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Administration officials testify on missile defense cuts

By Jeremy Thompson, coeditor

Last month, the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee met to hear from Pentagon and military officials about the scrapping of ground-based midcourse defense (GMD) interceptors in Eastern Europe. Though the system was looked on favorably by Poland and the Czech Republic ([Ambassador from Czech Republic says missile defense a 'more human' alternative to striking back-Vanguard 2-29](#)), the Obama administration decided to not move ahead with the system, instead opting for sea-based and ground-based theater systems. A previous issue of the Vanguard talked about how the defense budget for this year made such a move likely to happen ([Obama's missile defense cuts puts U.S. back to theater missile mode-Vanguard 2-29](#)).

Michele Flournoy, speaking for the administration, testified that the reason for the shift was threefold: the theater systems could be deployed sooner (2011) than the GMD systems (2017); the theater systems are flexible and adaptable to emerging threats; a different intelligence picture.

“The intelligence community now assesses that the threat from Iran’s short and medium range missiles is developing more rapidly than previously projected, while the threat of potential intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) has been somewhat slower to develop than previously estimated,” according to Flournoy.

Citing the possibility that the intelligence could be wrong, Flournoy said the protection would be provided by Fort Greely. “We will still have 30 GBIs deployed in the United States by the end of 2010, which will provide the United States with a sufficient capability to deal with any Iranian ICBM threat for many years to come,” she said.

But a [map](#) that was mentioned several times throughout the hearing indicated that shooting down a missile fired at states on the east coast is less likely than a missile coming from the west. Sen. Collins from Maine said that until she saw the map, given to her by Sen. Inhofe, she assumed that the Eastern European “third site” was only for protecting Europe, not the United State homeland.

“It was never clear to me that the third site was primarily intended to strengthen the protection of the United States,” Collins said. “I was under the impression that the two sites in California and Alaska were adequate to provide protection to the entire continental United States from an ICBM attack launched by either the Iranians or Koreans. But I must say, that the map given to me this

morning by Senator Inhofe does cause me to question the assumption under which I was operating and the lens through which I was viewing this new strategy, because as he (Inhofe) has pointed out, [the protection] just barely covers most of my state of Maine.”

General O’Reilly, speaking for the administration, disputed that claim. “Our analysis indicates we do have coverage,” but he said that he would have to take a closer look at the analysis the map was indicating.

General Cartwright, also speaking for the administration, reiterated what O’Reilly had said, but didn’t see it as a problem because of the flexibility of the theater systems.

“As we move forward...on the development, those ships certainly can protect our deployed forces and allies overseas; they can also come home. And they live here. And they can be moved to areas that we think have some increased vulnerability in the future for which we don’t know why today, but could emerge,” according to Cartwright.

However, Gen. Cartwright did not address the long-range threats that already exist. Given that an ICBM takes a mere 30 minutes to cross the globe, it’s uncertain how the adaptability of theater systems could alleviate the concerns raised by Sen. Collins.

The administration’s strategy also relies heavily on the quality of intelligence. The administration officials that testified admitted this more than once. However, as a previous issue of the Vanguard highlighted, there may be fundamental problems with the way we gather intelligence, and gaps in intelligence about Iran certainly exist ([What do we know about Iran?-Vanguard 2-42](#)).

A feeling that was expressed by many of the members was the way in which the White House had made its decision and had informed Poland and the Czech Republic that the GMD systems would not be moving forward. Former presidential candidate and ranking minority member of the committee, Sen. John McCain called it “amateurish and ham-fisted.”

“Months of negotiations were dedicated toward reaching an agreement with the Poles and Czechs in 2008. But a late-night phone call was all it took to tell our friends to take a hike,” McCain said. “According to news reports, the Polish prime minister was called at midnight, only hours before the administration formally announced its new strategy.”

Related resources:

[Map distributed at hearing](#)

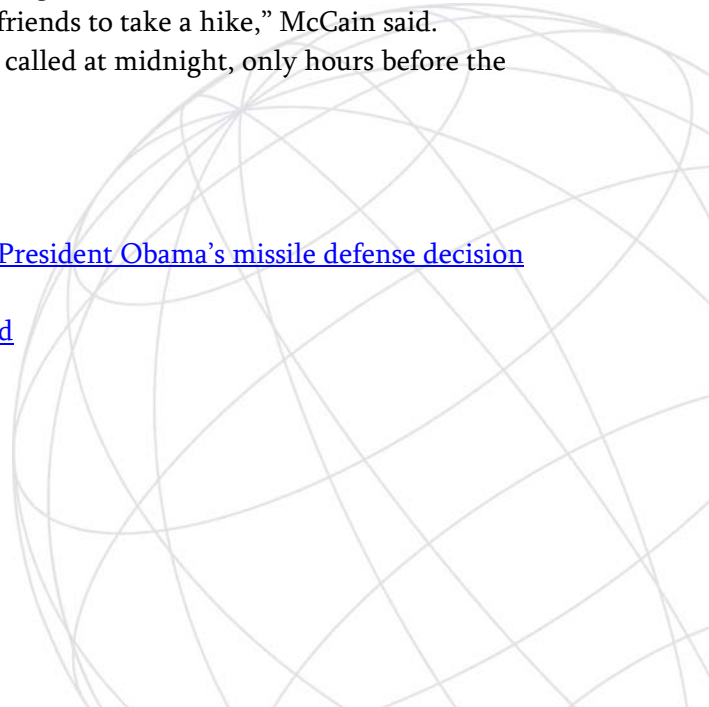
[Video: U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on President Obama’s missile defense decision](#)

[Lieberman, Sessions fight for missile defense funding](#)

[Kremlin: missile defense proposals to Washington still valid](#)

[New missile plan serves same objectives, officials say](#)

[Pentagon sees U.S. defense in 2010 for Iran missiles](#)



From the Wires this Week

Emergency Management/Homeland Security

Video to teach Colorado citizens how to spot terrorist plots (9News, 10/05/09)

<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=124533&provider=top&catid=188>

A new video released Monday teaches Coloradans how to recognize eight signs of terrorism, including suspects testing security, acquiring supplies and rehearsing terrorism plots. The video was co-produced by the nonprofit Center for Empowered Living and Learning (the CELL) in Denver and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. They created it over the last four months using a \$30,000 federal grant.

Detained immigrants could be categorized by risk (Associated Press, 10/05/09)

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iJ1PY_yb1VD4P0wk54uwSN6JfeWQD9B5F3R00

Illegal immigrants awaiting deportation would be confined according to the risk they may pose under a new plan being proposed by the homeland security secretary. Former hotels, nursing homes and other sites would be used to hold nonviolent, non-criminal immigrants as part of a larger plan to reform immigration detention, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press. The alternative sites are intended to cut the costs of detaining immigrants, which reached nearly \$2 billion in 2008.

Top federal officials stress police cooperation (Associated Press, 10/05/09)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jv05JcJAedDAP6RsZo1Cd6dDum7AD9B577I00>

U.S. Attorney Eric Holder, FBI Director Robert Mueller, and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano stressed the importance of cooperation between federal and local law enforcement agencies to stop terrorism. They say the recent arrest of an imam in New York, and the arrest of Najibullah Zazi and his father in Colorado, illustrate the point.

Growth in security sales seen (Reuters, 10/05/09)

http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2009/10/05/business/business-uk-britain-usa.html?_r=1

British companies engaged in the emerging security market will likely expand exports in coming years, with total sales expected to parallel those in the defence sector, a top UK official said. Richard Paniguan, who oversees defence and security exports for the British trade and investment office, said sales in the security sector should reach the level of UK defence exports in the next five, ten or fifteen years. Paniguan, in Washington for talks with U.S. officials and the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army, said he was pleased that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had developed open and transparent procedures for foreign companies interested in bidding for U.S. contracts.

New York City expands surveillance program (New York Daily News, 10/05/09)

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2009/10/05/2009-10-05_candid_camera_in_midtown_city_spending_24m_homeland_security_windfall_on_wideran.html

The Empire State Building, Grand Central Terminal and the United Nations will be surrounded with cameras, license-plate readers and chemical-weapons detectors under the new plan to go in effect by 2011. The eye-in-the-sky security gadgets that police now use to scan lower Manhattan will also be used in midtown, thanks to \$24 million in federal Homeland Security funds.

DHS task force seeks weaker patrol model (Center for Immigration Studies, 10/02/09)

<http://cis.org/feere/weaker287g>

In June, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced the formation of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) Southwest Border Task Force. Specifically, Napolitano asked the 20-member group of "law enforcement, elected officials and national security experts" to focus on two challenges: (1) ensuring rigorous inspections processes at ports of entry while facilitating commerce, and (2) assessing the practical consequences of border violence and DHS's response to communities along the Southwest border.

FBI, homeland security directors say anti-terrorism measures working (The Dallas Morning News, 10/01/09)

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/nation/stories/DN-smadi_01met.ART0.Central.Edition1.4c32d3d.html

Less than a week after a Jordanian man was accused of trying to blow up a skyscraper in downtown Dallas, the heads of the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security told a Senate committee that the country's anti-terrorism measures are working and becoming more sophisticated. *Related article: [Homegrown terrorists a concern, agencies say.](#)*

South Carolina port security moving to DHS (Associated Press, 10/01/09)

<http://www.thesunnews.com/575/story/1095847.html>

A port security effort in South Carolina is being absorbed by the Department of Homeland Security. The federal Department of Justice was the lead agency on Project Seahawk when it was created. But the U.S. Coast Guard says it's taking over the day-to-day operations. During a July visit to the headquarters at the old Charleston Navy base, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said Seahawk is vital to waging the war on terrorism and a model for ports around the nation.

Border task force urges more customs inspectors (Associated Press, 09/30/09)

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6645591.html>

The federal government should hire more Customs officers and increase the scrutiny of outbound traffic at the U.S.-Mexico border, according to recommendations presented by a border task force created by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

Communications and Information Security

DHS to hire 1000 cybersecurity experts (Associated Press, 10/01/09)

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091001/ap_on_go_ca_st_pe/us_cyber_hires

The Obama administration has given a green light to the Homeland Security Department to be more competitive and choosy as it hires up to 1,000 new cyber experts over the next three years, the first major personnel move to fulfill its vow to bolster security of the nation's computer networks. The announcement follows a wave of cyber attacks on federal agencies, including a July assault that knocked government Web sites off the Internet and earlier intrusions into the country's electrical grid.

Missile Defense/Satellite Technology/EMP

U.S. still eyeing Russian radars for missile defense (Global Security Newswire, 10/06/09)

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20091006_1430.php

The United States has not dismissed an offer to use two Russian radars for missile defense, a senior Defense Department official said in a recent interview with Interfax. Then-Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2007 suggested using radars in southern Russia and Azerbaijan in hopes of persuading the Bush administration to give up plans to deploy missile interceptors in Poland and a radar installation in the Czech Republic. Washington did not bite at the time, arguing that its allies' sites were needed to counter Iran's growing long-range missile capabilities.

North Korea's nuclear facilities nearly restored (Associated Press, 10/06/09)

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/world/stories/DN-nkorea_06int.ART.State.Edition1.4bfca0e.html

North Korea is in the final stage of restoring its nuclear facilities, according to Seoul's Yonhap news agency. Yonhap cited an unidentified South Korean official as saying that authorities in Seoul and Washington reached the conclusion after scrutinizing atomic facilities in North Korea, which vowed in April to restart its nuclear facilities.

Russia launches new Mideast arms push (UPI, 10/05/09)

http://www.upi.com/Security_Industry/2009/10/05/Russia-launches-new-Mideast-arms-push/UPI-14221254768943/

Russia's state arms exporter is launching a big drive at the Tripoli air show to sell combat jets, missiles and air-defense systems to Middle Eastern states, including the state-of-the-art S-400 Triumph surface-to-air missile that Iran and Syria desperately want to acquire.

Does Russia get it? (The Washington Post, 10/04/09)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/02/AR2009100204951.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

For more than a decade, U.S. officials have been patiently explaining to the Russians that their interests are the same as ours in preventing Iran from building nuclear weapons. For just as long, U.S. officials have been telling themselves that the Russians are starting to get it. Maybe this time it will turn out to be true. So far, however, the actions of Russia's leaders have suggested that they don't see things exactly as Americans believe they should. So it might be worth entertaining other theories

about Moscow's logic. It might be, for example, that Russia understands the value of keeping Iran nuclear-free, but values even more the fruits of its commercial and military trade with Iran.

Navy approaches industry for ideas on how to counter directed pulse weapons (Military and Aerospace Electronics, 10/01/09)

http://mae.pennnet.com/display_article/369617/32/ARTCL/none/EXECW/1/Navy-approaches-industry-for-ideas-on-how-to-counter-directed-energy-weapons/

The U.S. Office of Naval Research is interested in receiving research proposals on the best technologies for Counter Directed Energy Weapons to protect Navy and Marine Corps ships, submarines, aircraft, and other weapons from directed-energy weapons such as high energy laser technology, non-lethal weapons like laser "dazzlers," high power microwave transmitters, particle beam technology, or pulsed high power electromagnetic systems.

The space security implications of missile defense (The Space Review, 09/28/09)

<http://www.thespacereview.com/article/1474/1#idc-container>

One major issue that is not being talked about in regard to [the shift to theater systems] is the implications it has for space security. Space security has many definitions. In the U.S., it is commonly defined as protecting space assets and capabilities. In Europe, most would define it as using space capabilities to enable human security on Earth. More broadly, it can also be defined as protecting the long-term sustainability of and access to the space environment for continued socioeconomic benefits.

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@institutenorth.org) 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](mailto:jeremy@institutenorth.org). 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 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.
The Institute of the North · 509 West Third Avenue, Suite 107 · Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907.771.2446 · Fax: 907.771.2466

