



Weekly National Security Working Group Update

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

7 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.

Arab Spring Turns to Islamist Winter as the Administration Continues to Lead from Behind (Rep Franks)

Egypt held parliamentary elections this week in its more moderate and western-friendly regions including the cities of Cairo and Alexandria. The outcome was far from moderate. As the administration watched fecklessly from the sidelines, Islamist factions including the Muslim Brotherhood Freedom and Justice party and the ultra-radical Salafist Nour party seized more than 60 percent of the vote. The final two rounds of the three-part elections will be held in markedly more radical and anti-western regions over the next eight weeks. An extremist Islamist supermajority is angling for control of Egypt which could place US interests in the Middle East and the security of Israel in grave risk.

The first important order of business for this emerging Islamist supermajority will be to select a 100 delegate commission to write a constitution. A wisely written constitution can be of inestimable value to a nation and its people, as is true in our own case. But our Constitution was expressly designed to safeguard the liberty of the individual citizen from the predations of a central government by binding and limiting that government to certain core functions and prohibiting the establishment of a national religion that could dictate in matters of belief and conscience. Concern for these fundamental safeguards is utterly lacking in Egypt's emerging Islamist supermajority.

Egypt had been a reliable and stable partner for peace for over three decades until the weak and shortsighted Obama administration became the passive and disengaged caretaker of America's critical interests in the Middle East. The President has denied ever calling his reactive approach "leading from behind" but the clear evidence suggests that is exactly what he has been doing regardless of the label he chooses to describe it.

NSWG Contact: Drew Nishiyama, Drew.Nishiyama@mail.house.gov, 5-4576

North Korea Building Road-Mobile Missiles (Rep Fleming)

Recent intelligence reports have revealed that North Korea is developing road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), a hard to detect delivery system that would be capable of striking the United States.^[1] Although it is unclear whether this new missile will borrow from similar Chinese technology or will improve on the North Korean Musudan intermediate range missile or Taepodong-2 ICBM, this latest development makes it more difficult to deter the North Koreans from engaging in aggressive behavior. Without the hours of warning provided by preparing to launch a missile from a silo or launch-pad, road-mobile ICBMs may give Pyongyang the ability to launch a missile before U.S. or South Korean forces could destroy it on the ground. This news comes as North Korea continues to advance its nuclear weapons program with the goal of developing a nuclear warhead capable of delivery by ballistic missile.

As North Korea's missile and nuclear technology becomes more sophisticated, we need to have a robust hedging strategy in place that will protect our forward deployed men and women in uniform, our allies in the region, and the U.S. homeland. We need to have in place layered offensive and defensive strategic systems that could destroy a hostile ICBM on the ground or in the skies. This will require us to make a committed investment in long-range global strike and missile defense systems that will effectively protect the United States and our allies in East Asia from a limited yet potentially devastating nuclear strike from the irrational Kim regime. We cannot allow the sequestration of defense funding to undermine the security of our homeland and our constitutional requirement to provide for the common defense.

NSWG Contact: Sean Varner, Sean.Varner@mail.house.gov, 5-2777

^[1] Bill Gertz, "North Korea Making Missile Able to Hit U.S.," *The Washington Times*, 6 December 2011.

*Enhanced Anti-Money Laundering Operations Required to Undercut Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations
(Rep Mack)*

The United States and Mexico must strengthen anti-money laundering operations to effectively combat Mexican drug trafficking organizations. Current Mexican regulation used for preventing and fighting money laundering has proven to be ineffective and is jeopardizing U.S. national security.

The U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has taken steps to block Mexican drug traffickers and affiliated businesses from U.S. financial institutions by naming them to the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN) list. It appears that the Treasury Department has modeled its anti-money laundering approach in Mexico after its success in combating the Colombian cartels in the 1990s. When the United States placed a Colombian drug trafficker on the SDN list, freezing assets and blocking access to the U.S. financial institutions, the Colombian authorities would in turn freeze the assets of the drug trafficker and undercut their ability to engage in illegal activity by blocking access to Colombian financial institutions. In Mexico, however, when the United States names a Mexican drug trafficker to the SDN list, Mexican authorities do not freeze the drug traffickers' assets or block them from Mexican financial institutions. Mexican drug traffickers are able to access their illicit proceeds and fund additional illegal operations with little consequence. America needs to strengthen its cooperation with Mexico and place pressure on Mexican officials to create a policy that effectively combats drug trafficking and money laundering.

My 'Enhanced Border Security Act' H.R. 3401 attempts to combat the operations, financial networks, and money laundering techniques of Mexican drug trafficking organizations. We must work to secure the passage of the Enhanced Border Security Act to cut off the support for drug trafficking organizations and bolster U.S. national security.

NSWG Contact: Kristin Jackson, Kristin.Jackson@mail.house.gov, or 5-2536 in Rep Mack's office.

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