



VANGUARD

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Napolitano orders re-evaluation of national-level exercise

By Mead Treadwell and Jeremy Thompson, editors

The homeland security secretary, Janet Napolitano, is re-evaluating the largest federal program for testing the country's ability to respond to terrorist attacks. As governor of Arizona, Ms. Napolitano sent a searing two-page letter to her predecessor as secretary, Michael Chertoff, complaining that a \$25 million national exercise in October 2007, which she and 23,000 other federal, state and local emergency workers participated in, was too expensive, too long in planning and "too removed from a real-world scenario." Now, in her first weeks as head of the Homeland Security Department, Ms. Napolitano has ordered a review of that program and several others.

Ms. Napolitano's frustration with the system in place for rehearsing responses to natural disasters and terrorist attacks has struck a chord among state and local emergency managers, many of whom have long complained that the Homeland Security Department and its crisis-response component, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, have failed to consult fully with local communities in disaster planning. Congress is also eager to ensure that lessons learned from each exercise are broadly disseminated.

Congress directed the government in 1998 to carry out a national exercise program, formerly called Topoff for the "top officials" who participate. There have been four major exercises since then, simulating chemical, biological and nuclear attacks. The exercises now also include foreign partners, like Britain and Canada.

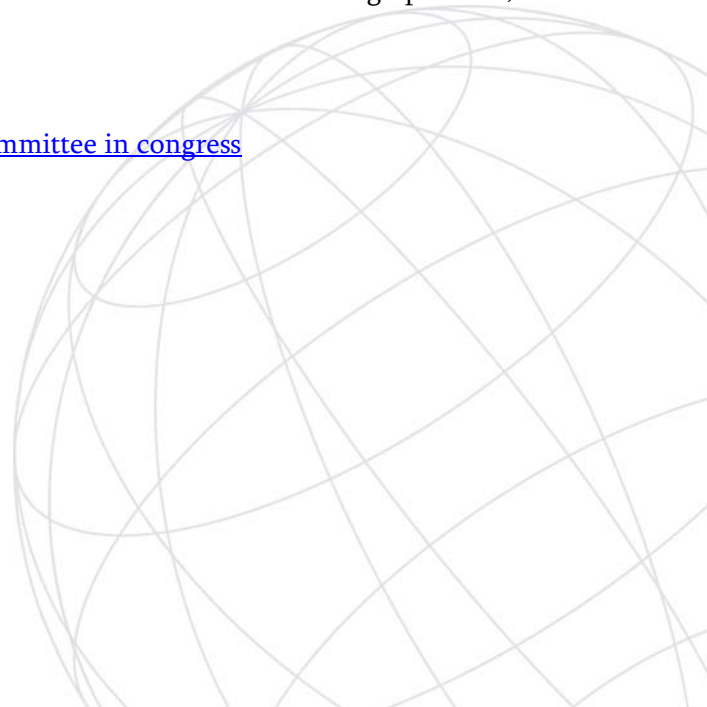
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[Testimony of Napolitano before the homeland security committee in congress](#)

[Re-evaluation of national security ordered](#)

[Napolitano issues efficiency review initiative](#)

[Napolitano reviewing security programs](#)



From the Wires this Week

Emergency Management/Homeland Security

Crews work to restore power to Maine after storm (Associated Press, 02/24/09)

http://www.salon.com/wires/ap/us/2009/02/24/D96I6JS00_me_winter_storm/

Nearly 45,000 homes and businesses are still without power, down from the 140,000 customers without electricity at the peak of a storm that snapped tree limbs, power lines and utility poles and dropped 2 feet of snow on the region. The utilities blamed poor road conditions and the rural locations of many outages for slowing efforts to restore power.

Summary of DHS funding from stimulus package (Security Debrief, 02/24/09)

<http://securitydebrief.adfero.com/key-dhs-funding-provisions-of-the-american-recovery-and-reinvestment-act/>

Security Debrief identifies and classifies all the homeland security funding provisions passed with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the recent stimulus spending bill.

Harper says that security threats to U.S. are shared with Canada (Breitbart, 02/19/09)

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D96ES6SO4&show_article=1

Canada's prime minister is making it clear—a security threat to the United States is a threat against his country too. Stephen Harper says there's "no such thing" as a threat to the security of the United States that doesn't also represent a threat to Canada. Speaking at a joint news conference with President Barack Obama after their talks in Ottawa, Harper said Canada has made "significant investments" in security, and in border protection, since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks against the United States.

Viewpoint: Don't turn a blind eye to Mexico (Security Debrief, 02/19/09)

<http://securitydebrief.adfero.com/dont-turn-a-blind-eye-to-mexico/>

Up to this point, the U.S. government has largely turned a blind eye to the gun runners who have been delivering military grade weapons to the Mexican drug cartels. The Obama Administration has an opportunity to make a significant difference – and the just-enacted Stimulus Package provides money to the Justice Department to begin to deal with the issue. And DHS Secretary Napolitano should also be focused on dealing with this issue. Given her role as a former U.S. Attorney and Governor of Arizona, this major issue along the Southwestern border should be a top priority.

Stimulus Bill revives key law enforcement, firefighter grants (Government Technology, 02/18/09)

http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/619771?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=link

The act restores \$4 billion in U.S. Justice Department (DOJ) grants for law enforcement that had been cut during the previous administration. It also contains the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. This \$53.6 billion fund is included to help state and local governments fund education and other key services, including public safety. Governors can choose to spend 18.2 percent, or \$8.8 billion, of their

Stabilization Fund allotment on public safety and/or other key government services. Public safety agencies may have to compete with other government services for a piece of this fund.

Communications and Information Security

IT security still top concern for federal officials (Government Technology, 02/25/09)

http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/623117?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=link

IT security is the number one priority of federal information officers. These results were according to a CIO Survey released by TechAmerica. The survey reports data from in-person interviews with federal chief information officers from civilian, homeland security and defense agencies in the executive branch, as well as key officials from the White House Office of Management and Budget, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and congress.

Missouri continues difficult process of IT consolidation (Government Technology, 02/24/09)

http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/622184?id=622184&full=1&story_pg=1

Until recently, Missouri's executive branch employees were dwelling in a wilderness of isolated IT villages. Missouri consolidated its data centers into a single facility 10 years ago. But the state government was still running numerous IT operations. When departments failed to collaborate on business challenges, many people blamed that failure on the fact that they couldn't share data. Departments also conducted IT projects in isolation.

Training and Exercises

Kansas county clears way for firefighters to attend haz mat training (Winfield Daily Courier, 02/24/09)

<http://winfieldcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=28986&TM=47702.05>

The funds for the training came from a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. The firefighters will attend a 40-hour Highway Emergency Response Specialist course, in Colorado. The course deals mostly with the proper protocol for transporting hazardous materials such as anhydrous ammonia and radioactive materials to different parts of the country via highways, according to the Cowley County emergency management director. It will also deal with all kinds of large cargo tank assessment.

Iowa Guard cancels urban war exercise (Des Moines Register, 02/24/09)

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20090224/NEWS10/902240390/1001/>

The Iowa Army National Guard has dropped plans for urban warfare training in the western Iowa town of Arcadia after being deluged by nearly 100 e-mails and phone calls from gun-rights advocates nationwide. The four-day event in April would have involved between 90 and 100 combat troops arriving in the Carroll County community in a convoy with a Blackhawk military helicopter flying overhead. Troops would have gone door to door, asking the town's 443 residents about a suspected arms dealer and conducting searches of homes if property owners volunteered in advance to cooperate.

National Guard planners prepare for 2009 hurricane season (National Guard Bureau, 02/19/09)

<http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/archives/2009/02/022309-Hurricane.aspx?src=rss>

Attended this year by numerous key leaders from partner agencies, National Guard leaders from 11 hurricane states have met annually for several years to coordinate plans and exchange ideas for the upcoming storm season. This year the meeting enjoyed a large attendance joined by many federal and state partners – a team drawn from 27 states, five major commands, three territories and the District of Columbia.

Ohio National Guard members receive advanced medical training (National Guard Bureau, 02/18/09)

<http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/archives/2009/02/021809-Medical.aspx?src=rss>

A team of Ohio National Guard members, doctors, and researchers at Riverside Methodist Hospital are taking a new approach to training medical personnel responsible for treating casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dynamics Research Corporation, in conjunction with Riverside and the Ohio National Guard, is currently conducting a research project allowing Ohio Guard medical personnel to train in advanced medical simulation labs in the hospital. Planning for the project began in February 2008, and the first round of training for Ohio Guard Soldiers and Airmen began in November last year.

Missile Defense/Satellite Technology/EMP

Costly U.S. weapons face budget cuts under Obama (AFP, 02/25/09)

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=CNG.2a0da0b3aa56c6ca90b36487984df8e3.51&show_article=1

Hi-tech fighter aircraft, new warships and missile defense projects are all potential targets for big cuts in the U.S. defense budget as the American military faces a new era of limits under President Barack Obama. With a mushrooming budget deficit of more than a trillion dollars, the new administration has signaled it hopes to scale back military spending partly through a planned reduction of troops in Iraq and by taking the axe to big ticket weapons programs. Obama told Congress his upcoming budget would bolster the pay and benefits of soldiers and increase the number of troops but that unnecessary "Cold War-era" weapons would be dumped.

North Korean launch: satellite or missile? (UPI, 02/24/09)

http://www.upi.com/Emerging_Threats/2009/02/24/North_Korean_launch_Satellite_or_missile/UPI-43621235491385/

North Korea acknowledged it is preparing to launch what it claims is a satellite, in its first official response to weeks of intelligence reports that it is gearing up to test-fire a rocket believed to be a long-range ballistic missile. The communist country did not say when the launch would be made, but Seoul expects it will be ready in a week or two, warning that Pyongyang would face sanctions whether it is a missile or a satellite.

Tauscher pushes for more funding of ballistic missile defense (The Hill, 02/23/09)

<http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/rep.-tauscher-asks-gates-to-rethink-missile-defense-2009-02-23.html>

Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., is urging the defense secretary to spend more money in the fiscal 2010 budget on countering immediate ballistic missile threats rather than on futuristic programs seeking to

address long-range missile attacks. In her letter to Gates, Tauscher urged the Pentagon to look into the option of upgrading more of the Navy's Aegis cruisers and destroyers to be able to conduct ballistic missile defense operations.

Russia to resume testing sea-based Bulava missile (BarentsObserver, 02/23/09)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/new-bulava-launch-in-march.4560307.html>

The first fully successful test of the missile was conducted in November 2008, and First Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov optimistically declared that Russia would start serial production of the weapon. A failed test in December put a temporary hold to the plans. The test launches will be resumed as soon as the bad components have been replaced, probably already in March.

Defense officials forced to sign secrecy pledge on defense budget process (Defense News, 02/19/09)

<http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3956514>

While congress waits for the federal budget to be released Feb. 26, the Obama administration has directed defense officials to sign a pledge stating they will not share 2010 budget data with individuals outside the federal government. The administration tells defense officials that "strict confidentiality" must be practiced to ensure a "successful" and "proper" 2010 defense budget process. The secrecy pact comes as dozens of Bush-era Pentagon appointees remain on the job, asked to stay on by the Obama administration until replacements are confirmed to ensure continuity during wartime.

Syria constructing chemical weapons plant next to scud missile base (National Terror Alert Response Center, 02/18/09)

<http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2009/02/19/syria-building-chemical-weapons-plant/>

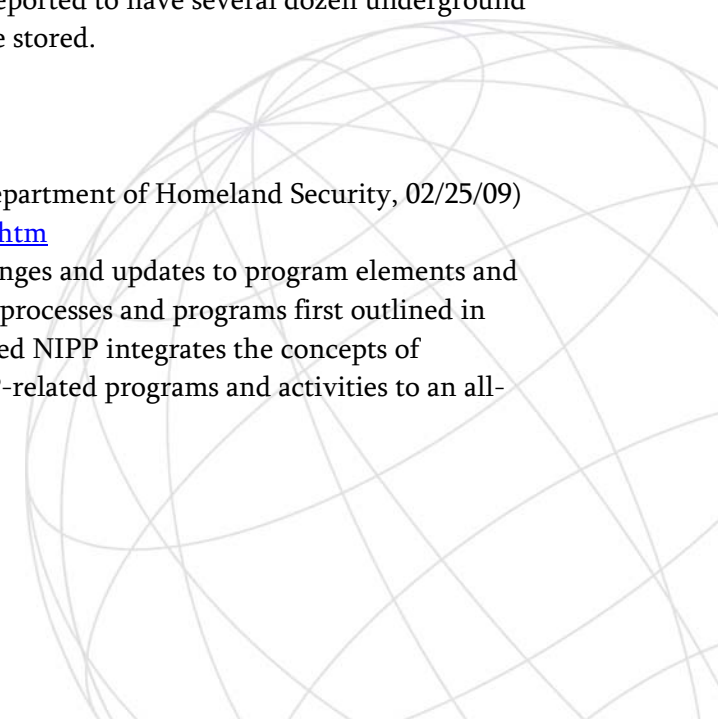
The images of a chemical weapons facility identified as al-Safir were taken by several commercial sources from 2005 to 2008. Imagery obtained by a satellite by Digital Globe shows that extensive construction has taken place at the facility, as well as at an adjacent missile base. According to the group, the images showed that the site contained a number of the "defining features of a chemical weapons facility." Al-Safir is home to a chemical weapons production facility and a missile base that holds a significant part of Syria's long-range Scud D ballistic missiles, according to foreign reports. The Scud D has a range of 700 kilometers and al-Safir is reported to have several dozen underground fortified bunkers where the launchers and the missiles are stored.

Energy/Transportation Security

2009 National Infrastructure Protection Plan released (Department of Homeland Security, 02/25/09)

http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/programs/editorial_0827.shtm

The 2009 NIPP replaces the 2006 version and reflects changes and updates to program elements and concepts. It captures the evolution and maturation of the processes and programs first outlined in 2006 without changing the underlying policies. The revised NIPP integrates the concepts of resiliency and protection, and broadens the focus of NIPP-related programs and activities to an all-hazards environment.



TSA launches body scanner test (UPI, 02/18/09)

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/02/18/TSA_launches_body_scanner_test/UPI-98021234968231/

Instead of walking through metal detectors, airline passengers in Tulsa will be screened by a machine that can look through clothing to detect hidden weapons. The experimental program will help the TSA decide whether the \$170,000 devices should replace metal detectors that have been in use since 1973. The scanners are able to detect non-metallic weapons like plastic and liquid explosives that the TSA considers a major threat.

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 [Jeremy Thompson](#) by email or call 907.771.2446.

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 [Jeremy Thompson](#). 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 2009 report online, please visit: <http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/download?id=564>

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

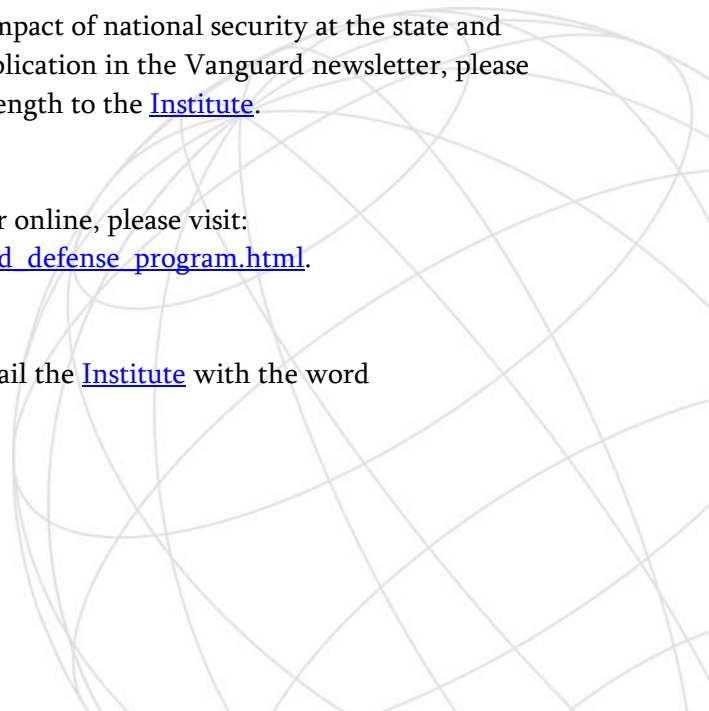
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About the program



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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