



VANGUARD

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY FOR STATE & LOCAL POLICYMAKERS

01 July 2009

Volume 2 · Issue 29

Alaska Legislature receives threat briefing on North Korea

By Mead Treadwell and Jeremy Thompson, editors

A June 25 hearing convened by the Alaska Legislature's Joint Armed Services Committee focused on the continuing efforts of North Korea to develop nuclear weapons and the missile systems to deliver them, coincident with U.S. plans to scale back land-based missile defenses.

Dr. Michael Green, Japan Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington and a former senior director for Asian affairs at the National Security Council, told legislators by videoconference that North Korea's intent is clear: to have both a nuclear capability and a missile system that can reach the western United States. North Korea is expected to test missiles in the Pacific again in early July.

Green said that having missile defenses, both the land-based system in Alaska as well as the sea-based Aegis system in the Pacific, is important to respond to the threat. He stressed the importance of cooperation with Japan, which has its own sea-based missile defenses. He praised Alaska's legislators for their long-time communication with Japanese counterparts on this issue.

Mead Treadwell, Senior Fellow at the Institute of the North, addressed the \$1.2 billion budget cut for missile defense that was proposed this year by the Obama Administration, and that Alaska's congressional delegation is working to restore.

"Alaska has been a strong supporter of missile defense for the defense effects it would have on the country, not for the jobs effect it would have on Alaska," Treadwell said.

Cuts proposed for missile defense would reduce the number of active silos in Alaska and California from 44 to 30. Funding for the so-called "third site" in Poland, with radars in the Czech Republic, was cut to about a quarter of what is needed for the project. Other cuts focused on research and development and experimentation to strengthen a layered system, including the airborne laser, which promises to be an effective boost phase system.

Treadwell urged legislators to re-send three resolutions the Committee had passed in recent years, calling for a layered (land, sea, air, space) missile defense system to policy makers who have recently taken office in Washington, DC. Resending the 2008 resolutions urging stronger federal-state

cooperation in planning for an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack against the United States would be especially timely in Washington, Treadwell reported, given the fact that the Department of Homeland Security has new leadership.

Legislators and others attending the hearing watched a new film about missile defense, *33 Minutes*. The Alaska Joint Armed Services Committee is co-chaired by Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom (R-Eagle River) and Sen. Bill Wielechowski (D-Anchorage).

Ambassador from Czech Republic says missile defense is 'more human' alternative to striking back

Effective missile defense can be a moral alternative to retaliation, according to Ambassador Petr Kolář of the Czech Republic. Speaking at the June 29 World Affairs Council in Anchorage, Ambassador Kolář expressed support for the missile defense shield for Eastern Europe.

The ambassador told the editors of the *Vanguard* that he cannot actively lobby for the U.S. Congress to move ahead with the shield. Only one legislative body has ratified the project in his own country so far, but he personally supports missile defense.

"I personally support this project very much, because it is definitely better and more human to have a deterrent like that, to have a defensive system like that, than to only have an offensive instrument to strike back if we are attacked," the ambassador said. "This system is really for deterrence."

When discussing the best response to a missile attack from Iran, he said, "It is better to kill the missile than to kill innocent people" such as the victims of a retaliatory strike. "Now, we only have the possibility to strike back. If we build this missile defense shield together, Americans and Europeans, radar in the Czech Republic and interceptors in Poland, we can afterwards say, yes, we did something for our future, for our kids, and if we are attacked, we can have a clean conscience, because we will not kill innocent people. We will only shoot down the missiles" fired at our cities.

The ambassador was interviewed in the film *33 Minutes*, a documentary where he also expressed the need for missile defense. *Related link:* [33 Minutes website](#).

Audio from IWG roundtable available online

The Independent Working Group (IWG) on Missile Defense convened a one-day roundtable discussion in Washington, D.C. on June 23, 2009 to highlight their 2009 report. In addition to IWG members, the discussion featured remarks by Sen. Jon Kyl, Senate Minority Whip; Con. Trent Franks, Committee on Armed Services; Con. Todd Tiahrt, Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense; Con. Doug Lamborn, Committee on Armed Services, and co-chair, Congressional Missile Defense Caucus; and William Forstchen, author of *One Second After*, a New York Times best-selling

novel on the devastating effects of an EMP attack. Craig Campbell, Adjutant General of Alaska, gave a presentation on role Alaska plays in missile defense. *Link: [2009 IWG report, Missile Defense, the Space Relationship, and the Twenty-first Century](#); Audio: [Emerging threats and homeland security: The role of missile defense](#).*

From the Wires this Week

Emergency Management/Homeland Security

Agencies clash on military's border role (Washington Post, 06/28/09)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/27/AR2009062700956.html?hpid=topnews>

A proposal to send National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to counter drug trafficking has triggered a bureaucratic standoff between the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security over the military's role in domestic affairs, according to officials in both departments. The debate has engaged a pair of powerful personalities, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, in what their subordinates describe as a turf fight over which agency should direct the use of troops to assist in the fight against Mexican cartels and which one should pay for them.

U.S. House cuts out funding for Kansas biosecurity lab (Associated Press, 06/27/09)

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/story/1293334.html>

Construction of a massive lab in Kansas for research on foot-and-mouth and other diseases could slow down following a House decision to withhold money to build the facility. The House passed a 2010 homeland security spending bill that did not include the first \$36 million to begin building the National Bio- and Agro-Defense lab. Kansas has committed \$110 million to building the lab.

Blog: An attempt to track all-hazards (Homeland Security Watch, 06/27/09)

<http://www.hlswatch.com/2009/06/27/trying-to-track-the-scope-of-risk-recent-homeland-security-headlines/>

Philip Palin at the Homeland Security Watch blog raises the question of how comprehensive an all-hazards framework can be: "I find it challenging to consistently track all-hazards (or, what I think is a better framework, "all-risks"). My own interests and expertise push forward specific concerns. The unfolding events of each day push forward other concerns. I am most often surprised by those risks that fall in-between. I don't so much mind making a conscious choice and losing the bet. Being surprised is a bigger problem."

Communications and Information Security

Boeing to staff Seattle, Washington fusion center (National Terror Alert, 06/27/09)

<http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2009/06/27/boeing-to-staff-seattle-fbi-fusion-center/>

To advance information sharing against terrorism, Boeing Co. expects to be among the first major corporations, maybe the first, to assign its own analyst to the Seattle FBI Fusion Center intelligence sharing office, according to a senior Boeing official. The center is one of dozens around the country created by state and local governments to share anti-terrorism intelligence. Boeing wants to set an example of how private owners of critical infrastructure can get involved in such centers to generate and receive criminal and anti-terrorism intelligence, said Richard Hovel, Boeing senior advisor on aviation and homeland security.

Al-Qaeda planning cyber attack on Britain (U.K. Telegraph, 06/25/09)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/politics/lawandorder/5634022/Al-Qaeda-planning-cyber-war-against-Britain-warns-Lord-West.html>

Al-Qaeda is intent on using the internet to launch a cyber-warfare campaign against Britain, Lord West, the Security Minister, has warned. Terrorist groups, which already use the internet for recruitment, propaganda and communication purposes, want to turn it into a dangerous weapon, he said. Lord West issued the warning as he published the Government's new Cyber Security Strategy aimed at heading off online threats.

House backs biometrics in DHS 2010 spending bill (Federal Computer Week, 06/25/09)

<http://fcw.com/Articles/2009/06/25/House-backs-biometrics-in-DHS-2010-spending-bill.aspx>

The Homeland Security Department spending bill approved by the House would give a boost to the department's largest biometric program, but would not fund for a biometric land exit solution. Currently, the fingerprints of visitors to the United States are checked when the visitors enter the country but not when they exit. Congress has been asking for several years for DHS to provide an exit solution at the land and air borders, but the department has maintained that implementing a land exit solution is not feasible.

Twitter: some lessons from Iran (Government Technology, 06/23/09)

<http://www.govtech.com/gt/697201>

Iran has been called the first electronic revolution; in fact it is the first social media revolution in the making. Social media has moved from being simple entertainment for kids on MySpace or Facebook to a new way of communicating and relating to the people next door and around the world. There are some specific lessons to be learned from the Iranian experience that apply to emergency management and disasters.

Missile Defense/Satellite Technology/EMP

U.S. sanctions North Korean firms facilitating weapons proliferation (Wall Street Journal, 07/01/09)

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124637867523774057.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

The Obama administration sanctioned two North Korea-linked firms it said have facilitated weapons proliferation, while U.S. officials said a North Korean cargo ship suspected of carrying arms to Myanmar's military regime has changed course. The sanctions initiate a new phase of what the administration intends to be broad financial pressure, from Washington and through the United Nations, on Pyongyang's arms industry, following recent North Korean nuclear and missile tests.

Opinion: Understanding Russia's opposition to missile defense (The Moscow Times, 07/01/09)

<http://www.moscowtimes.ru/article/1016/42/379202.htm>

For those wondering why missile defense matters so much to the Russian leadership, take a look at the recent version of the country's national security strategy. The document approved by Medvedev in May states that the existential threat to Russia's national security comes from the United States gaining a first-strike capability through the development of a global missile shield. When Russian officials refer to the planned sites in Poland and the Czech Republic, they usually refer to them as the "third position" (after Alaska and California), thus suggesting the global nature of the network.

Opinion: Learning to love missile defense (New York Post, 07/01/09)

http://www.nypost.com/seven/07012009/postopinion/opedcolumnists/learning_to_love_missile_defense_176944.htm

The Obama administration is reacting to the anticipated launch of another North Korean long-range ballistic missile, expected to fly over the Pacific toward Hawaii sometime soon, by putting missile defense on alert. That's a big change from last time. Back in April, in advance of North Korea's last missile test, the administration pretty much pooh-poohed the threat posed by the Taepo Dong launch, characterizing Pyongyang's saber-rattling as bluster.

Nuclear arms reduction held back by missile defense (Associated Press, 07/01/09)

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5joyt2yQAg5FcRwHi_T2dXgmfGDoQD995LLSO0

Talks to reduce nuclear arms have been stalled by U.S. plans for missile defense in Europe. Former U.S. President George W. Bush pushed the project, but Obama has put it on hold until he's convinced it is cost-effective. Russia wants the U.S. anti-missile system to be scrapped altogether, saying it could pose a threat to the strategic nuclear balance if START is expanded. The U.S. insists that the missile shield is aimed at potential threats from Iran, but Moscow fears it would give the U.S. the capability to launch a nuclear strike against Russia without fear of retaliation. The fewer missiles Russia has, they point out, the easier it would be for any anti-missile system to intercept them.

Japan a low-key player in space race (The Japan Times, 06/30/09)

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090630i1.html>

Japan has launched Earth observation, communications and weather satellites as well as other space vehicles since it began its space program in the late 1960s. The program initially fell under the authority of the National Space Development Agency but is now under NASDA's successor, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA. Koichi Wakata has been aboard the International Space Station since March, becoming the first Japanese astronaut to live in space for an extended period. JAXA has six other astronauts, including two women, and two candidates who were selected in February and started training in April. Despite the recession, the government budgeted ¥344.8 billion for space exploration in fiscal 2009, an increase of 10.4 percent from the previous year. Despite such ambitious outlays, Japan lags behind other nations in space. The article addresses questions regarding Japan's space endeavors.

U.S. House defense authorization bill gets mixed reviews from members (American Chronicle, 06/30/09)

<http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/view/108269>

The House of Representatives recently passed the defense authorization bill of more than \$550 billion. While the members interviewed in the article expressed a positive attitude about the authorization overall, a recurring regret that was mentioned was the cuts to missile defense.

Rejecting missile defense, Russia hopes for arms reduction deal (RIA Novosti, 06/30/09)

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090630/155391807.html>

Moscow hopes progress will be made during the U.S. president's visit July 6-8, both on missile defense and strategic arms cuts, the Russian foreign minister has said. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates suggested that Russian facilities could be part of the missile defense system, but Moscow has rejected this idea, saying there could be no partnership "in building facilities that are essentially designed to counter Russia's strategic deterrence forces." Meanwhile, Russia and the U.S. are involved in talks on a new strategic arms reduction deal to replace the START I treaty, which expires in December.

North Korea trying to enrich uranium, South Korea says (Reuters, 06/30/09)

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090630/ts_nm/us_korea_north

North Korea appears to be enriching uranium, potentially giving the state that has twice tested a plutonium-based nuclear device another path to making atomic weapons, South Korea's defense minister said. "It is clear that they are moving forward with it," Defense Minister Lee Sang-hee told a parliamentary hearing, adding such a program was far easier to hide than the North's current plutonium-based activities. North Korea earlier this month responded to U.N. punishment for its most recent nuclear test in May by saying it would start enriching uranium for a light-water reactor.

U.S. Air Force tests ballistic missile from California Coast (Associated Press, 06/29/09)

<http://www.cbs8.com/Global/story.asp?S=10610182>

The Air Force has successfully launched an unarmed Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile from the California coast to an area in the Pacific Ocean some 4,200 miles away. Lt. Raymond Geoffroy says the ICBM was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base and carried three unarmed re-entry vehicles to their targets near the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

Introduced bill to bring back funding for midcourse missile defense (Anchorage Daily News, 06/29/09)

<http://www.adn.com/news/military/story/845822.html>

Plans by the Defense Department to abandon construction of a third field of 14 missile silos at Fort Greely would be reversed under a bill approved by the Senate Armed Services Committee, according to U.S. Sen. Mark Begich. The bill is the first sign that Alaska's elected officials have been able to alter at least a part of the administration's efforts to scale back some missile defense programs while boosting others.

Poland mulls Moscow deal on U.S. missiles (UPI, 06/29/09)

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/06/29/Poland-mulls-Moscow-deal-on-US-missiles/UPI-74891246285338/

Poland could accept a compromise with Moscow to involve Russian radar systems in a U.S. missile defense project in central Europe, officials said. Admiral Michael Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff is visiting Warsaw to discuss with Polish leaders the long-standing plan to build a 10-interceptor missile base in Poland and its radar site in neighboring Czech Republic as a defense shield in Central Europe, Polish Radio said.

North Korea says U.S. missile defense deployment to Hawaii is a plot to attack (Associated Press, 06/28/09)

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jun/28/koreas-nuclear-062809/>

North Korea criticized the U.S. for positioning missile defense systems around Hawaii, calling the deployment part of a plot to attack the regime and saying it would bolster its nuclear arsenal in retaliation. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said he ordered the deployment of a ground-based, mobile missile intercept system and radar system to Hawaii amid concerns the North may fire a long-range missile toward the islands, about 4,500 miles away. "Through the U.S. forces' clamorous movements, it has been brought to light that the U.S. attempt to launch a pre-emptive strike on our republic has become a brutal fact," the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary. The North routinely accuses the U.S. of plotting to invade the North.

Israeli airliners to get missile defense (Aviation Week, 06/26/09)

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aviationdaily&id=news/ISRAEL062609.xml&headline=Israeli%20Airliners%20To%20Get%20Missile%20Defense

Israeli airliners are to be equipped with laser anti-missile defenses, after the Ministry of Transportation awarded Elbit Systems a \$76 million contract to supply C-Music directed infrared countermeasures (Dircm) systems. A countermeasures system dispensing decoy flares was fitted on commercial Israeli airliners following the attempt to shoot down an Arkia Boeing 757 at Mombasa, Kenya, in 2002. The laser system, which jams infrared seekers, is more effective against newer surface-to-air missiles.

South Korea to step up defense against nuclear-generated electromagnetic threats (Yonhap News Agency, 06/24/09)

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2009/06/24/51/0301000000AEN20090624002700315F.HTM>

South Korea plans to step up its defenses against the threat of an electromagnetic pulse (EMP), which could paralyze its high-tech weapons systems in the event of a nuclear blast, a source said. The plan, part of a defense reform plan subject to presidential approval this week, comes amid high tension on the Korean Peninsula after North Korea detonated a nuclear device on May 25 for the second time.

China acknowledges concern on North Korea (Global Security Newswire, 06/24/09)

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090624_4084.php

China acknowledged that North Korea's persistence in developing nuclear arms is a matter of "serious concern," but reaffirmed its position that the issue would be best addressed through diplomacy,

Reuters reported. China also urged the United States and its allies not to be overzealous when enforcing the U.N. trade sanctions against Pyongyang, Kyodo News reported.

How M.A.D. is Kim Jong Il? (DefenseTech.org, 06/23/09)

<http://www.defensetech.org/archives/004900.html>

In understanding Kim II's real motives behind these dramatic weapon tests, we need to remember that he wants what he wants, not what we think he wants or ought to want. To fail to focus on the infamously enigmatic Kim solely from his own perspective is to commit "mirroring" -- always a mistake in modern geopolitics.

Energy/Transportation Security/Infrastructure

Air security better post 9/11, but vigilance needed (Reuters, 06/30/09)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE55T5VT20090630>

Most but not all of the 19 September 11 attackers would have been picked up beforehand if today's air travel security had been in place, so vigilance is still needed, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said. "We think that with many of the rules on travel and screening that have been put into places since 9/11, all but four of the 9/11 attackers would have been picked up," Napolitano, on a tour of Europe and the Gulf, told reporters.

Georgia, South Carolina, Florida utilities push ahead with nuclear power plants (Reuters, 06/23/09)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN23671720090623>

Lawmakers and regulators in the Southeastern United States who have given the green light for the first wave of new nuclear reactor construction in three decades expressed confidence that the new plants will offer the cheapest, most reliable power in the future. Utilities in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida have proposed building a dozen new reactors costing more than \$60 billion. Legislators and regulators are encouraging those plans by allowing companies to collect certain financing costs before nuclear licenses are issued and construction can begin. *Related editorial: [The new nuclear revolution](#).*

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>

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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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