



# VANGUARD

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY FOR STATE & LOCAL POLICYMAKERS

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## News Highlights

**U.S missile defense interceptor test successful** (Breitbart, 03/18/09)

[http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D970ICV01&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D970ICV01&show_article=1)

The U.S. military has successfully shot down a medium-range ballistic missile during a test in Hawaii, the Pentagon said. The military's ground-based mobile missile-defense system intercepted the missile target during the test conducted at a missile range off the island of Kauai at 2:30 p.m. local time March 17, the Defense Department's Missile Defense Agency said. "Preliminary indications are that planned flight test objectives were achieved," the agency said in a statement.

[Missile Defense Agency news release](#)

[Video of launch and intercept](#)

**Russia plans missile testing space launches in 2009** (RIA Novosti, 03/17/09)

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090317/120606613.html>

Russia will put a regiment of new-generation intercontinental ballistic missiles into service in December, according Nikolai Solovtsov, the Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) commander. He also said the SMF would conduct at least eight missile test launches, including space launches in 2009. Solovtsov said the next launch was scheduled for April 10. The commander said earlier that RS-24 ICBMs, with multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV) warheads, would help bolster the SMF's ability to overpower missile defense systems, "thus strengthening the nuclear deterrence potential of the Russian nuclear triad."

## From the Wires this Week

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

**Napolitano signs agreement with Germany to boost security cooperation** (UPI, 03/18/09)

[http://www.metimes.com/Security/2009/03/18/us\\_germany\\_boost\\_security\\_cooperation/1fc9/](http://www.metimes.com/Security/2009/03/18/us_germany_boost_security_cooperation/1fc9/)

Germany and the United States have agreed to boost joint research efforts to improve security in both nations. German Education and Research Minister Annette Schavan and U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano signed the agreement in Berlin. It aims to boost joint research to improve

protection in case of natural disasters, accidents, terrorist attacks and organized crime. "We want to use the benefits of research cooperation to mobilize the best ideas for optimal risk protection in our countries," Schavan said in a statement. "The United States and Germany will develop innovative research projects that contribute to the protection of our free, open and cross-linked trans-Atlantic societies." *Press release: [Secretary Napolitano signs research sharing pact with Germany](#). Related interview: [Away from the politics of fear](#).*

**Funding, partnerships and fire administrator on Napolitano's front burner** (Government Technology, 03/16/09)

<http://www.govtech.com/gt/627022?topic=117680>

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano continued calling for improved intergovernmental partnerships in remarks to the International Association of Firefighters. She outlined sources of grant funding and stimulus money localities can use to keep firehouses open. Napolitano said it was important that the public understood that FEMA is not a first responder -- a role that is filled by the firefighters and police officers and others on the ground. *Text of speech: [Remarks by HS secretary Janet Napolitano to the International Association of Fire Fighters](#).*

**Iowa man charged with terrorism** (National Terror Alert Response Center, 03/13/09)

<http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2009/03/13/iowa-man-charged-with-terrorism/>

A Rock Rapids man is under arrest after a tip from the F.B.I.'s Joint Terrorism Task Force. Lyon County Sheriff's officers say 19-year-old Michael Edward Bauman was arrested after a search of his home. Agents from the F.B.I. and the Iowa Intelligence Fusion Center as well as local deputies conducted the search. Authorities seized a number of computers and guns. Bauman is accused of threatening to blow up a television relay tower, burn down a business and kill law enforcement officers.

**Audio: Obama could send National Guard to monitor border** (NPR, 03/13/09)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=101859916>

President Obama could deploy National Guard troops to the U.S. Mexico border. In a recent talk with reporters, the president expressed concern about escalating drug violence in Mexico, and its potential to spill across the border. Rep. Loretta Sanchez, who chairs the House subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global Counterterrorism discusses the possibility.

**FEMA to provide grant to clean up canals** (Digital Journal, 03/13/09)

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/269126>

U.S. Department of Homeland Security secretary Janet Napolitano has allocated \$130,000 from FEMA's emergency funds for St. Bernard Parish to clean all the silt and debris from a 1,500-foot section of Blomquist Canal deposited during Hurricane Katrina. Hurricane Katrina clogged canals across Louisiana with debris and sediment, and some, including Blomquist Canal, remain obstructed with a variety of household, yard and automotive items, and in some cases live, growing trees.

**Napolitano backs fusion centers** (Federal Computer Week, 03/12/09)

<http://www.fcw.com/Articles/2009/03/12/Napolitano-fusion-center.aspx>

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano stated that state and local intelligence fusion centers are important to her department's information-sharing efforts. She made the remarks before the National Fusion Center Conference in Kansas City. In recent years, state and local authorities have established, with federal funding, about 70 of the centers that are designed to improve information

sharing between authorities from different levels of government. *Text of Speech: [Remarks to National Fusion Center Conference](#)*.

**Weapons busts near U.S.-Mexico border show heightened alertness** (Department of Homeland Security, 03/11/09)

[http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr\\_1236785322768.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1236785322768.shtm)

A trio of weapons seizures in Arizona and Texas this week highlight the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's heightened emphasis on tracking and intercepting illegal guns and ammunition near the U.S.-Mexico border. U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents seized 10 guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition from a southbound pickup truck in Southwestern Arizona. CBP officers found rifle barrels, firearm accessories and gun powder in a tractor-trailer attempting to exit the U.S. for Mexico in Pharr, Tex. Agents in Laredo, Tex., discovered a collection of weapons and ammunition hidden in a second truck destined for Mexico. *Related article: [Border lawmakers fear drug-terrorism link](#)*

**Report: An analysis of federal, state and local homeland security budgets** (The Heritage Foundation, 03/09/09)

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandSecurity/upload/CDA\\_09\\_01.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/HomelandSecurity/upload/CDA_09_01.pdf)

This report focuses on four areas where a state and local lead is preferable: preparedness for and resiliency against terrorist attacks and natural disasters, disaster response, interior illegal immigration enforcement, and counterterrorism. It involves four key phases: Research and outreach to state and local associations in Washington, DC, state and local outreach using 10 regional roundtables, drafting, circulating for review and comment, and finalizing a suite of solutions across the four areas of focus for states and localities to enact or adopt and launching an adoption campaign.

## **Communications and Information Security**

**Lawmakers want more interoperability in emergency comms** (Federal Computer Week, 03/17/09)

<http://fcw.com/articles/2009/03/17/fema-location.aspx>

Leaders of a key House subcommittee expressed frustration with efforts to ensure the interoperability of communications devices used for emergency responses. Meanwhile, some lawmakers and the Homeland Security Department's inspector general said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should remain part of DHS.

**The best cybersecurity strategy: Low expectations** (Federal Computer Week, 03/17/09)

<http://fcw.com/Articles/2009/03/17/Cyber-security-panel-031709.aspx>

Members of a panel of security experts painted a gloomy picture of the cybersecurity landscape, in which rapidly evolving threats and conditions ensure that even the best solutions are likely to remain piecemeal and temporary. Security efforts should focus on assessing and managing risk to information, members of the panel of industry and government officials said. Baseline security requirements mandated by government cannot be expected provide adequate security across the board.

**Testimony before Congress on interoperable communications** (House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, 03/17/09)

[http://appropriations.house.gov/Witness\\_testimony/HS/Ross\\_Ashley\\_03\\_17\\_09.pdf](http://appropriations.house.gov/Witness_testimony/HS/Ross_Ashley_03_17_09.pdf)

W. Ross Ashley, Assistant Administrator of Grant Programs from FEMA gives an update on the progress of working toward interoperability, and an overview of the funding available to states and localities. Ashley also addressed FEMA's efforts in building interoperability in disaster communication. *Related testimony: [Director David Boyd on the approach, technology, and philosophy of the Command, Control and Interoperability Division of DHS](#). [Chris Essid of DHS on interoperability planning, grants, and state based efforts](#).*

## Missile Defense and Satellite Technology

**Japan considers intercepting North Korea missile** (UPI, 03/17/09)

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/2009/03/17/Japan\\_considers\\_intercepting\\_Korea\\_missile/UPI-96931237341102/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/03/17/Japan_considers_intercepting_Korea_missile/UPI-96931237341102/)

Japan's government is considering a measure to destroy a satellite North Korea is preparing to launch if it falls into Japanese territory, officials said. Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada that the government plans to order the Self-Defense Forces to take measures to prepare for the possible intercept of what is seen as a Taepodong-2 long-range ballistic missile, Kyodo reported.

**Czech pulls U.S. shield treaties from parliament** (Reuters, 03/17/09)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSTRE52G6TI20090317?feedType=RSS&feedName=politicsNews&rpc=22&sp=true>

The Czech government temporarily withdrew treaties on hosting a U.S. defense radar from a parliament ratification process in the face of an opposition threat to vote them down. The decision highlighted the center-right government's weakness in parliament and may delay the ratification for months or even put it on ice for an unpredictable period.

**Russia begins mooring trials of *Yury Dolgoruky* strategic sub** (RIA Novosti, 03/17/09)

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090317/120602125.html>

Russia has started mooring trials of the first Borey class nuclear-powered strategic submarine, which will be equipped with Bulava sea-based ballistic missiles, the defense minister said. Russia also is planning to complete tests and put into service sea-based Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) in 2009 despite numerous test failures. The Russian military have said that production flaws could be to blame for the unsuccessful test launches and insisted that the tests would continue until the missile was ready for production.

**Opinion: Use killer drones for missile defense** (The New York Times, 03/11/09)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/12/opinion/12postol.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/12/opinion/12postol.html?_r=1)

An MIT professor proposes deploying unmanned drones to shoot down missiles in their boost stage. The system he proposes would require deployment to areas of concern, but would only provide protection against rogue states, not traditional competitors. The author assumes that a successful system "would provide an extremely intimidating and highly effective defense against Iran and North Korea," but would not be effective against traditional competitors like Russia or China.

## Transportation/Energy/Infrastructure Security

**GAO: Not enough screeners to check cargo** (UPI, 03/17/09)

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/2009/03/17/GAO\\_Not\\_enough\\_screeners\\_to\\_check\\_cargo/UPI-59751237294990/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/03/17/GAO_Not_enough_screeners_to_check_cargo/UPI-59751237294990/)

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration may not have enough inspectors to carry out plans to inspect aircraft cargo for weapons, investigators say. The Government Accountability Office, a congressional, non-partisan watchdog group, says in a report that the TSA doesn't have enough employees nor adequate equipment to guarantee that all business cargo loaded onto passenger jets will be checked for bombs.

## 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 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](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.

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*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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