



## ***Weekly National Security Working Group Update***

**Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman**  
**Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ), NSWG Chairman**

***5 October 2011***

The National Security Working Group (NSWG) is comprised of Trent Franks, 2nd, AZ; Connie Mack, 14th, FL; Duncan Hunter, 52nd, CA; Allen West, 22nd, FL and John Fleming, 4th, LA. We look forward to providing RSC members updates on national security issues and matters using this forum. We welcome your inputs.

### ***- Welcome Dr. John C. Fleming to the National Security Working Group***

The NSWG would like to extend heartfelt welcome to Congressman (Dr.) John C. Fleming (4th, LA) and his team to the RSC NSWG team. Dr. Fleming has Barksdale AFB in his district, which is home to the Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC). AFGSC is responsible for the Nation's three intercontinental ballistic missile wings, the two B-52 wings and the only B-2 wing. The Louisiana 4th District is also home to Fort Polk and the Army's Joint Readiness Training Center, one of three National Training Centers the Army uses for full spectrum training. Dr. Fleming also co-chairs the Long Range Strike Caucus, which advocates for power projection and deterrence capabilities.

### ***- Obama Administration Working with Islamist Muslim Brotherhood (Rep Franks)***

Here we go again. In June, I warned the Muslim Brotherhood (MB), an Islamist group, could sweep into power in Egypt as it moves closer to elections. The MB, through the formation of a cover organization, "The Freedom and Justice Party," planned to contest about half of the seats in the Egyptian elections. The MB is an experienced, organized, and powerful political party in Egypt. It is likely the MB would stand to have a significant influence in Egyptian policies toward the United States and Israel following the elections.

The American people should be concerned. Last October, the supreme leader of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB), Mohammed Badei, declared war on the US and Israel.

On Sunday, Syrian opposition leaders formed the Syrian National Council (SNC) in Turkey. The SNC is the first organized opposition group that is seeking the removal of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The MB is a member of the SNC. According to WorldTribune.com, President Obama's administration has been consulting with the MB for three months to "discuss the Brotherhood's role after the ouster of President Bashar Assad." By communicating and working with the MB, the Obama Administration is supporting the "Brotherhood's goal to make Syria into an Islamic state rather than a democracy that would foster its large minority community of Christians and Kurds."<sup>1</sup>

Once again, we must not fall into the trap of believing organizations that previously grew out of MB ideology are honestly friendly toward the US. I cannot overstate the importance to U.S. national security that the MB be prevented from gaining a foothold in the evolving Middle East. We must never forget the MB supreme leader's declaration of war on the US, which has yet to be withdrawn.

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### ***- Sequestration Will Limit Our National Security Strategy (Rep Hunter)***

The Budget Control Act of 2011 has already taken a \$469 billion down payment from the Department of Defense Budget. Sequestration, triggered by what now appears to be the inevitable failure of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to find \$1.2 to \$1.5 trillion in savings, will take a toll on the military that has far reaching ramifications well beyond the size and readiness of our military services. If sequestration is enacted, the military will be ill equipped to fulfill the missions the Nation has come to expect from Armed Services. There is still work to be done in the Middle East. China continues to grown economically and militarily, expanding their influence in the Pacific and beyond. Iran continues to develop a nuclear weapons program and expand their influence in the region. The globalization of commerce still requires the Navy to remain capable of defending our interests in sea lanes and ports across the globe. The recent conflict in Libya is yet another example that the Marine Corps must be most ready when our Nation is least ready for emerging time sensitive threats.

<sup>1</sup> Obama reaching out to Muslim Brotherhood in Syria; Pro-West opposition protests (2011, September 26). Retrieved from [http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2011/me\\_syria1203\\_09\\_26.asp](http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2011/me_syria1203_09_26.asp)

Amidst all these threats and requirements, sequestration would shrink the military to levels not seen in decades, well beyond pre-9/11 levels. While some see defense cuts as forcing the military to do more with less, in reality, these reductions in end strength and procurement will translate to reduction in mission capabilities for the military. If sequestration occurs and the military sees a \$1 trillion reduction in the next ten years, we'll lose more than manpower, weapons systems, and vehicles. We lose mission capabilities, long term modernization, and our current technological advantage over our adversaries. We'll be unable to respond to threats in two different theaters. We'll no longer have the same level of power projection capabilities and a diminished forward deployed presence. We won't just shrink the force, we'll diminish our ability to maintain "peace through strength." It's time we based our defense budget on the capabilities we need to remain a global power and not on what we can afford.

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*- President Obama Rejects Taiwan's Request to Purchase U.S. Fighter Jets (Rep Fleming)*

Taiwan recently reiterated its long-standing request to purchase 66 new F-16 C/D fighters in its ongoing efforts to defend itself from an increasingly belligerent China that is modernizing its offensive military power across the narrow Taiwan Strait. Despite receiving a bipartisan letter supporting this sale from over 225 Members of Congress, on September 21st the Obama Administration decided to appease China by agreeing to a less-robust upgrade of Taiwan's current fleet of 150 aging F-16 A/B fighters. This sale would have created thousands of American jobs and signaled a renewed commitment to our Taiwanese allies. The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 requires the United States to "provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character" and "to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means...of grave concern to the United States."

According to the Department of Defense, the military balance across the Taiwan Strait continues to tilt in China's favor as it deploys more than 1,400 missiles and 300 fighter jets within striking distance of the island. Taiwan will have to retire 70% of its aging fighter force within the next decade, which includes Vietnam War-era F-5s that are barely suitable for training missions. Despite the Administration's decision, *Defense News* reports that Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou has renewed his request for the sale of the 66 F-16 C/D fighters in order to defend his island from Chinese aggression. The upgraded F-16 A/B fighters will not have the new engines and cutting-edge avionics needed to maintain a technological edge over their Chinese adversaries. The decision to deny the sale of F-16 C/D fighters to Taiwan, while opting for a less-capable upgrade, is yet another indication of weak support for our allies by the Obama Administration.

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*- Recent Events in Colombia Highlight Continued Security Challenges (Rep Mack)*

Colombia's dedication in promoting security, stability, and prosperity has seen significant progress since the institution of the Consolidated Strategic Development Initiative (CSDI), which focuses on a more coordinated, interagency approach to create economic alternatives while eradicating coca. The expansion of state presence and services in targeted regions with high poverty levels, violence, and illicit crop cultivation or narcotics trafficking, has led to a decrease in kidnappings, homicides, terrorist attacks, and cocaine production.

However, the recent suspension of coca spraying in Northwest Colombia demonstrates the challenges faced by Colombian law enforcement officials. The continued eradication of coca in the Andean Region is key to U.S. economic and security interests. Protests against the practice of spraying pesticides blocked waterways and roads and ultimately pressured the government to suspend the practice. The local authorities have agreed to manual eradication of coca plants, which must have strong supervision and support in order to be successful. The risk of implementing manual eradication programs is that armed groups like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) often guard their coca fields with landmines to deter eradication of coca that is used for drug production.

Last week's discovery of FARC drug submarines in Colombia shows intent to distribute cocaine that typically finds its way through Central America, into Mexico destined for the United States. A combined effort by Colombia and the United States must continue in order to prevent the spread of illicit drugs and ensure detainment of trafficking devices like submarines. The U.S. involvement with CSDI must be vigilantly followed to ensure the prevention of trafficked drugs into the United States.

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