

***Weekly National Security Working Group Update*****Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman  
Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ), NSWG Chairman*****30 November 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.

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***- Military Force Must be an Option in Iran (Rep Franks)***

Last Saturday, Ali Hajizadeh, Commander of the Air Defense Division of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, threatened to attack North Atlantic Treaty Organization defense sites in Turkey if the United States or Israel attacked Iran's nuclear program.<sup>1</sup> The following day, Iran's Defense Minister, General Ahmad Vahidi, threatened to attack Israel with 150,000 missiles if Israel launched military actions against Iran. General Vahidi went on to say that "Israel has to be punished for what it has done to the Muslims in Palestine and Lebanon."<sup>2</sup> Iran's tough rhetoric is an attempt to deter an attack on its nuclear facilities.

Make no mistake, the United States reserves the option of using military force to ensure Iran never obtains or builds a nuclear weapon. I have stated before military force should be used to ensure Tehran's nuclear weapon ambitions are stopped permanently. Iran has a long history of making threats towards peace seeking nations. The comments by Iran's military thugs over the weekend will continue to destabilize the Middle East and further isolate Iran.

Military intervention in Iran, while unpopular, can ensure long term peace in the Middle East by removing a toxic Tehran regime. Furthermore, nations that are considering following Iran's misguided lead by pursuing a policy of nuclear terrorism will be subject to military intervention. Peaceful resolution through negotiations is always preferred, but when thugs make unprovoked threats towards peaceful nations, military force remains a unilateral choice of the United States.

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***- The Immediate Consequences of Sequestration (Rep Fleming)***

The failure of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to find \$1.2 trillion in savings has increased the likelihood that the "trigger" of at least \$500 billion in defense cuts over 10 years will take place beginning in 2013. These cuts would be in addition to the \$450 billion in savings and cuts that the Defense Department is enacting under the Budget Control Act. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has stated that sequestration will leave the United States with the smallest ground force since 1940, the fewest ships since 1915, and the smallest Air Force in our history by the end of the decade. Although this 23 percent cut to defense spending will have devastating long-term consequences, it is also having an immediate impact on our national security.

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<sup>1</sup> Iran would attack Turkey if U.S. or Israel go after their nuclear weapons. Retrieved from [www.nydailynews.com](http://www.nydailynews.com)

<sup>2</sup> Moran, Rick. Iran threatens to fire '150,000 missiles' at Israel if attacked. Retrieved from [www.americanthinker.com](http://www.americanthinker.com)

The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to long-term planning and conforming its strategic decisions to the five and ten year budgets determined by Congress. The House Armed Services Committee received testimony on the potential outcomes of sequestration, and determined that “the DoD will have to frontload many of the cuts because of high short term costs such as separation payments and penalties for cancelling contracts,” noting that some of these decisions would be irrevocable.<sup>[1]</sup> According to *Aviation Week*, planning for the 2013 budget based on sequestration will almost demand cancellation of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program.<sup>[2]</sup> It would also significantly delay the development of the next-generation ballistic missile submarine and strategic bomber while reducing the DoD workforce to its lowest level in generations. Under the current law of the Budget Control Act, the sequestration cuts must be applied in equal percentages to each “program, project, and activity.” Secretary Panetta has explained that these across-the-board cuts would render many projects “unexecutable,” noting “you cannot buy three quarters of a building.” This inflexibility will force the cancellation of contracts for ships, aircraft, and military construction projects if the law is not fixed. We cannot wait until 2013 to fix these problems. Despite the President’s veto threat, we need to take steps to lessen the immediate impact of sequestration, and prevent our national security from being compromised by a mess of cancelled contracts, delayed projects, and irreversible losses in skilled civilian and military personnel.

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### *- Iran Sanctions Could Target Deep Iranian Collaboration within Our Hemisphere*

Last week the Obama administration announced additional sanctions on Iran to further isolate and penalize Iran for failing to honor its international obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Also, for the first time, the U.S. Treasury labeled the entire Iranian financial sector and its subsidiaries outside of Iran as a threat to the global financial system by designating Iran a jurisdiction of “Primary Money Laundering Concern” under Section 311 of the USA PATRIOT Act. Additionally, Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN) proposed a special measure that would require U.S. financial institutions to implement due diligence measures to prevent indirect Iranian access to the U.S. financial system through correspondent accounts. The correspondent accounts are owned by banks like the Central Bank of Ecuador that collaborate with the Iranian regime and give Iran the ability to bypass sanctions. The proposed measure could have profound consequences for nations like Ecuador that maintain ties to both Iranian and U.S. financial systems.

The U.S. has stopped short of imposing full sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran but the recent designation by the Treasury Department will continue to isolate Iran’s banking sector and will pressure foreign governments and financial institutions to stop doing business with Iran. The proposed special measures could be utilized to target money laundering and terrorist financing activities by prohibiting U.S. financial institutions from involvement with jurisdictions, institutions, transactions, or accounts that collaborate with the Iranian regime. As Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner explained, any institution that engages in transactions with Iran’s banks is in danger of “supporting Iran’s illicit activities – its pursuit of nuclear weapons, its support for terrorism and its efforts to deceive responsible financial institutions and evade sanctions.” The United States has now identified that nations such as Venezuela, Ecuador, and others with deep Iranian financial ties are engaging in dangerous activities that support Iran. Full enforcement of U.S. sanctions and the FINCEN proposed measures are needed to stop Iran’s fruitful relationship with countries in our Hemisphere.

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<sup>[1]</sup> House Armed Services Committee, “What Sequestration Really Means,” [www.armedservices.house.gov](http://www.armedservices.house.gov).

<sup>[2]</sup> Jen DiMascio, “Congress Fails, Defense Pays,” *Aviation Week*, November 29, 2011.