



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

***14 December 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.

***Iran Threatens Attacks; President Obama Wilts (Rep Franks)***

Iran is issuing new threats in anticipation of potential attacks aimed at curbing their nuclear program. The latest examples include a renewed commitment to respond to an attack by the US or Israel by targeting the NATO missile defense site located in Turkey. Hossein Ebrahimi, vice president of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, stated, "Iran has warned Turkey before that the deployment of the system will have grave consequences. General Hajizadeh's remarks are entirely true and when we are attacked it is our natural right to defend ourselves." The previous warning came from the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, General Hajizadeh, who last month stated, "Should we be threatened, we will target NATO's missile defense shield in Turkey and then hit the next targets." Tehran believes the site in Turkey will be used to protect Israel if war breaks out in the region.

Furthermore, this week Parviz Sarvari, a member of Iran's parliament, revealed that their military was preparing to practice its ability to close the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane connecting the Gulf of Oman with the Persian Gulf. This maneuver is significant because of threats from Iran to manipulate oil output in response to any conflict. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2009 approximately one third of all sea-borne shipped oil went through the Strait.

These threats are but footnotes to the growing nuclear threat posed by Iran. Despite the IAEA report exposing Iran's nuclear intentions and increasingly crippling international sanctions, Tehran continues to work toward designing and obtaining nuclear weapons. Yet the Obama administration continues to vacillate under the pressure. This President is no longer emphasizing a nuclear Iran as "unacceptable", but instead is now focused on simply "isolating" it. This shift in policy from prevention to containment leaves me with no confidence in Mr. Obama's resolve to keep Iran from becoming a nuclear-armed state. Thankfully, the FY12 NDAA provides harsh sanctions designed to avert financial transactions with the Central Bank of Iran. However, it may be too late for sanctions. Mr. Obama's weak and ineffective leadership may have already painted us into a corner, leaving only two options: accepting a nuclear Iran or using every option, including our military option, to keep Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

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***Obama Administration: Please Give Us Our Drone Back (Rep Fleming)***

The recent downing of an advanced U.S. spy drone in Iran demonstrated yet again the Administration's inability to make tough decisions necessary to guarantee our national security. The RQ-170 Sentinel stealth drone, part of a fleet of aircraft used by the Department of Defense and the CIA to monitor Iran's nuclear program, was lost over Iranian territory sometime on December 4<sup>th</sup>, largely intact due to publicly unknown factors. Presented with a range of options to either recover or destroy the downed drone, the Administration decided to allow it to fall into Iranian hands. According to the *Washington Post*, Iranian military experts are in the final stages of extracting data from the drone and intend to sue the United States over this "invasion by unmanned aircraft."<sup>[1]</sup>

After failing to extract or destroy the Sentinel drone, the Obama Administration delivered a naïve and feeble request to the Iranian regime of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for the return of the UAV. Former Vice President Dick Cheney asserted that this "significant intelligence loss" could have been averted by an operation to recover the drone. Although such an action would have carried its own risks, the benefits would have certainly outweighed the costs of allowing Iran to examine and reverse engineer such advanced technology. Iran will very likely pass critical design information or the drone itself to Russia, China, or other interested

<sup>[1]</sup> Thomas Erdbrink, "Iran claims to extract data from U.S. drone," *The Washington Post*, 12 December 2011.

parties who could use it to enhance their stealth technology and defenses against American UAVs, further complicating the ability of the U.S. to monitor trouble spots around the globe. Rather than continuing to guard our national security with kid gloves, the Administration needs to proactively defend our security interests and not apologize for the actions we take to monitor dangerous nuclear weapons programs.

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### *Terrorism and Insurgency in Mexico Indicate a New Threat to the United States (Rep Mack)*

The United States and Mexico are no longer fighting a war on drugs; we are fighting a terrorist insurgency<sup>[1]</sup>. Mexican drug trafficking organizations have moved beyond just selling drugs, becoming stronger and increasingly dangerous criminal organizations involved in human smuggling, extortion, and the trafficking of stolen oil and using terrorist and insurgent tactics to control, influence, and intimidate the people and Government of Mexico. In August, Mexican President Felipe Calderón declared as “an act of terrorism” the *Los Zetas* attack on a casino that trapped and killed many inside. Now President Calderón has connected the acts of terrorism to insurgent tactics, stating last week that “crime now also constitutes an open threat to democracy. The glaring interference of criminals in the electoral process is a new and worrying development.” Drug trafficking organizations have already taken control of a number of elections in Mexico by intimidating voters and murdering candidates.

For these reasons, the situation in Mexico should be defined as a terrorist insurgency. If we are unable to accurately define the situation in Mexico then we will be unable to put forward an effective policy that combats the Mexican drug trafficking organizations. According to the Department of Justice National Drug Threat Assessment, Mexican criminal organizations are operating in more than 1,000 U.S. cities. The United States and Mexico must accurately define the situation and work together to develop a security strategy that addresses the terrorist and insurgent tactics used by Mexican drug trafficking organizations – U.S. national security depends upon this.

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Each NSWG Item reflects the position and view of the authoring office.

Questions or comments regarding the RSC National Working Group can be directed to Ja'Ron Smith at [Ja'ron.Smith@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ja'ron.Smith@mail.house.gov)

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<sup>[1]</sup> H.R. 3401, definitions: TERRORIST INSURGENCY- The term ‘terrorist insurgency’ means the protracted use of irregular warfare, including extreme displays of public violence utilized by transnational criminal organizations to influence public opinion and to undermine government control and rule of law in order to increase the control and influence of the organizations.