



# VANGUARD

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY FOR STATE & LOCAL POLICYMAKERS

12 November 2008

Volume I · Issue 49

## News Highlights

**Homeland Security Department preps for transition** (NPR, 11/10/08)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=96827904>

The Homeland Security Department has been preparing for the change in administrations for the past 18 months. It has named career employees to fill the No. 2 or No. 3 spots in every division — such as the Transportation Security Administration, Customs and Border Protection and the Federal Emergency Management Agency — and prepared them to take over, if needed, during the transition. They'll also be able to train incoming political appointees.

**Opinion: Congress corrects a missile defense mistake** - (Nogales [AZ] International, 11/07/08)

[http://www.nogalesinternational.com/articles/2008/11/07/opinion/guest\\_opinion/doc4914629bb0905450707717.txt](http://www.nogalesinternational.com/articles/2008/11/07/opinion/guest_opinion/doc4914629bb0905450707717.txt)

*U.S. Senator Jon Kyl:* Recently, Congress reversed an ill-conceived decision it and President Clinton made in 1993 to abandon the study of space-based interceptors for missile defense. The Department of Defense can move forward on a study that could provide a roadmap for a future defense of the United States from ballistic missile attack and a defense of our national security space systems. We have made progress in developing a missile defense system in the past 25 years, but we have also created constraints, such as a prohibition on space-based missile defenses, that have left the United States vulnerable to ballistic missile attack.

## From the Wires this Week

### **Emergency Management/Homeland Security**

**Experts like Obama's preparedness plans, eager to see the details** (CQPolitics, 11/11/08)

<http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?docID=hsnews-000002985204>

Although sparse on details, Obama's plan calls for supporting first-responders, preparing effective emergency response plans, improving interoperable communications systems, working with state and local governments and the private sector, and allocating funds based on risk.

**GE developing nuclear detection system** (Business Week, 11/10/08)

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D94C8E3G1.htm>

The research arm of General Electric Co. is adapting its medical imaging technology to detect radioactive materials in the fight against terrorism. The technology, which is being developed by GE Global Research with \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, would lead to the development of a prototype of a mobile Standoff Radiation Imaging System. The research is part of a Department of Homeland Security program to advance technologies for law enforcement and first responders to better protect against nuclear threats. The project intends to build a prototype imaging system that can identify even weak radioactivity at a distance while in a moving vehicle.

**Sweden develops transportable airport** (The Local [Stockholm], 11/06/08)

<http://www.thelocal.se/15496/20081106/>

Sweden's military is testing a mobile airport in the north of the country which it hopes to deploy in the wake of natural disasters at home or overseas. By simply opening a few large containers, the Swedish military can set up a fully functioning airport basically anywhere, reports the Piteå-Tidningen newspaper. In development since 2002, the system includes an air traffic control tower, radar, and landing lights, all of which can be easily packed up and transported.

## **National Guard**

**U.S. Guard unit to provide care in Senegal** (International Herald Tribune, 11/06/08)

<http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2008/11/06/america/NA-US-National-Guard-Senegal.php>

The Maryland Army National Guard is planning the first-ever deployment of Maryland soldiers to Africa. The deployment is part of a scheduled two-week training exercise to provide medical assistance to civilians. About 25 soldiers will leave later this month from the Guard's Medical Detachment, based in Reisterstown. The soldiers will head to the northwest part of Senegal, where they will provide medical, dental and eye care services.

## **Funding**

**Pentagon board says cuts essential** (Boston Globe, 11/10/08)

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/11/10/pentagon\\_board\\_says\\_cuts\\_essential/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2008/11/10/pentagon_board_says_cuts_essential/)

A senior Pentagon advisory group, in a series of bluntly worded briefings, is warning President-elect Barack Obama that the Defense Department's current budget is "not sustainable," and he must scale back or eliminate some of the military's most prized weapons programs. The briefings were prepared by the Defense Business Board, an internal management oversight body. It contends that the nation's recent financial crisis makes it imperative that the Pentagon and Congress slash some of the nation's most costly and troubled weapons to ensure they can finance the military's most pressing priorities. Those include rebuilding ground forces battered by multiple tours to Iraq and Afghanistan and expanding the ranks to wage the war on terrorism. The briefings do not specify which programs should be cut, but defense analysts say that prime targets would probably include the new F-35 fighter jet, a series of Navy ship programs, and a massive Army project to build a new generation of ground combat vehicles, all of which have been skyrocketing in cost and suffering long development delays.

**New defense contracts, worries** (Arizona Republic, 11/09/08)

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/2008/11/09/20081109biz-insider1109jarman.html>

The Department of Defense spends about \$12 billion a year in Arizona, more than \$9 billion on procurement contracts. Such programs have been boon to Arizona defense contractor under the Bush administration but will face increased scrutiny under Barack Obama. The president-elect's first priority will be to stabilize the economy. That could mean temporarily shifting money from the defense budget to help finance the trillion-dollar-plus financial bailout. Experts don't expect huge defense cuts, but they don't see business as usual continuing at the Pentagon.

**NJ gets \$75.2 million homeland security grant** (Newsday, 11/12/08)

<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--homelandsecurityg112nov12,0,5177541.story>

New Jersey will be getting more than \$75 million in the latest round of homeland security grants. Most of the money aims to shield urban centers, such as Newark and Jersey City.

**New York state eligible for \$497M in homeland security \$\$** (North Country Gazette, 11/06/08)

[http://www.northcountrygazette.org/2008/11/06/security\\_grants/](http://www.northcountrygazette.org/2008/11/06/security_grants/)

New York state is eligible to receive more than \$497 million in Fiscal Year 2009 Homeland Security funding. This represents an overall increase of \$36 million, including a 48 percent increase in the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and a targeted allocation of \$145.1 million for the New York City Urban Area. The final federal grant award announcements will be made by the federal Department of Homeland Security in June 2009. These grant funds will support first responders and communities across the State to better prepare for and respond to terrorist attacks, natural disasters and other emergencies.

**Remarks by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announcing Fiscal Year 2009 homeland security grant program guidance and target allocations** (Department of Homeland Security, 11/05/08)

[http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr\\_1225977717399.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1225977717399.shtm)

This year we are talking about grants for 14 federal programs totaling approximately \$3 billion. That is similar to last year's amount and it represents a total of more than \$27 billion in homeland security funding provided to our state and local partners since 2002. Among these 14 programs are the 2 largest: the Homeland Security Grant Program at \$1.7 billion and the infrastructure security programs relating to transit ports and certain other infrastructure items that totals \$845.2 million. Our funding priorities this year are the same as they were last year: preparedness, response, infrastructure protection. More specifically, we are focusing on planning, training, and exercising for our homeland security all-hazards protection. We are focused on IED deterrence, prevention, and protection. We are focused on fusion centers and information sharing, medical readiness, and radiological and nuclear detection.

## **Missile Defense**

**Iran test-fires new missile, Israel within reach** (Reuters, 11/12/08)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/vcCandidateFeed2/idUSTRE4AB1WG20081112>

Iran said it test-fired a new generation of surface-to-surface missile and that the Islamic Republic was ready to defend itself against any attacker. Washington said the test highlighted the need for a missile defense system it plans to base in Poland and the Czech Republic to counter threats from what it calls "rogue states."

**India tests sea-based missile** (The Straights Times [Singapore], 11/12/08)

[http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory\\_301462.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory_301462.html)

India conducted a successful test of a nuclear-capable missile from its eastern coast, defense sources said. The submarine-based ballistic missile, which has a top range of 700 kilometers, was launched from a land-based mobile launcher at the Chandipur-on-Sea testing range in eastern Orissa state.

**Obama's office says `no commitment' to missile shield in Poland** (Bloomberg, 11/09/08)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aaq08r1NDG1c&refer=home>

Barack Obama's office said the president-elect has made "no commitment" to a planned U.S. missile-defense system, after remarks on the Polish president's web site suggested that Obama will press ahead with the shield.

**U.S. engages Russia on missile defense** (New York Times, 11/07/08)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/08/world/europe/08missile.html?\\_r=1&ref=world&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/08/world/europe/08missile.html?_r=1&ref=world&oref=slogin)

Russia received new proposals from the United States to reduce nuclear arms and provide greater access to the Bush administration's planned missile defense system, as leaders in Washington moved to calm tensions between the two nations. Russia has long protested the plans for a missile defense system, which would station radar equipment and 10 interceptors in Poland and the Czech Republic. American officials say the system is designed to counter an attack from Iran, and would not be used against Russian forces

## Announcements

### **To receive an EMP briefing**

The Institute of the North and the Claremont Institute in Claremont, California support state legislators and emergency management groups by providing briefings on electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack scenarios and preparedness. If you would like your committee or organization to receive one of these briefings, please contact [Chris Nelson](#).

### **To receive a copy of *Missile Defense and the Role of the States***

In February 2007, the Institute of the North and the Claremont Institute published a report on *Missile Defense and the Role of the States*, a survey of Adjutants General on questions regarding missile defense and electromagnetic pulse. To receive a hard copy of the report, please contact [Chris Nelson](#). You can also view the report online at: <http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/content/programs.html#security>.

### **To view the IWG report**

The Institute of the North's Defense and Security program is a member of the Independent Working Group on Missile Defense, the Space Relationship, & the Twenty-First Century, a non-partisan group of defense experts who meet regularly to discuss issues and projects related to missile defense. To view the 2007 report online, please visit: <http://www.missilethreat.com/iwgreport/pageID.163/default.asp>.

**To submit material**

We are always looking for well-written editorials on the impact of national security at the state and local level. If you would like to submit an editorial for publication in the Vanguard newsletter, please forward factual and relevant articles of 500-750 words in length to [Chris Nelson](#).

**The Vanguard online**

To view past and current issues of the Vanguard newsletter online, please visit:  
[http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/content/security\\_and\\_defense\\_program.html](http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/content/security_and_defense_program.html).

**Unsubscribe**

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please email [Chris Nelson](#) with the word “unsubscribe” in the message field.

**About the program**

The Security and Defense program at the Institute of the North conducts research and educates policymakers on strategic issues relating to the defense of the United States that particularly concern decision makers in Alaska and at the state and local level throughout the nation.

---

*The Institute of the North, based in Anchorage, Alaska, is a non-profit educational and research organization founded in 1994 by former Secretary of the Interior and twice Governor of Alaska Walter J. Hickel, focusing on strategic and natural resource issues.*

*The Institute of the North · 509 West Third Avenue, Suite 107 · Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 907.771.2446 · Fax: 907.771.2466*

