



VANGUARD

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY FOR STATE & LOCAL POLICYMAKERS

4 February 2010

Volume 3 • Issue 6

Look what the arms bazaar offers now: missile launches from a shipping container!

By Mead Treadwell, Security and Defense Program, Institute of the North

A YouTube web link making the rounds 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, gives truth to a chilling concern we've discussed in these columns before: the possibility that missiles can be fired from a shipping container disguised as trade goods approaching our shores.

Thanks go to former Ambassador Hank Cooper, who oversaw both arms control and missile defense development during the 1980's and early 1990's, for the heads-up.

Check out the Russian firm's site and the YouTube video for the "Club-K Container Missile System" at http://www.morinsys.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=189%. Don't miss the last minute of the six-minute video, as an innocuous container - one which normally carries benign goods, like clothing or food or medical supplies - opens up to reveal a missile battery. Then see this container on a truck, a train, a ship. Imagine a state or non-state actor, with hands on a scud-missile, deciding to attack the U.S., a friend or ally from a platform with "no return address." Imagine a warhead - perhaps conventional, perhaps a nuclear "dirty bomb," perhaps a small nuclear device. Consider the devastation - either on the ground from an attack with little warning; or high in the atmosphere with the capability of electro-magnetic pulse (EMP), to shut down a nation's electric, telecom and transportation capability.

Not fun to imagine, but necessary. And when it is imagined, the value of a rapid, flexible missile defense is understood. Building and maintaining an effective defense against this threat requires an integrated ground, sea, air and space based shield - radars, interceptors, intelligence. It requires an understanding that North Korea and Iran, still actively building their attack capabilities, can themselves support a surrogate activity that brings a launcher closer to our shores. It requires a consideration of large enough, effective enough long-range shields and short range shields. And it requires dusting off the work of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse, and helping the states and the federal government prepare for a contingency where mass communication and mutual aid are far more difficult than any disaster the U.S. has faced before.

Enjoy the movie, and remember that forewarned is not forearmed unless action is taken!

News Highlights: Quadrennial Defense Review and the States

The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) is a legislatively-mandated review of Department of Defense strategy and priorities. The QDR will set a long-term course for DoD as it assesses the threats and challenges that the nation faces and re-balances DoD's strategies, capabilities, and forces to address today's conflicts and tomorrow's threats. *Link to report at the Department of Defense website:* <http://www.defense.gov/qdr/>

Editorial: The defense budget (The New York Times, 02/04/10)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/04/opinion/04thur1.html?th&emc=th>

The Quadrennial Defense Review, released this week, finally catches up with the current world, one where the United States confronts a host of different adversaries on a variety of different battlefields. The review and the accompanying 2011 defense budget request still fall short, particularly in their failure to address the security-related consequences of a world of deficits as far as the eye can see. This Pentagon budget, like President Obama's last one, makes some tough choices - but not enough.

Defense review foresees long-term role for National Guard (National Guard Bureau, 02/03/10)

<http://www.ng.mil/news/archives/2010/02/020110-Role.aspx>

A National Guard that has been vital to national defense for the past eight years will remain an operational force, according to the Department of Defense's 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review. "Preventing and deterring conflict will likely necessitate the continued use of some elements of the Reserve Component ... in an operational capacity well into the future," the QDR states. It outlines a plan to draw on existing National Guard forces to build a homeland response force in each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency regions. HRFs would provide a regional response capability, focus on planning, training and exercises and forge links between federal state and local authorities.

Defense chief continues push to 'rebalance' U.S. military forces (Government Executive, 02/02/10)

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0210/020210cdam2.htm>

A major factor in shaping the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review was the realization that the complexity of the current security environment and the uncertainty of future threats requires the nation to have "a broad portfolio of military capabilities with maximum versatility across the widest possible spectrum of conflicts," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said in a Pentagon briefing. For that reason, the QDR and the fiscal 2011 defense budget would continue the efforts the secretary started last year, to rebalance the military's forces and programs to meet the current threats and to reform the way the Defense Department does business, Michelle Flournoy, the undersecretary of defense for policy, said later. "If the QDR has a bumper sticker it would be 'Rebalance and Reform.'"

The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review: An initial assessment (Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, 02/01/10)

http://www.csbaonline.org/4Publications/PubLibrary/B.20100201.The_2010_QDR_An_In/B.20100201.The_2010_QDR_An_In.pdf

In a backgrounder review of the QDR, authors Mark Gunzinger and Jim Thomas of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments conclude that, in general, the QDR correctly identifies the major security challenges likely to confront the United States in the foreseeable future. Despite the adoption of a new force sizing construct, however, the QDR does not propose major force structure readjustments, nor does it significantly alter the allocation of resources away from legacy programs toward the QDR's priority mission areas unrelated to current wars. Consequently, the preexisting strategy-program mismatch will persist beyond the QDR, predict the authors.

From the Wires this Week

Ongoing National Guard efforts in Haiti

[Wisconsin National Guard to help Haiti](#) (Chicago Tribune, 02/04/10)

[Kansas Air Guard members build hospital in Haiti](#) (U.S. Department of Defense, 02/03/10)

[Alaska Guard group heads to Haiti](#) (KTUU, 01/29/10)

[Md. National Guard brings aid to Haiti](#) (WJZ, 01/28/10)

Emergency Management

Commentary: Recent events reinforce the need for emergency preparedness (The Huffington Post, 02/03/10)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bill-whitmore/recent-events-reinforce-t_b_447444.html

For security professionals, emergency preparedness training is critical in high profile emergencies and localized situations including civil disturbances, medical emergencies, hazardous material release and power failures. A well-developed and practiced plan executed by trained security personnel can minimize the impact of an emergency. A good plan includes prevention, detection, notification, evacuation and relocation procedures.

Georgia bill would pave way for outside medical aid during major event (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 02/03/10)

http://blogs.ajc.com/gold-dome-live/2010/02/03/senate-bill-would-pave-way-for-outside-medical-aid-during-major-castrophe/?cxntfid=blogs_gold_dome_live

The Georgia Senate approved SB 315, the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act, which would allow aid workers to temporarily come into Georgia and work during an emergency. At least 10 other states – including Louisiana – have passed versions of the bill.

Washington DC Metro plans terrorism drills on train, bus systems (The Washington Post, 02/02/10)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/01/AR2010020103592.html>

A Feb. 2 drill is a prelude to a series of much larger emergency exercises - the biggest ever in the Metro system - that will involve hundreds of officers from across the region responding to simulated explosions and gunmen in scenarios mirroring mass-casualty terrorist attacks on Madrid commuter trains in 2004, the London Underground in 2005 and in Mumbai in 2008, Metro officials said.

Florida 911 mapping system pinpoints cell phone callers (Government Technology, 02/02/10)

<http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/743461>

Escambia County, Fla., installed a new mapping system that pinpoints 911 calls originating from cell phones. With the new PlantCML system, a map pops up on the call taker's monitor and displays a red and yellow circle marking the caller's address or location. Previously call takers had to type in latitude and longitude coordinates on MapQuest or Google Maps. The graphics pinpoint the caller's location with a red and yellow circle as the operator maintains a conversation with the caller or dispatches a first responder. The deployment of the mapping software took place in November and December 2009 and has worked well. There's a question about how well it will pinpoint calls from some of the older cell phones, however. The mapping software deployment was part of three 911 projects, aided by three state grants.

Social media play part in Haiti's recovery efforts (USA TODAY, 02/01/10)

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2010-02-01-haiti-monitor-social-media_N.htm

The Homeland Security Department has joined the social-media movement and for the first time is reading Twitter posts, blogs and Internet forums to learn instantly about conditions in Haiti and send alerts to government agencies in the country. The department's Haiti Social Media Disaster Monitoring Initiative is designed to get information more quickly to people involved in recovery efforts by tracking up to 60 Internet sites including Google Blog Search, The Huffington Post and Twitter, according to a department report. *Related article: [U.S. first responder communications still a mess.](#)*

Homeland Security

Super Bowl security ready for anything (CBS News, 02/03/10)

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/02/03/eveningnews/main6171509.shtml>

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says there is no credible threat against the Super Bowl. But, it's an obvious target and the recent attempted bombing of Northwest Flight 253 is a warning that al Qaeda is intent on hitting the U.S. Days before the Super Bowl, training exercises have taken on added urgency as security forces prepare for a possible attack.

Intelligence officials say al-Qaeda will try to attack U.S. in next 6 months (The Washington Post, 02/03/10)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/02/AR2010020203975.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

The Obama administration's top intelligence officials, testifying before the Senate intelligence committee, described it as "certain" that al-Qaeda or its allies will try to attack the United States in the next six months, and they called for new flexibility in how U.S. officials detain and question terrorist suspects. The officials also warned of increased risk of cyber-attacks in the coming months, saying that the recent China-based hacking of Google's computers was both a "wake-up call" and a forerunner to future strikes aimed at businesses or intended to cause economic disruption. "Al-Qaeda maintains its intent to attack the homeland -- preferably with a large-scale operation that would cause mass casualties, harm the U.S. economy or both," Director of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair told the committee in a hearing convened to assess threats against the country.

Obama officials present a strategic redefining of Homeland Security's mission (The Washington Post, 02/02/10)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/01/AR2010020104087.html>

The Obama administration delivered to Congress the nation's first Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, defining homeland security for the first time as including hazards beyond terrorism, in a strategic document intended to drive long-term budget decisions. Congress mandated the high-level strategic review in 2007, two years after Hurricane Katrina exposed failings in the government's response and four years after the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. The initiative was modeled after the Quadrennial Defense Review, another congressionally mandated effort that directed the Defense Department to reset its strategies and budgets against evolving threats every four years.

New North Dakota Border Patrol station nears completion (Grand Forks Herald, 02/02/10)

<http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/149842/>

By the end of February, the big new building for the U.S. Border Patrol's Grand Forks station will be completed. The building will have the capacity to house 50 Border Patrol agents. "The new facility will enable Border Patrol agents to effectively prevent the entry of terrorists and their weapons of terrorism into the United States, while maintaining their traditional mission to detect, apprehend and prevent illegal aliens, narcotics and other contraband from crossing the border, as well as assisting local law enforcement agencies in the communities that we serve," federal officials said in a press release.

Washington D.C. police confront homeland security challenges (Signal Online, February 2010)

http://www.afcea.org/signal/articles/templates/Signal_Article_Template.asp?articleid=2199&zoneid=285

The Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., is accelerating its implementation and use of information technology to meet the terrorist threat that looms over the U.S. capital. This includes adapting everyday police technologies for homeland security and counterterrorism operations, and it also involves bringing in new capabilities from the civil and private sectors.

New teams connect dots of terror plots (The New York Times, 01/29/10)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/30/us/30intel.html>

The National Counterterrorism Center is creating new pursuit teams of specialists to pursue clues of emerging terrorist plots as part of a rapid buildup that will sharply increase its analyst corps, perhaps by hundreds of people over the next year, intelligence officials said. At the National Counterterrorism Center just outside Washington, specialists can draw on streams of information from more than 80 databases across the government. The new pursuit teams will be responsible for identifying threads of information and tracking and connecting them to other tips, said an intelligence official familiar with the center's new concept. *Link to GAO report: [Better Use of Terrorist Watchlist Information and Improvements in Deployment of Passenger Screening Checkpoint Technologies Could Further Strengthen Security.](#)*

Missile Defense/Satellite Technology/EMP

Romania 'to host U.S. missile shield' (BBC, 02/04/10)

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8498504.stm>

Romania has agreed to host missile interceptors as part of a new U.S. defense shield, its president says. President Traian Basescu said the plan was approved by the supreme defense council. It still needs parliamentary approval.

Obama budget seeks 13.4 percent increase for National Nuclear Security Administration (The Washington Post, 02/03/10)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/02/AR2010020203884.html>

President Obama's fiscal 2011 budget blueprint calls for an increase in funding of more than 13 percent for the agency that oversees the U.S. nuclear weapons complex, a greater percentage increase than for any other government agency. The request could help reduce opposition to a new strategic arms control treaty with Russia. Republicans have argued that the Obama administration will jeopardize national security if it agrees to cuts in the U.S. nuclear arsenal without modernizing the country's remaining weapons.

Missile Defense Agency requests bigger budget (U.S. Department of Defense, 02/02/10)

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=57824>

The Defense Department agency responsible for U.S. missile defense systems has requested \$8.4 billion for fiscal year 2011, an increase of about a half billion dollars. The request comes after an announcement last September that the United States would move away from a ground-based missile defense system to defend against Iranian and North Korean threats, to a sea-based platform. “The budget supports continuous emphasis on development, testing, fielding, sustainment,” David Altwegg, the executive director of the Missile Defense Agency, told Pentagon reporters. “We have shifted our emphasis from the ground-based defense against intercontinental ballistic missiles to the regional threat, short- and medium-range missiles, which comprise about 99 percent of the ballistic missile threat extant.” *Related article:* [Pentagon spending on major weapons programs](#).

Sweden and Poland push for nuclear arms cuts (The Local [Sweden], 02/02/10)

<http://www.thelocal.se/24740/20100202/>

Sweden and Poland's foreign ministers have joined forces in calling on the United States and Russia to sharply reduce their nuclear weapons arsenals in Europe. Sweden and Poland also pressed Moscow to withdraw its nuclear weapons from areas adjacent to EU member states. “While the strategic nuclear weapons are seen as a mutual threat by the United States and Russia, nations like ours - Sweden and Poland - could have stronger reason to be concerned with the large number of those tactical weapons,” Sweden's Carl Bildt and Poland's Radek Sikorski argue.

Radar problems foil missile defense test (CNN, 02/01/10)

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/02/01/missile.defense.test/?hpt=T2>

A U.S. missile defense test failed Jan. 30 when a long-range missile missed its target because of radar problems. The Defense Department said a target missile was launched from an Army test site at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands at 7:40 p.m. Six minutes later, a second missile was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, to find the first one and destroy it. Both missiles flew successfully, but missed each other because of a problem in the sea-based X-band radar, the department's Missile Defense Agency said. Officials intend to investigate the cause of the interception failure. *Related article:* [On heels of failed intercept test, missile defense leader excoriates contractors](#).

The EMP threat: fact, fiction, and response (part 2) (The Space Review, 02/01/10)

<http://www.thespacereview.com/article/1553/1>

Ed. note: Nuclear physicist Dr. Yousaf Butt examines the salient technical issues behind an EMP attack as detailed in the report from the congressional “Commission to Assess the Threat to the U.S. from EMP Attack”; and attempts to compare the threat of nuclear EMP with that from a powerful “once-in-a-century” geomagnetic storm. It is highly unlikely that any adversary would choose to - or, in the case of a terrorist cell, even be remotely capable of - carrying out a nuclear EMP strike against the U.S. The vulnerability of some of our infrastructure to nuclear EMP is real; however, the threat is overblown. A much greater threat to the US electricity-grid infrastructure is from a powerful once-in-a-century type solar storm. As the response to the geomagnetic threat would also address many of the vulnerabilities raised by the EMP commission, we can effectively kill two birds with one stone.

Space, cyberspace viewed as likely battlegrounds for U.S. in 21st century (SpaceNews, 01/29/10)
<http://www.spacenews.com/military/100129-space-cyberspace-likely-battlegrounds-21st-century.html>

The United States faces an evolving list of potential adversaries in the 21st century that not only continue to seek weapons of mass destruction, but are honing the skills necessary to wage battle in cyberspace as well as outer space, a panel of national security experts said Jan. 20.

Communications and Information Security

Nebraska bill advances to require cell phone locating information (Lincoln Journal-Star, 02/02/10)
http://www.journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_789cc8f0-1054-11df-8877-001cc4c03286.html

The Nebraska Legislature's Transportation and Telecommunications Committee advanced the Kelsey Smith Act (LB735) to the full Legislature Feb. 3. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Tim Gay of Papillion, would require a wireless carrier to provide the best available cell phone location information to law enforcement in an emergency. Cell phone carriers can now give out information voluntarily, but can choose not to because of privacy and liability issues.

Homeland Security plans cybersecurity, data center investments (InformationWeek, 02/02/10)
<http://www.informationweek.com/news/government/security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222600862>

The Department of Homeland Security is looking to invest nearly \$900 million in fiscal 2011 on technology projects that include bolstering cyber security and continued work on a data center consolidation project that's already underway. Overall, DHS said that protecting the United States against terrorism and other threats and promoting fiscal responsibility and efficiency within the department are its top priorities for fiscal 2011 funding.

Opinion: Can we stop the global cyber arms race? (The Washington Post, 02/01/10)
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/31/AR2010013101834.html>

In a speech on "Internet freedom," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton decried the cyberattacks that threaten U.S. economic and national security interests. The problem with Clinton's call for accountability and norms on the global network - a call frequently heard in policy discussions about cybersecurity - is the enormous array of cyberattacks originating from the United States. Until we acknowledge these attacks and signal how we might control them, we cannot make progress on preventing cyberattacks emanating from other countries.

The last 12 months saw a significant rise in social networking spam and malware, as Facebook is identified as the riskiest website (SC Magazine, 02/01/10)

<http://www.scmagazineuk.com/the-last-12-months-saw-a-significant-rise-in-social-networking-spam-and-malware-as-facebook-is-identified-as-the-riskiest-website/article/162773/>

There has been a rise of 70.6 per cent in social networking spam over the last year, with a rise 69.8 per cent in malware being sent. Facebook was also revealed to be the social network respondents believed posed the biggest security risk, with 60 per cent naming it. MySpace gained 18 per cent of the vote, Twitter 17 per cent and LinkedIn four per cent. Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos, whose 'social security' investigation revealed the figures, said: "Targeted attacks against companies are in the news at the moment, and the more information a criminal can

get about your organization's structure, the easier for them to send a poisoned attachment to precisely the person whose computer they want to break into."

Transportation Security/Infrastructure

Uproar as LNG tankers head for Boston Harbor (Boston Herald, 02/03/10)

http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20100203uproar_as_lng_tankers_head_for_boston_harbor/srvc=home&position=5

The U.S. Coast Guard will allow tankers from Yemen carrying liquefied natural gas to begin rolling into Boston Harbor later this month despite elected officials' fears about the highly flammable cargo originating from a suspected al-Qaeda stronghold. As the Coast Guard announced the completion of a security plan to allow shipments to safely approach the densely populated local area around the LNG offloading terminal in Everett, House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo vowed to enlist members of Congress to explore "other options" to stop the shipments and Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino blasted the Coast Guard's decision.

Policies reviewed after hazardous material spill (ENC Today, 02/02/10)

<http://www.enctoday.com/news/reviewed-72332-jdn-city-spill.html>

Policies and practices for handling explosive cargo at North Carolina's state ports are getting a closer look following last month's hazardous material spill at the Morehead City facility. The Jan. 12 spill of the potentially explosive chemical Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate, also referred to as PETN, was cleaned up without injury or damage to the environment. And while N.C. State Ports Authority officials believe the current policies were effective, they also expect them to be strengthened.

Audio: Storms in space disrupt travel on Earth (NPR, 02/01/10)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=123111882>

More commercial flights are using shortcuts that take them near the North Pole or the South Pole. And in polar regions, flights are vulnerable to cosmic storms that can interfere with communication and navigation systems, or even expose travelers to worrisome doses of radiation. With more polar flights each year and the weather in space likely to get worse, it's increasingly likely that air traffic controllers will have to divert flights that are already in the air, says Steven Albersheim, a meteorologist with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Britain introduces tough new scan rules at airports (ABC News, 02/01/10)

<http://www.aolnews.com/world/article/britain-introduces-tough-new-body-scan-rules-at-airports/19340182>

New security rules took effect at two major British airports that require selected passengers to undergo full body scans. If they refuse, they will not be allowed to board a flight. The regulations follow increased worldwide concern after the attempt to blow up a plane as it approached Detroit on Christmas Day and the subsequent arrest of a Nigerian passenger. In a message to the U.K. Parliament, transport secretary Lord Adonis predicted that only a few people would be affected, but made it clear that for those who decline to be scanned "they will not be permitted to fly."

Commentary: Avoiding a homeland security error that could leave the U.S. flying blind (Foreign Policy Research Institute, February 2010)

<http://www.fpri.org/enotes/201002.husick.loranflyingblind.html>

The Department of Homeland Security has now announced that it intends to shut down the Loran system on February 8, 2010. If the Department of Homeland Security is truly interested in providing security to the nation, Secretary Napolitano should immediately reverse course on Loran and upgrade the system as quickly as possible - following the recommendations of many other federal agencies. Security experts always warn against systems that have a single point of failure. Without Loran, our navigation and timing systems are just that, and whether from intentional interference caused by a terrorist or enemy jammer, or a common solar storm, we may soon find ourselves literally “flying blind.”

National Guard

Guard chief talks of expanding partnership program (National Guard Bureau, 02/04/10)

<http://www.ng.mil/news/archives/2010/02/020410-Partnership.aspx>

For the National Guard State Partnership Program to maintain its important role in promoting this country’s long-term mutual security cooperation with its allies around the world, the program must expand, the Guard’s top officer said. “State Partnership Programs cannot be static,” said Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau. “They must be creative, integrated and responsive to combatant commanders and U.S. ambassadorial priorities in the field.” The first partnerships were developed in 1993 with former Soviet bloc countries, such as the one between the state of Georgia and the country of Georgia. Today, SPP includes about 62 partnerships in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Nebraska Army National Guard names new top sergeant (Action3news.com, 02/03/10)

<http://www.action3news.com/Global/story.asp?S=11924436>

The Nebraska National Guard says Command Sgt. Maj. Eli Valenzuela has been selected as the new top enlisted man. Valenzuela has been part of the Nebraska National Guard since 1979. He has served overseas several times during his career including a 2006 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Valenzuela will officially replace Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burch who is becoming the Army National Guard's top enlisted man.

Mary J. Kight continues to be a trailblazer (Los Angeles Times, 02/01/10)

http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-national-guard2-2010feb02_0,6221434.story

Mary J. Kight, already the first woman general in the California National Guard, became the group's first female leader. She is also the first African American woman at the helm of any national guard in the country. Kight, up to now the assistant adjutant general under William H. Wade II, was appointed as his replacement by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who called Kight “a proven, courageous, loyal and honorable leader.” Wade is taking a high-ranking position with NATO in Italy.

Guard assists seven states with winter-storm emergencies (United States Army, 02/01/10)

<http://www.army.mil/-news/2010/02/01/33843-guard-assists-seven-states-with-winter-storm-emergencies/>

Winter storms created dangerous conditions across the nation's midsection late last week and into the weekend, and more than 560 National Guard members were called out in seven states to deal with the mess. Before the units were activated most were placed on standby by their state governors in anticipation of the bad weather. Emergency situations were declared by the governors of Arkansas, Arizona, North Carolina, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Virginia.

Head of NY National Guard retiring, withdraws as Obama's nominee to lead Army National Guard

(Los Angeles Times, 01/28/10)

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-national-guard-commander,0,2619531.story>

Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, New York's top soldier and President Barack Obama's nominee to lead the Army National Guard, is retiring and withdrawing from consideration for the appointment. Congressional approval of the appointment was delayed when the widow of slain Army Capt. Phillip Esposito blamed Taluto for not doing more to prevent Esposito and another soldier from being killed in Iraq in 2005. Taluto said in a prepared statement that he was withdrawing because the prolonged confirmation process had become a distraction.

Training

Cal-Maritime collects grant worth \$200,000 (The Times-Herald [CA], 01/30/10)

http://www.timesheraldonline.com/news/ci_14301412

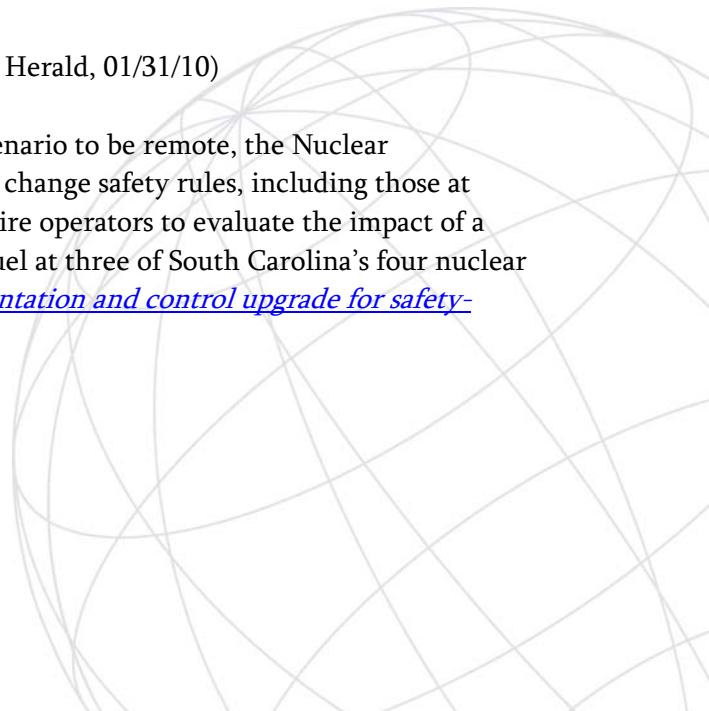
California Maritime Academy has received a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to develop curriculum and training courses for state emergency personnel and for those who work in the maritime industry. The funds are administered through California Emergency Management Agency. Courses will be designed for emergency personnel who may respond to security issues aboard ships and other maritime facilities.

Energy Security

Officials might beef up security at S.C. nuclear plants (The Herald, 01/31/10)

<http://www.heraldonline.com/109/story/1908101.html>

Although experts consider chances of such a nightmare scenario to be remote, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering whether it needs to change safety rules, including those at South Carolina facilities. One possible revision would require operators to evaluate the impact of a bomb attack on dry cask storage units used to hold spent fuel at three of South Carolina's four nuclear power plants. *Related item: [NRC approves major instrumentation and control upgrade for safety-related systems at Oconee Nuclear Plant](#)*



Diplomacy

Moscow, Washington to finalize new START treaty by April 12 (RIA Novosti, 01/29/10)

<http://en.rian.ru/papers/20100129/157716373.html>

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama said that strategic arms reduction talks were nearing completion. An expert drafting the treaty said on condition of anonymity that the diplomats had reached a final agreement on telemetry data exchanges. “Technically speaking, they have agreed on cases when telemetry data will be open or classified,” he said, declining to give any details. The sides have also managed to coordinate delivery vehicle ceilings, one of the most difficult issues. Both sides plan to finalize the treaty within the next few weeks.

NATO

Clinton to work with Russia on European security (Reuters, 01/29/10)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60S47N20100129?type=politicsNews>

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recommitted the United States to the defense of Europe and pledged to work with NATO allies and Russia to boost security in the face of new threats. Clinton's speech was aimed at reassuring Washington's European allies of continued U.S. commitment in the face of a sometimes strained relationship with Russia, which still sees the former Soviet bloc as part of its sphere of influence. It was also aimed at buttressing key partnerships, which Washington is counting on to help with the war in Afghanistan and the campaign to force Iran to abandon its nuclear program.

Announcements

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. The report is available online:

<http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/download?id=304>.

To view the IWG report

The Institute of the North's Security and Defense 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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http://www.institutenorth.org/servlet/content/security_and_defense_program.html.

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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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