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News Highlight

House Armed Services Committee votes down restoring missile defense funding (Army Times, 06/16/09)

http://www.armytimes.com/news/2009/06/military_missile_defense_cuts_061609/

House Republicans failed in an effort to restore funding for missile defense programs. Despite arguing that the world is less safe as a result of Iran and North Korea trying to get long-range nuclear weapons which could be used to attack U.S. cities, the House Armed Services Committee voted 36-26 against an amendment to spend an additional \$1.2 billion on missile defense programs in 2010. The vote restores the \$9 billion current budget the administration has proposed cutting. The votes came as President Barack Obama said North Korea poses a “grave threat” to the world by threatening to develop ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons. Also, Pentagon officials predict North Korea could, within three years, develop the capability to strike the U.S. There were a series of missile defense-related votes, all decided by about the same margin, as the armed services committee worked on the 2010 defense authorization bill, HR 2647.

Related blog:

[*Is it financially worth it to cut the GMD program?*](#)

Related articles:

[*Lawmakers question Obama's missile defense cuts*](#)

[*Attempt to restore missile defense funding fails*](#)

Roundtable Event

Emerging Threats and Homeland Security: The Role of Missile Defense

On June 23, 2009, from 9:30-4:30, the Independent Working Group on Missile Defense will hold a one-day conference highlighting their 2009 report, “[Missile Defense, the Space Relationship and the Twenty-First Century](#).” The conference is sponsored by nine different organizations, including the Institute of the North. It will be held at The Capitol Hill Club, 300 First Street SE, Washington, DC. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to jthompson@institutenorth.org.

From the Wires this Week

Emergency Management/Homeland Security

Audit: FEMA failed to follow contracting rules (Associated Press, 06/17/09)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iz4LpNAX7LJP99Y9mth70yBTENmgD98S36L02>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency failed to follow some federal contracting rules, making it impossible to know whether the agency got its money's worth during disasters, a government audit found. In a report, the inspector general for the Homeland Security Department said that auditors looked at 32 disaster contracts from 2007. That year, the president declared 65 major disasters, and FEMA spent \$1.5 billion on disaster contracts, including purchasing and delivering ice for hurricane victims. In February, the inspector general asked FEMA to provide by late May detailed plans about how it will correct its contracting policies. The plans are 30 days overdue.

Libya records 13 cases of bubonic plague (AFP, 06/17/09)

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=CNG.db1c3a82d0827b5cdf05eea3ba146af8.2e1&show_article=1

Thirteen cases of bubonic plague have been recorded in eastern Libya, near the border with Egypt, Health Minister Mohamad Hijazi told AFP, stressing the situation was under control.

"Thirteen cases of the plague have been recorded in a village 30 kilometres (20 miles) away from Tobruk. Eleven people have already (been treated and) left hospital," he said, without reporting any deaths. Libyan media have spoken of between one and three fatalities.

Two New York hospitals receive DHS grants (Business First of Buffalo, 06/17/09)

<http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/stories/2009/06/15/daily29.html>

Two Catholic Health System hospitals were approved for grants totaling nearly \$92,000 through a federal program designed for urban nonprofit organizations at high risk of terrorist attacks. Mercy Hospital and Sisters of Charity Hospital will receive the grants through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program within the Urban Areas Security Initiative. The UASI Nonprofit Security Grant Program provides funding support for "target-hardening" activities to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations located within the identified urban areas who are deemed at high risk of terrorist attack. The goal was to integrate nonprofit preparedness activities with broader state and local preparedness efforts.

Tennessee to hold security expo (Tennessean, 06/17/09)

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20090617/NEWS01/906170385/1002/Tennessee+homeland+security+expo+planned>

Middle Tennessee-area residents will be able to see new public safety equipment and watch live emergency response demonstrations at a security expo in Lebanon. The event, known as the Urban Area Security Initiative Expo, shows how local agencies have used federal money to enhance first-response capabilities, said Dave Mitchell of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Office of

Homeland Security. Attendees will be able to speak to representatives of emergency response agencies, learn about new public safety technologies and see live demonstrations.

DHS officials, industry reps protest chemical security bill (Homeland Security Today, 06/17/09)
<http://www.hstoday.us/content/view/8986/149/>

The House Homeland Security Committee will begin markup of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009 (HR 2868) - but it does so over the resistance of the panel's Republicans, the Department of Homeland Security and representatives of the chemical industry. During a hearing, Republicans protested provisions in the bill that would permit civil suits against chemical facilities not in compliance with the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) and that would force companies to re-engineer processes if their chemicals were deemed too dangerous.

Disjointed security threats are the new normal (DVIDS, 06/16/09)
http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=news/news_show.php&id=35161

The threats that face the United States are more amorphous today than at any time in history, and the commands responsible for defending North America must maintain vigilance, Air Force Gen. Gene Renuart said. The enemy seeks to attack the seams and gaps in American defenses, the general said. These seams are between areas - such as the boundary between U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command; agencies like those between the departments of Defense and Homeland Security; and domains such as space and maritime.

U.S. to check Mexico-bound vehicles at border (UPI, 06/16/09)
http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/06/16/US-to-check-Mexico-bound-vehicles/UPI-12251245166957/

U.S. border agents will now check for guns and drug money in vehicles heading south over the border into Mexico, officials say. Also part of a new bilateral agreement that was signed, officials from both countries said they are working to produce a single customs form recognized by both governments to make it easier for cross-border tourists and workers, The Arizona Republic reported.

Governor of Tennessee announces \$20 million in DHS grants (The Chattanooga, 06/16/09)
http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_153249.asp

Governor Phil Bredesen announced that Tennessee has been awarded more than \$20 million in federal Homeland Security grants. The grants will be distributed to Tennessee's 11 Homeland Security Districts to help first responders in local communities improve readiness, response and recovery capabilities for both natural and man-made emergencies, including Chattanooga.

New Jersey lawmakers want to improve state's storm preparedness (Associated Press, 06/14/09)
<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20090614/NEWS01/90614005/1006>

There have always been lingering concerns over how New Jersey would be able to quickly evacuate large numbers of people during hurricanes or other natural disasters, especially among coastal residents. And with that in mind, the Assembly may consider legislation that supporters say could improve evacuation plans throughout the state. "We can't afford to wait until after a disaster strikes to improve our preparedness," said Assemblyman Nelson T. Albano, D-Cape May Court House, who is co-sponsoring the bill. "The measures would help streamline emergency operations during a

disaster, identify buildings as shelters and critical infrastructure and have specific statewide and coastal evacuation plans at the state, county and local levels."

Alberta prepping for swine-flu shots this fall (CBC, 06/11/09)

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/calgary/story/2009/06/11/edmonton-swine-flu-pandemic-alberta-plan.html>

Alberta's plan for dealing with a flu pandemic is in place and preparations are underway to immunize Albertans as soon as a swine flu vaccination is available, the province's chief medical officer of health said, after the World Health Organization declared an H1N1 pandemic. The WHO officially declared a pandemic because of how the virus is spreading from person to person in a sustained manner around the world. The change to a Phase 6 alert level doesn't mean the virus has become more severe or is causing more deaths.

New York Senator seeks more pressure on human trafficking (Associated Press, 06/11/09)

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5i7fJfCotAd6g1yX_-L8iu5KGnUQD98O2I904

The Obama administration and Sen. Chuck Schumer want to step up pressure on human-trafficking operations by taking away their safe houses. Schumer announced plans to propose legislation to allow federal agents to seize houses if they can prove the buildings were used by smugglers to shelter illegal immigrants temporarily. Under current law, the home owner must be convicted of a smuggling-related offense before prosecutors can seize the safe house.

U.S. Chemical Safety Board releases video for emergency responders (The Daily Citizen, 06/10/09)

http://www.northwestgeorgia.com/local/local_story_161132818.html

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) released a new safety video showing the need for emergency response agencies, companies and communities to work closely together to prepare for the kinds of tragic chemical accidents the CSB has investigated over the past decade. The new video, entitled "Emergency Preparedness: Findings from CSB Accident Investigations," uses computer animations, interviews and news footage to depict a series of chemical accidents that illustrate the need for effective training, communications and community planning. The video is available online at www.csb.gov and on YouTube.

Is this a pandemic? Define pandemic. (The New York Times, 06/08/09)

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/09/health/09docs.html?_r=2&8dpc

After decades of warnings about the inevitability of another pandemic of influenza, it is astonishing that health officials have failed to make clear to the public, even to many colleagues, what they mean by the word pandemic. Generations of people have used the term to describe widespread epidemics of influenza, cholera and other diseases. But as the new H1N1 swine influenza virus spreads from continent to continent, it is clear that a useful definition is far more complicated and elusive than officials had thought.

Communications and Information Security

White House wants network resiliency plan in place by end of year (Federal News Radio, 06/17/09)

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=35&sid=1698307>

The acting senior director for cyberspace in the National Security and Homeland Security Councils, Melissa Hathaway says as agencies prepared for the April 1 launch of the Confikr worm, the coordination across the government was less than adequate. She asked, at a recent cybersecurity conference, what process is in place to bring the infrastructure back up or to have back up plans to make sure the networks are resilient? "Some estimate that Confikr infected one in five computers used by businesses," she says. "And millions more worldwide are infected."

U.S. cybersecurity chief warns of "market" in malware (AFP, 06/17/09)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hMklsVAJGBBHfN5gRYD2MDU6jA2A>

More must be done to combat the lucrative trade in malicious software, which threatens sensitive government networks and personal data, the head of the US National Cybersecurity Center warned. In his first interview since taking up the post in March, Philip Reitinger told AFP the spread of so-called malware like botnets -- software that hijacks computers to mine sensitive data -- now constitutes an "underground market economy" that is spreading attacks.

Iowa law enforcement seeks interoperable communication (KCRG, 06/15/09)

<http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/48110802.html>

Communication is key in an emergency. Right now, the Linn County Sheriff's office in Iowa, the Cedar Rapids Police and the Marion Police can not directly talk to each other on the same system. But now all three agencies support a multi-million dollar plan to fix that. Linn County and Cedar Rapids have already agreed to put money toward a study of the area's law enforcement communication systems. Law enforcement officials say now is the perfect time to get all these systems to talk to each other.

Phishing toolkit use on the rise (IT Wire, 06/14/09)

<http://www.itwire.com/content/view/25643/53/>

There has been a huge increase in the use of phishing toolkits, with 42 percent of phishing URLs recently generated using the toolkits, and the emergence of a new trend of phishing attacks towards the popular social networking site, Facebook. Symantec, in its June phishing report, says it observed an increase in URLs using phishing toolkits during May of 100 percent over the previous month, with a 14 percent decrease in non-English phishing sites compared to February.

Data center overload (The New York Times, 06/08/09)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/14/magazine/14search-t.html?th&emc=th>

Much of the daily material of our lives is now dematerialized and outsourced to a far-flung, unseen network. The stack of letters becomes the e-mail database on the computer, which gives way to Hotmail or Gmail. The clipping sent to a friend becomes the attached PDF file, which becomes a set of shared bookmarks, hosted offsite. The photos in a box are replaced by JPEGs on a hard drive, then a hosted sharing service like Snapfish. The storage for these things is likely located on increasingly large, powerful, energy-intensive, always-on and essentially out-of-sight data centers. These centers run enormously scaled software applications with millions of users.

National Guard/Exercises

National Guard Bureau chief: SPP relationships have fared well (National Guard Bureau, 06/15/09)
<http://www.ng.mil/news/archives/2009/06/061509-McKinley.aspx?src=rss>

The National Guard's State Partnership Program started as a confidence- building measure between formerly hostile nations and has grown into solid, long-standing alliances, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said. "The relationship has matured well," said Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley. He cited the example of the young lieutenant colonel from the Illinois Army National Guard who went to Poland in the early days of their partnership. That lieutenant colonel is now the adjutant general of the state, Maj. Gen. William Enyart, and "the folks he met there and maintained contact with are now senior leaders in that nation's military." Because of this long-standing relationship between Illinois and Poland, the Polish armed forces deployed to Iraq, commanding a multi-national division. "And the Illinois Guard went with them providing critical enabling capabilities," McKinley said.

Georgia county drill seeks more than a "virtual drill" (Times-Georgian, 06/12/09)
http://www.times-georgian.com/pages/full_story?page_label=home&id=2706336-Drill+enacts+anthrax+attack&widget=push&instance=west_ga_news&article-Drill%20enacts%20anthrax%20attack%20=&open=&

A drill conducted by emergency management personnel in Douglas used the scenario of two small airplanes dropping white powder as a basis for a response exercise. Officials feel it was successful in rehearsing for the real thing, which could be a terroristic act or a swine flu outbreak. The county brought all the actual people and material together in a real location – a local high school.

National Guard: Gates weakening security (The Hill, 06/11/09)
<http://thehill.com/business--lobby/national-guard-gates-weakening-security-2009-06-11.html>

National Guard leaders from 48 of the 50 states sent a letter to the House and Senate Armed Services committees warning that a budget decision made by Defense Secretary Robert Gates would weaken national security. The adjutants general from the states, along with three representing U.S. territories, are challenging Gates's request to halve the C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft program and transfer all responsibility to the Air Force, in a rare rebuke of the secretary outlined in their letter.

Video: Philadelphia Emergency Management organizes a mass casualty exercise (PhilaOEM, 06/11/09)
<http://philaoem.blogspot.com/2009/06/operation-surge-command-mass-casualty.html>

Philadelphia's Deputy Managing Director for Emergency Management Mary Ann E. Tierney discusses the tabletop exercise, Operation Surge Command, which simulated a train derailment involving 300 casualties. The exercise, held at the Philadelphia Fire Academy, provided critical first responders and key stakeholders an opportunity to train together, discuss, exercise and evaluate the emergency communications and resource management capabilities of city agencies involved with a Mass Casualty Incident.

Four states team up for training (Associated Press, 06/11/09)
http://cjonline.com/news/local/2009-06-11/states_team_up_for_training

Four Midwestern states are collaborating this month to improve their response to natural disasters, terrorism and foreign animal disease. The event is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region VII exercise called Vigilant Guard 09. It involves local, state and federal emergency response

agencies from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. The next exercise will simulate an introduction of foreign animal disease in Iowa, with Kansas activating its emergency operations center when the disease moves to the state.

Missile Defense/Satellite Technology/EMP

Kim's defiance raising the stakes (The Japan Times, 06/18/09)

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/eo20090618mr.html>

Despite testing failures, it would be unwise to write off North Korea's quest to be a nuclear state with deliverable weapons. With more tests, its nuclear warheads and long-range missiles may work as designed. Its newest missile is reportedly a land-based version of the Soviet R-27 and has an estimated range of 2,500 to 3,200 km, but it has not been flight-tested. Steven Hildreth, a missile defense specialist with the Congressional Research Service, said in a report to U.S. lawmakers in February that the sea-based version of the R-27, with an estimated range of at least 2,500 km, could be mounted on ships, including cargo vessels.

Did EMP bomb bring down jet? (UK Daily Express, 06/17/09)

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/107390/Did-electronic-pulse-bomb-down-jet->

CRASH investigators are trying to discover whether terrorists used an electronic bomb to bring down the Air France jet, killing 228 people. Al Qaeda has been working on a device which knocks out the sophisticated electronics on passenger jets with an electromagnetic pulse. It can be as small as an orange but needs a small explosive to be detonated. The device sends a high-powered pulse through electronic equipment strong enough to overpower an aircraft's cockpit and black box, making them impossible to trace because they will not emit a signal.

Opinion: Gates's pre-summit ploy (The Moscow Times, 06/16/09)

<http://www.moscowtimes.ru/article/1016/42/378808.htm>

With three weeks remaining before the U.S.-Russia summit, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates caught analysts in both countries by surprise. Speaking before the Senate committee on June 9, Gates dropped a diplomatic bombshell. He claimed that Moscow has now admitted that the threat from Iran's missile program is near.

Missile defense reviews to focus on current, long-term challenges (American Forces Press Service, 06/16/09)

North Korea and Iran pose serious nuclear and missile proliferation concerns for the United States and other nations and will be major considerations in the U.S ballistic missile defense review, Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III told the Senate Armed Services Committee. Lynn joined other defense leaders in describing the ballistic missile threat and reviews of missile defense policy and planning under way to address current as well as long-term security challenges. The recently initiated Ballistic Missile Defense Review and other related reviews, he said, will focus on challenges posed by violent extremist movements, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, rising powers with sophisticated weapons and failed or failing threats, Lynn told the panel.

Press release: Airborne Laser completes first live tracking tests (Missile Defense Agency, 06/15/09)
<http://www.mda.mil/mdalink/pdf/09news0012.pdf>

The Missile Defense Agency announced that the prototype Airborne Laser aircraft successfully completed its first two tracking tests against boosting missile targets over the Pacific Ocean on June 6 and June 13, respectively. The first test came only seven weeks after the aircraft returned to flight, and follows nearly a year of aircraft and system modifications, including the installation of its megawatt-class chemical laser. These tests mark the first time ABL has demonstrated a complete low-power engagement sequence against a boosting target, in this case a ground-launched Terrier-Lynx missile. The missile was launched from San Nicolas Island, located in the Naval Air Warfare Center-Weapons Division Sea Range, off the central California coast.

Airborne Laser to be considered for smaller aircraft (NewsAdmin, 06/14/09)
<http://thecurrentaffairs.com/smaller-aircraft-tests-with-abl-eyed.html>

The high-powered laser, designed to destroy an attacking missile shortly after launch during the boost phase, currently flies on a modified Boeing 747-400 freighter. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has vetoed the idea of acquiring another 747, saying the existing equipment should first be used as a research and development platform to prove the capabilities of the large laser technology. "One thing I personally want to do and I know the engineering team has convinced themselves [of], is it can go on a smaller aircraft. So we're looking at that," Army Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly told a Capitol Hill breakfast seminar hosted by the National Defense University Foundation.

British lawmakers criticize U.S. missile shield plan (Reuters, 06/13/09)
<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/world/-/1068/610446/-/sxjqvq/-/>

A planned U.S. missile shield may not strengthen Europe's security and could hurt NATO's interests if deployed in the face of Russian opposition, British members of parliament have said. The United States says the anti-missile system is designed to prevent potential attacks from countries such as Iran, but the plan has outraged Moscow which sees it as a threat.

Czech defence minister: U.S. won't halt missile defense in East Europe (The Prague Monitor, 06/12/09)

<http://praguemonitor.com/2009/06/15/czech-defence-minister-usa-not-stop-anti-missile-project>
The U.S. will finish an analysis of the technological and financial aspects of the plans to build an anti-missile radar base in the Czech Republic by the end of the year and Prague does not expect the project to be halted, Defence Minister Martin Bartak told journalists after meeting his U.S. counterpart Robert Gates. The new administration of U.S. President Barack Obama has launched a thorough analysis of the plans within which the radar base is to be built in the Czech Republic and ten interceptor missiles are to be stationed in Poland.

Pentagon warns of North Korean missile threat to Hawaii, Alaska (Honolulu Advertiser, 06/11/09)
http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20090616/BREAKING/90616016/-1/RSS01?source=rss_breaking

North Korea could produce missiles capable of reaching Hawaii or Alaska in as few as three years if the reclusive rogue nation continues to ramp up its weapons system, Pentagon officials said. At a Senate hearing on missile defense, Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn pointed to Pyongyang's

recent steps to accelerate its long-range weapons program and agreed with Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., that the U.S. should be prepared for a "worst-case scenario" with North Korea. Lynn did not immediately know how long it would take North Korea to build a powerful enough missile to hit Hawaii or Alaska. But Gen. James Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it would take at least three to five years for North Korea to pose a real threat to the west coast of the United States.

Iran, North Korea are working together on ballistic missile capability (Reuters India, 06/11/09)

<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-40259020090611>

Iran and North Korea have worked together and made significant progress on ballistic missiles that could carry deadly warheads, the head of the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency said. "It really is an international effort going on out there to develop ballistic missile capability between these countries," Army Lieutenant General Patrick O'Reilly told a forum on Capitol Hill. They represent the most pronounced example of a kind of international "coalition" sharing know-how on avionics, propulsion and materials among other things, O'Reilly said.

Energy/Transportation Security/Infrastructure

Opinion: A threat in every port (The New York Times, 06/14/09)

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/15/opinion/15wein.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&ref=opinion&adxnnlx=1245265271-DaYFXaJwoCwSFn02KF4ySA

While President Obama's future vision of "a world with no nuclear weapons" is certainly laudable, for the present America still needs to do everything it can to prevent a terrorist from detonating such a bomb on our soil. The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, part of the Department of Homeland Security, is in charge of developing a worldwide nuclear-detection system that, primarily, would use technology to monitor vehicles and shipping containers along the various transportation networks by which nuclear weapons could be smuggled into America. Yet the Government Accountability Office found last year that the detection office "lacks an overarching strategic plan," despite the \$2.8 billion a year spent on the initiative.

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](mailto:jeremy@instituteofthenorth.com) 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](#).

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To view past and current issues of the Vanguard newsletter online, please visit:
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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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