think you are the greatest department in government. As an Army veteran, I want to thank you for keeping us safe."

"Just thought I'd let everyone there know that all your efforts and sacrifice mean a lot to the average American. As a veteran, I know who gets to do the work when a job needs doing. I know America has the best intel workers on the planet. Keep your heads up and know—you are needed and appreciated."

"I want to give the message of 'thank you' to everyone man and woman for your services on behalf of protecting America. While I may not know the ins and outs of the Agency, I know because of you Americans are safer and have kept the hordes of terror and enemies from our shores. I am grateful and thankful for the CIA. Thank you each and every one."

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