



***Weekly National Security Working Group Update***  
**Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman**  
**Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ), NSWG Chairman**

*February 1, 2012*

The National Security Working Group (NSWG) is comprised of Trent Franks (R- AZ), Connie Mack (R-FL), Duncan Hunter (R-CA), Allen West (R- FL), and John Fleming (R-LA).

\*Each NSWG Item reflects the position and view of the authoring office

---

***Obama Administration in Retreat as Iran Announces It Will Demonstrate Cruise Missile System (Rep. Franks)***

In a provocative move that will underscore Iran's rising power and ballooning ambitions in the Middle East as the Obama Administration squanders U.S. power and influence in the region, Iran has announced that it will demonstrate its most technically advanced cruise missile system in February during the 34th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. That revolution, which erupted in the days of the notoriously weak Carter Administration, transformed Iran from a western-oriented ally into a closed and brutally repressive regime ruled by clerics implacably opposed to U.S. interests and basic human rights.

Cruise missiles can be employed in support of a variety of military missions, but it appears Iran intends to use them asymmetrically as "anti-access-area denial" weapons designed to deny U.S. forces access to bases in the region and to restrict maritime maneuver and passage in the Persian Gulf and Straits of Hormuz.

The first game of chess, it is said, was played in Persia, ancestral Iran. Geopolitical chess is being played today in Iran by men of fierce intent who have vowed to check and defeat vital U.S. interests in the Middle East. Their endgame is to drive the U.S. out of the region, isolate Israel, and leave Iran standing as the hegemon over a critical third of the world's oil supply.

The Obama administration seems almost eager to oblige. Rather than vigorously counter these geopolitical chess moves, the Obama administration is on the brink of abandoning the board altogether, having jettisoned the two war strategy that served this nation so well for over seven decades, and concentrating our ever-shrinking military forces in the Pacific where vast distance will leave Iran with no effective restrictions on its deadly ambitions.

**NSWG Contact:** Drew Nishiyama, [Drew.Nishiyama@mail.house.gov](mailto:Drew.Nishiyama@mail.house.gov), 5-4576

---

***The Keystone XL Decision 'Profoundly Disappointing' for U.S. National Security (Rep. Mack)***

The rejection of TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which would have transported oil from Canada's oil sands to refineries along the U.S. Gulf Coast, represents a decrease in both our economic and national security. According to the Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc (EPRINC) Keystone XL would have increased economic security by creating tens of thousands of construction and manufacturing jobs across the U.S. as well as capital investment of approximately \$12 billion. Keystone XL also represented a unique opportunity to increase U.S. national security by reducing its dependence on oil from hostile countries like Venezuela and increasing domestic production by allowing U.S. companies in Montana to utilize the pipeline to gain valuable market access.

Finally, this pipeline would have increased oil price stability for Americans and enhanced an important relationship with our proven friend and ally Canada.

Instead, President Obama's decision to deny the Presidential Permit for Keystone XL not only jeopardized U.S. economic and national security but has endangered this important relationship. Upon hearing President Obama's decision on Keystone XL, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper "expressed his profound disappointment" and said "Canada will continue to work to diversify its energy exports." What does this mean and why should Americans care? If the U.S. chooses to turn its back on its allies like Canada, they will be forced to seek alternative partnerships, jeopardizing relationships that increase our national security. Next month, Prime Minister Harper will meet with Chinese President Hu Jintao regarding the proposed "Northern Gateway" pipeline that will make Canadian oil available to the Chinese.

Please join me in the fight for American jobs, energy, and security by co-sponsoring a bipartisan Senate companion bill to approve the Keystone XL pipeline: the "Energizing America through Employment Act."

**NSWG Contact:** Kristin Jackson, [Kristin.Jackson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kristin.Jackson@mail.house.gov), 5-2536

---

### *President Not Prioritizing Troops (Rep. Fleming)*

On January 26, 2012, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta unveiled further details about how he intends to implement President Obama's plan to slash \$47 billion from the Department of Defense's Fiscal Year 2013 budget request. While sustaining investments in high technology systems and capabilities such as unmanned drones and cyber-warfare, the President's defense strategy significantly undercuts the end strength of our ground forces by 100,000 soldiers and Marines. History stands as a reminder that a reduction of this magnitude will leave us with a dangerous capability gap, especially at a time of growing global uncertainty with al-Qaeda and its affiliates still highly active in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, in addition to the proliferation of ballistic missiles and WMDs by Iran and North Korea. Merely acknowledging the stakes of America's defense posture in the global arena and pointing to promising technologies as a cure-all as the President has done in his defense strategy is not the same as implementing a realistic and effective strategy that will allow the U.S. to prevail against the challenges of tomorrow's national security environment.

By emphasizing technology over troops, the President has placed America in a precarious position. Such a significant reduction in forces – a 14% loss of Army and Marine Corps end strength, and 5–8% beyond what the Pentagon initially predicted, will inevitably increase risk for the United States, not to mention leaving us far short in meeting this Administration's stated goal of creating a flexible and agile fighting force. Rather, the reduction in human capital will create a knowledge vacuum, resulting in a smaller, ill-equipped military less capable of responding to global crises. As outlined recently by AEI's Frederick Kagan in the Washington Post, the President's plan is premised on a deeply flawed vision of decisive and speedy combat operations conducted primarily through technology. While bold, the President's policy is underpinned by an unrealistic view of future conflict, and ignores the fact that highly trained, well-equipped forces will be critical in military engagements for years to come.

**NSWG Contact:** Matthew Silver, [Mathew.Silver@mail.house.gov](mailto:Mathew.Silver@mail.house.gov), 5-2777

---

### *Note from the RSC*

With the cyber-security bills in the House and Senate, and the White House briefing on cyber-security today, keeping track of cyber-security issues can sometimes be a technical challenge. For staffers who work on those issues, you may want to pick up a copy of Richard A. Clark's [\*Cyber-War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It\*](#).

Additionally, Mark Bowden's [\*Worm: The First Digital World War\*](#) provides perspective on malware/virus vulnerabilities, and a government bureaucracy that is seemingly unable to deal with a major national security threat when over 10 million computers were infected with the Conficker virus. For those who don't have the time to read the book, his interview with Fresh Air is pretty interesting as well ([See here](#), click on the audio for the full 43 minute interview).

Questions regarding the NSWG can be directed to Derek Khanna, [Derek.Khanna@mail.house.gov](mailto:Derek.Khanna@mail.house.gov), 6-0718