

What Would Be the Impact of the Elimination of the Strategic Warning Staff?

1. The Strategic Warning Staff is a central node in the national indications and warning structure, at which longer-range trends are married with short-term indications. It serves as a devil's advocate in challenging the conventional (analytic) wisdom. As such, it represents the DCI's "insurance" against another Pearl Harbor. It also conducts research in the indications and warning field.

2. The DCI has recently set in motion a review and reorganization of the national structure for indications and warning. As part of that process, there will be a detailed review of the mission and functions of the SWS.

3. We believe that elimination of the SWS would remove the only existing mechanism by which the DCI can exercise his most important single responsibility -- strategic warning. Once the reorganization is complete and the functions of the SWS have been reviewed, then this question might be reopened.