



VANGUARD

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY FOR STATE & LOCAL POLICYMAKERS

14 January 2009

Volume 2 · Issue 5

News Highlights

[Bush signs off on new U.S. Arctic policy](#) (U.S. News and World Report, 01/12/08)

The White House released on Jan. 12 a long-awaited document broadly laying out U.S. policy toward the Arctic. "The United States is an Arctic nation, with varied and compelling interests in the region," the new policy states, including "broad and fundamental national security interests . . . and is prepared to operate either independently or in conjunction with other states to safeguard these interests." The new policy calls for Senate ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, the legal framework for activities in much of the Arctic.

Related links:

[White House Arctic policy document](#) (The White House, 01/09/09)

[Sen. Murkowski calls on Congress and the Obama administration to implement new Arctic policy](#) (Office of Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, 01/12/09)

[Kerry to push for U.S. ratification of sea treaty](#) (MSN, 01/13/09)

[Sen. Murkowski earns support for Law of the Sea Treaty and Arctic policy](#) (Office of Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, 01/13/09)

[Bush signs new Arctic policy, outlining U.S. intentions in the North](#) (CBC News, 01/13/09)

[Bush supports ratification of sea treaty to administer Arctic](#) (Anchorage Daily News, 01/12/09)

[Bush asserts U.S. sea power over Arctic straits](#) (The [Montreal] Gazette, 01/12/09)

[President Bush signs Arctic policy that emphasizes scientific research and international cooperation](#) (U.S. Arctic Research Commission, 01/09/09)

[President Bush signs new Arctic policy into law](#) (APRN, 01/09/09)

From the Wires this Week

Emergency Management/Homeland Security

Thunderbolt exercises helped Florida react during blackout (Government Technology, 01/14/09)
<http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/584947>

The cascading power outages that took place in Florida on Feb. 26, 2008 -- the Florida Blackout -- resulted in power losses from Miami to Daytona to Tampa. During the outages, the performance of the response systems -- both electric reliability coordination and emergency management -- was

admirable. A genuine system-wide blackout did not take place in Florida, due to the smooth functioning of the protection systems that had been set up to deal with this type of emergency.

Obama's DHS secretary pick has track record as Arizona governor (Salon.com, 01/14/09)

http://www.salon.com/wires/ap/2009/01/14/D95MPVGO0_homeland_security_napolitano/

Gov. Janet Napolitano, Obama's pick for DHS Secretary, set up a homeland security plan for the state of Arizona after she took office. Most parts of the Arizona plan are completed. The state created a homeland security agency, opened a counterterrorism center to collect and share intelligence, bolstered disease surveillance systems, appointed a border liaison officer and updated its emergency plan. Its counterterrorism center, which opened in October 2004, was among the initial handful of "fusion centers" opened by most states nationwide.

Homeland Security funding available for Colorado schools (PR Web, 01/14/09)

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/school/safety/prweb1864054.htm>

School Safety Partners is urging Colorado decision-makers to coordinate and leverage Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other Federal funding in support of a new law requiring Colorado schools to implement the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to protect students and staff during life-threatening emergencies.

Experts debate threat of nuclear, biological terrorism (Global Security Newswire, 01/13/09)

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090113_7105.php

There is an "almost vanishingly small" likelihood that terrorists would ever be able to acquire and detonate a nuclear weapon, one expert said at a recent conference on counterterrorism issues facing the incoming Obama administration. In even the most likely scenario of nuclear terrorism, there are 20 barriers between extremists and a successful nuclear strike on a major city, said John Mueller, a political science professor at Ohio State University.

Langevin leaves Homeland Security Committee (Federal Computer Week, 01/12/09)

<http://fcw.com/articles/2009/01/12/langevin-leaves-homeland-security-committee.aspx>

Rep. Jim Langevin (D-R.I.), who has worked on cybersecurity issues, has left the Homeland Security Committee to return to the House Armed Services Committee. During the last Congress, Langevin served as chairman of the Homeland Security Committee's Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science and Technology Subcommittee, where he drew greater attention to cyberterrorism issues.

Kansas gets biodefense lab (Kansas City Star, 01/12/09)

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/story/977961.html>

Kansas gained final approval for a \$650 million federal biodefense laboratory that officials heralded for its potential to protect the food supply and boost the state's economy. The facility is charged with developing innovations for detecting and countering potentially devastating outbreaks of diseases that can affect livestock and possibly public health.

Obama may eliminate the Independent Homeland Security Adviser's Office (New York Times, 01/07/09)

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/08/us/politics/08council.html?_r=1&scp=2&sq=homeland%20security&st=cse

After 9/11, the Bush Administration designated a special assistant responsible for guarding against terrorism who reported directly to the Oval Office. The New York Times is reporting that President-Elect Obama may eliminate that position and shift those responsibilities to the National Security

Council. State level officials are skeptical of the move, saying that the National Security Council is too focused on foreign and military affairs to give the task the attention it needs.

Communications and Information Security

Issa sees broad focus for oversight committee (Federal Computer Week, 01/13/09)

<http://fcw.com/articles/2009/01/13/issa-sees-broad-focus-for-oversight-committee.aspx>

Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), the new ranking Republican on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, expects the committee will focus on a range of topics, including procurement and contracting issues, cybersecurity, and financial bailouts. Cybersecurity, financial services and health care should take roughly 10 percent each of the committee's resources, Issa predicted.

Enhanced warning system for first responders (Government Computer News, 01/12/09)

<http://gcn.com/articles/2009/01/12/warning-system-for-first-responders.aspx>

First responders will be able to receive alerts about emergencies or disasters via text message, cell phone or other personal communication devices thanks to combined technology through partnership between Global Security Systems and Northrop Grumman Corp.'s Mission Systems sector. The partnership integrates message distribution systems and enables emergency managers to warn the public through mobile and consumer electronic devices over national, state and local alert and warning systems. Additionally, the collaboration addresses Homeland Security Department requirements to deploy an Integrated Public Alert and Warning System.

Experts release list of top 25 programming errors (SANS Institute, 01/12/09)

<http://www.sans.org/top25errors/>

Experts from more than 30 U.S. and international cyber security organizations jointly released the consensus list of the 25 most dangerous programming errors that lead to security bugs and that enable cyber espionage and cyber crime. The initiative stemmed from the efforts of the Information Assurance Division at the National Security Agency and was funded with support from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Cyber Security Division.

DARPA sets first phase contracts for National Cyber Range (Government Computer News, 01/12/09)

<http://gcn.com/articles/2009/01/09/darpa-contracts-for-national-cyber-range.aspx>

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency announced Jan. 8 a total of some \$30 million of first contract awards for its National Cyber Range (NCR) program, a research and development testbed aimed at speeding deployment of new cybersecurity systems, and which is a key part of the interagency Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative (CNCI). Launched early in 2008, the CNCI will be managed by the Homeland Security Department and will be the central coordinating office for all of the government's cybersecurity organizations and development efforts.

Higher level communications (Government Computer News, 01/09/09)

<http://gcn.com/articles/2009/01/09/higher-level-communications.aspx>

The Inter-Government Crisis Network operates over the Spaceway 3 satellite, which does onboard switching and routing to provide point-to-point communications without a ground switching station or other terrestrial infrastructure. Hughes claims it is the smartest, fastest and most powerful communications satellite now in orbit. The new satellite communications system is being touted as an emergency alternative to terrestrial networks during disasters.

Rep. Jackson Lee proposes cybersecurity bill (Federal Computer Week, 01/09/09)

<http://fcw.com/articles/2009/01/09/rep-jackson-lee-proposes-cybersecurity--bill.aspx>

A bill, introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) on Jan. 7, would have DHS and NSF start a grant program to help schools enhance cybersecurity education. The money could be used for professional development programs, associate degree programs and purchasing equipment to be used for training, the bill stated. When discussing cybersecurity, officials frequently mention the need to improve cybersecurity education and DHS officials have said they are working to expand their cybersecurity workforce.

Training and Education

Virtual system trains to enhance Homeland Defense (National Guard, 01/13/09)

<http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/archives/2009/01/011309-Virtual.aspx>

Distributed Mission Operations (DMO) at Tyndall is where technology and imagination combine to present state-of-the-art training scenarios to operators supporting the Homeland Defense mission. Using live, virtual and constructive assets, Air Forces Northern (AFNORTH) uses DMO to not only create, but interact with and intercept perceived aerial and ground threats. AFNORTH is a "Total Force" organization with nearly 2,300 active-duty members, Guard members, Reservists, civilians and contractors.

National Guard

Alaska Guardsmen save lives around the world in 2008 (National Guard, 01/08/09)

<http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/archives/2009/01/010809-Alaska.aspx>

The 11th Rescue Coordination Center, the sole Alaska representative responsible for all aeronautical search and rescue cases in Alaska, released its end of year statistics Dec 31. The Alaska National Guard was credited with 79 saves and 10 assists in Alaska alone. "Alaska can be a very unforgiving place," said Maj. Guy Hayes, state public affairs officer. "So, that's probably why you see more rescues from Alaska (as compared to other states).

Missile Defense and Satellite Technology

Commentary: Obama needs to resolve contradictory positions on BMD policy (UPI, 01/13/09)

http://www.upi.com/Security_Industry/2009/01/13/Outside_View_BMD_priorities_-_Part_1/UPI-25711231863649/

U.S. President-elect Barack Obama stated during his election campaign last year that he was committed to protecting the United States and its allies against attacks that employ weapons of mass destruction. Obama's commitment extends to fielding defenses against such attacks that are delivered by ballistic missile systems.

Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne receives \$12 million contract (WebWire, 01/13/09)

<http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?aId=84384>

The U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) awarded Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne \$12 million for the first phase of a contract to design, build, integrate, and test a prototype Divert and Attitude Control System (DACs) that will power two different types of kinetic vehicles on missile interceptors. "The Pathfinder DACs will allow the Missile Defense Agency to test the avionics, software and sensor capabilities of the kinetic vehicles, simulating the conditions of flight and demonstrating its ability to

seek and destroy incoming ballistic missile targets,” said the MKV Commonality Pathfinder program manager for Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne.

Lockheed Martin begins key test of first SBIRS GEO satellite with new flight software (The EarthTimes, 01/13/09)

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/lockheed-martin-begins-key-test.678615.shtml>

Lockheed Martin announced that the first Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) geosynchronous orbit (GEO-1) satellite has entered a major test phase with the latest version of flight software designed to provide highly reliable spacecraft command and control operations. The U.S. Air Force SBIRS program is designed to provide early warning of missile launches, and simultaneously support other missions including missile defense, technical intelligence and battlespace awareness.

Energy Security

21st-century Smart Grids update U.S. electric grid (Government Technology, 01/09/09)

<http://www.govtech.com/dc/articles/575202>

The Federal Smart Grid Task Force was recently established under Title XIII of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to coordinate Smart Grid activities. The Smart Grid is envisioned as a way to generate and distribute electricity for the rest of this century. The next-generation power grid would improve upon the weaknesses of today's grid, which are that there are few ways to coordinate production, get consumer feedback and affect production.

Transportation Security

Study evaluates U.S. maritime policies (MarineLink, 01/14/09)

<http://marinelink.com/en-US/News/Article/329352.aspx>

The Maritime Administration has issued a new study that evaluates the adequacy of current U.S. maritime policy to meet the commercial, economic, security and environmental needs of the nation over the next three decades. Titled “An Evaluation of Maritime Policy in Meeting the Commercial and Security Needs of the United States,” the 72-page report finds that current U.S. maritime policy only supports America’s domestic maritime trades and is not supportive of U.S. participation in the international trades.

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 the [Institute](#).

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 the [Institute](#). You can also view the report online at: <http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/download?id=304>.

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 the [Institute](#).

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.

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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.

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