

National Security Working Group
Weekly National Security Working Group Update
Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman
Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ), NSWG Chairman
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The National Security Working Group (NSWG) is comprised of Trent Franks, 2nd, AZ; Connie Mack, 14th, FL; Duncan Hunter, 52nd, CA and Allen West, 22nd, FL. We look forward to providing RSC members updates on national security issues and matters using this forum. We welcome your inputs.

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Ensuring Cooling of Nuclear Spent Fuel (Rep Franks)

Today, Reuters reported Japan's "nuclear crisis appeared to be spinning out of control" as radiation levels have been surging. The unfortunate situation in Japan raises serious questions about US national security and our ability to respond to a nuclear power plant failure. Are we prepared as a nation to respond to an event that causes our nuclear plants to spin out of control?

Regardless of the cause of the disaster, be it natural (geomagnetic storm) or man-made (electromagnetic pulse), the nation's ability to ensure the ability to cool and secure spent fuel is paramount.

If the electrical grid is shut down in an area where there is a nuclear plant, we must be able to ensure the ability to cool spent fuel and avoid a disaster similar to what Japan is currently experiencing.

HR 668, the Secure High-voltage Infrastructure for Electricity from Lethal Damage Act, is a necessary first step in securing our electrical grid and ensuring power is maintained to our most critical infrastructure during man-made or natural disasters

The Deterioration of the Egypt-Gaza Border (Rep Franks)

The Washington Post reported today the Israeli navy intercepted a ship 200 miles off its coast. The German-owned, Liberian flagged ship, was carrying Iranian weapons bound for Palestinian groups in the Gaza strip on Tuesday. The weapons seized by the Israeli Navy originated in Iran, which included a "large quantity" of 60 and 120 millimeter mortar shells and Chinese-made C-704 shore-to-sea missiles.

Since the fall of the Egyptian government last month, concern over the policing of the Egypt-Gaza border has magnified. Groups like the Muslim Brotherhood, who has ties to radical Islamist groups such as Hamas, may gain greater a role and prominence in Egyptian politics, which will inevitably continue to deteriorate the long standing peach Egypt maintained in the region prior to the ousting of President Mubarak.

We are beginning to see the end of the peace that was maintained prior to the unrest in North Africa and Middle East. While the world's focus has shifted to the disaster and suffering in Japan, the Middle East remains unstable and the situation is continuing to worsen.

The increase of weapons proliferation by Iran to terrorist Islamist groups will raise Israel's security concerns. Iran's actions will ultimately destabilize the region and world. The United States must support Israel in ensuring Iran is unable to provide any support to terrorist groups. Furthermore, Iran must know the United States stands alongside Israel in ensuring a free and secure Israel.

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North Korea Soon to Acquire Electromagnetic Pulse Bomb (Rep Franks)

It is well known that North Korea possesses the capability to deploy an IMEI device. According to ABC News, North Korea is believed to be nearing completion of a nuclear electromagnetic pulse bomb, which poses a threat to electrical and electronic devices such as mobile phones, computer, radio and radar, experts say. North Korea is expected to develop EMP bombs as warheads for aircraft bombs and Scud-B missiles. During recent military training exercises between South Korean and U.S. forces, North Korea sent strong jamming signals every five to ten minutes. North Korea has been successful in knocking out South Korean military equipments after testing EMP.

ABC News has also reported that North Korea has effectively jammed GPS signals of South Korea's major communication devices in the Korean peninsula. The electromagnetic pulses they have used to jam GPS signals have been non-nuclear, meaning that they have used a non-nuclear method, generally chemical explosives, to generate an initial burst of energy. The communist state is thought to be using Russian-made vehicle-mounted jamming devices that they have improved. North Korea could possibly be selling the GPS jamming devices to nations in the Middle East. The jamming devices could mean a new era of electronic warfare in the Korean peninsula. If North Korea were to successfully discharge full-fledged electromagnetic waves, they could disrupt major communication tools as well as the transfer of any other information through space.

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Electric Infrastructure Council (EIS) Summit - 11 April 2011 - Washington DC (Rep Franks)

The first Electric Infrastructure Security (EIS) Summit took place in London on September 20, 2010, in the U.K. Parliament, Westminster Hall. As the first world summit on infrastructure security, EISS London founded a new international security framework designed to foster information sharing, discussion, coordination and cooperation in assessing and protecting national infrastructures against physical threats such as EMP and Severe Geomagnetic Storms.

The second EIS Summit will take place in the Capitol Building, Washington D.C. on April 11, 2011. To apply for registration for EISS Washington D.C., please email info@eissummit.com

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Question or comments regarding RSC National Security Working Group items can also be directed to Bruce F. Miller, bruce.miller@mail.house.gov