

RESEARCH ISSUE

This case study on money laundering provides an example of the impact of competing bureaucratic goals on the conduct of homeland security. Law enforcement is all about putting the bad guys in jail. Intelligence is focused on collecting information on who the bad guys are and who they work with. So if intelligence officers locate a money laundering operation, their instinct is to wait and watch and find out the full range of customers coming to have their funds laundered. Law enforcement officers want to arrest the money launderers and put them in jail. What types of problems is this difference in goals going to create? Can you think of other examples? Is there an approach to deciding how to reconcile these competing priorities?