

**Swing into savings**  
with **The Greenville News Golf Card** - [Click Here!](#)



Other editions: [Mobile](#) | [News Feeds](#) | [E-Newsletters](#)

Find it: [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Apartments](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Dating](#) | [Foreclosures](#)

**GreenvilleOnline.com**

SEARCH  
ALL

All [Local News](#) [Calendar](#) [Jobs](#) [More »](#)

SPONSORED  
BY:

**40% more  
local news**



[HOME](#) [NEWS](#) [SPORTS](#) [OPINION](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [MULTIMEDIA](#) [YOURUPSTATE](#) [OBITUARIES](#) [WEATHER](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [CUSTOMER SERVICE](#)

[Business](#) [Education](#) [YourUpstateHealth](#) [Election 2008](#) [DataLibrary](#) [Lifestyle](#) [Nation & World](#) [Technology](#) [Obituaries](#) [Get Published](#)



**Comment, blog & share photos**

[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#)

POWERED BY YOU AND **The Greenville News**

## Mike McConnell's top worry: Iran getting nukes

BY BEN SZOBODY • STAFF WRITER • MARCH 28, 2008

[Post a Comment](#) [Recommend \(9\)](#) [Print this page](#) [E-mail this article](#)

SHARE THIS ARTICLE: [Del.icio.us](#) [Facebook](#) [Digg](#) [Reddit](#) [Newsvine](#) [What's this?](#)

Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell told GreenvilleOnline.com this afternoon that passage of a controversial surveillance bill with three key provisions is crucial because a "significant, some would even say majority" portion of what the U.S. knows about terrorists comes from listening to their communication.

ADVERTISEMENT

**"Tech Jobs are Here!"**

Computer Electronics  
Engineering Technology  
Web Design  
Information Technology/  
Network Security  
Business Systems Admin.  
Medical Administration  
Medical Assisting

**ecpi**  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Toll Free  
**888.526.4654**  
ecpi.edu

**NEW Greenville Campus Location:**  
1001 Keys Drive

**From Here to a Career in Less than Two Years.**

He said the bill, called the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, extends the protection of U.S. citizens, and called allegations that the government is spying on Americans "patently untrue."

"It isn't giving up anything," he said. "It's modernizing the bill to reflect the technology of this age."

McConnell said the three vital provisions include the ability to conduct surveillance against foreign targets without a warrant, regardless of where the communication is intercepted, the requirement of a warrant when U.S. citizens are involved anywhere in the world and liability protection for telecommunications companies that have cooperated since 9-11.

He said warrants have not always been required to eavesdrop on U.S. citizens abroad.

"I could argue it's more protection, not less," McConnell said.

Earlier today, nation's top spy urged a Furman University audience to consider a life of public service, providing an overview of his path from a Greenville childhood and publicly defending the FISA bill.

He told a crowd of several hundred that the U.S. House version of the bill would cause "severe operational impact on my community," and noted debate in Congress resumes Monday.

McConnell told stories about former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State Colin Powell, the Cuban Missile Crisis, President Bush and also confirmed a story that he started his education at Furman sleeping in a gym closet because of a money shortage.

As head of 16 intelligence agencies, McConnell briefs the president at 7:30 a.m. daily. He oversees more than 100,000 people and a \$45 billion budget.

"My biggest worry at the moment: nuclear weapons in Iran," McConnell said, adding that if Iran acquired such a weapon it would set off a "nuclear arms race," changing the Middle East "overnight."

McConnell listed access to energy as one of the most serious problems facing the country.



GEORGE GARDNER / Staff

U.S. director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell speaks during a presentation at the Furman University Center Friday, March 28, 2008. McConnell, a Furman graduate, spoke to a group of Furman students and guests.

PHOTO GALLERIES  
[Mike McConnell](#)

RELATED NEWS FROM THE WEB  
[US Politics](#)

[George Bush](#)

[US News](#)

[2008 Presidential Election](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)

### more news headlines

[Several people hurt in wreck on White Horse Road](#)

[Governor to announce decision on Real ID](#)

[Olympic torch re-lit amid tight security at elaborate ceremony in Beijing](#)

[Standoff at Columbia McDonald's ends peacefully](#)

[Gray days to give way to spring sun this week](#)

### latest headlines

[Anderson worker died suddenly, autopsy finds](#) (2)

[Woman mauled by 2 cheetahs at Florida wildlife sanctuary](#)

[Volunteers plant dozens of trees in Fountain Inn](#) (1)

[Southwest flight returns to Dallas after engine trouble](#)

[Shiite cleric al-Sadr pulls fighters off streets](#)

### in your voice

[READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY](#)

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Submit



Partners: [Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) [Cars: Cars.com](#) [Apartments: Apartments.com](#) [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#)

[HOME](#) | [NEWS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [OPINION](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [MULTIMEDIA](#) | [YOURUPSTATE](#) | [OBITUARIES](#) | [WEATHER](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#) | [CUSTOMER SERVICE](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)  
Copyright ©2007 The Greenville News. All rights reserved.