

Weekly National Security Working Group Update

Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC 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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- Iran Moves One Step Closer to Attacking the U.S. with Nuclear Weapons (Rep Franks)

In July, Iran's Rear Admiral Seyed Mahmoud Mousavi, announced that Iranian logistic vessels were equipped with long-range surface-to-surface missiles. The announcement of Iran's expanding naval capabilities serves as a direct threat to the United States and Israel. Iran has successfully tested long-range ballistic missiles from naval ships in the past. Iran would also be capable of launching a nuclear weapon over the United States from a commercial vessel in the near future. Now, there are reports that Iran plans to deploy actual warships to the Atlantic Ocean.¹ Reza Kahlili has said that "Iran could launch a missile from outside the Gulf of Mexico and essentially cover most of the United States."² At the current time, the United States does not have an adequate countermeasure against such an attack.

The growing specter of an Iran with nuclear weapons should cause every American to be profoundly concerned. The International Atomic Energy Agency has indicated that Iran currently has enough enriched uranium for six nuclear warheads.³ A nuclear Iran coupled with having the ability to launch a nuclear bomb within close proximity of the United States could lead to a successful electromagnetic pulse attack against America or Israel. A successful launch and detonation of a high-altitude pulse (HEMP) could cause the United States electrical power grid to collapse "resulting in infrastructures such as communications, transportation, financial services, emergency services, energy distribution, food and water could also be disrupted or extremely impaired."⁴

¹ Kahlili, Reza. (July 29, 2011). KAHLILI: Iranian missiles could soon reach U.S. shores. www.washingtontimes.com

² Ibid.

³ Kahlili, Reza. (September 18, 2011). Must America Accept a Nuclear Iran? www.foxnews.com

⁴ Radasky, William A. High-Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse: A Threat to Our Way of Life. Accessed at <http://www.todaysengineer.org/2007/Sep/HEMP.asp>

Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has recently said the United States has no choice but to "accept a nuclear-armed Iran."⁵ While the Obama Administration is trying to figure out the appropriate way to engage with one of America's most pressing security threat, Iran is rapidly approaching the build, test and deployment phase of nuclear weapons and the naval resources to launch an attack.

Reza Kahlili is a pseudonym for an ex-CIA spy who requires anonymity for safety reasons. He is the author of "A Time to Betray," about his double life as a memoir of his life as a CIA agent in Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Simon and Schuster.

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- Peru's Suspension of Coca Eradication: A Warning Sign for the Future? (Rep Mack)

According to the United Nations, Peru is the world's largest producer of cocaine with potential pure cocaine production increasing by 44 percent in the past year. Peru's newly elected President Ollanta Humala recently suspended that country's coca eradication program, creating concern after initial positive signs in Mr. Humala's campaign promises to control cocaine production. Peru's coca eradication program was reinstated in a different area of the country, but concerns remain as it appears Humala prefers to develop his counterdrug strategy in line with his farming constituents without consultation with the United States. Drug trafficking poses, as outlined in the President's Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime, a significant national security threat to Americans' health, safety, and economic stability.

Richard Soberon, the head of Peru's counternarcotics agency DEVIDA, said the nation will increase spending 20 percent next year to step up drug seizures and tighten controls on chemicals used to process cocaine. Soberon has developed a sustainable eradication program that replaces coca with legal produce while they collaborate to strengthen their fight against the trafficking of cocaine. This is an area where the United States and Colombia have collaboratively achieved tremendous success, however Peru appears determined to forge its own path. As the status of Humala's counternarcotics strategies change, these efforts in Peru need to be reviewed and tracked closely by the United States. If Peru follows its neighbors Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela in isolating the U.S. ability to assist in eradication, the violent drug wars racing to the U.S.'s borders will continue for years down the road.

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Questions/comments regarding RSC NSWG items can be directed to Bruce Miller bruce.miller@mail.house.gov

⁵ Kahlili, Reza. (September 18, 2011). Must America Accept a Nuclear Iran? www.foxnews.com