

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

- *Chinese Land Grabs, Latin American Trade, and the Global Race for Food Security (Rep Mack)*
 - *The Secure High-Voltage Infrastructure for Electricity from Lethal Damage (SHIELD) Act (Rep Franks)*
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- *Chinese Land Grabs, Latin American Trade, and the Global Race for Food Security (Rep Mack)*

Reports last week of Chinese farmland purchases in Latin America are putting the recent debate over global food scarcity into focus. One key reason for the Middle East's upheaval this spring was food shortages. Within our own Hemisphere, we see a rising example in Venezuela, where rising food prices are being caused by a crumbling economy and mounting inflation. Last month, China acquired \$7 billion in Brazilian land alone, adding to their rising presence on the continent. Latin American governments have begun putting limits on foreign land purchases as the Chinese look to assume direct control over raw materials on other continents. Without viable alternatives, Latin American landowners have been willing to sell off enormous tracts of land to the richly persuasive Chinese government. If we continue to deny the importance of establishing clear relationships and a presence in our own Hemisphere, China's tactics will have them increasingly in control of our Hemisphere's food resources. The Chinese will continue to eliminate the need for a middle man, i.e. local farmers in these resource rich countries, in order to feed a hungry and populous nation. The Obama Administration would do well to learn its lesson from the Middle East, take notice of Chinese development in Latin America, and develop clear policies before China's efforts to alleviate its own food scarcity reduces stability in our Hemisphere as well.

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

- *The Secure High-Voltage Infrastructure for Electricity from Lethal Damage (SHIELD) Act (Rep Franks)*

In our technological advancement, we have now captured the electron and transported its utility into nearly every business, home and industrial endeavor throughout the civilized world. In so doing, we have advanced our standard of living and productivity beyond dreams. But we have also grown profoundly dependent upon electricity and its many accoutrements.

In keeping with one of humanity's most reliable hallmarks, we now find among our greatest strengths an unsettling vulnerability... EMP...Electromagnetic Pulse. Catalyzed by a major solar storm, a high altitude nuclear blast, or a non-nuclear, device induced Intentional Electromagnetic Interference, this invisible force of ionized particles has the capability to overwhelm and destroy our present electrical power grids and electrical equipment, including electronic communication networks, radio equipment, integrated circuits and computers.

In 2008 the EMP Commission testified before The Armed Services Committee that the US society and economy are so critically dependent upon the availability of electricity that a significant collapse of the grid, precipitated by a major natural or man-made EMP event, could result in catastrophic civilian casualties. This conclusion is echoed by separate reports recently compiled by the DoD, DHS, DoE, National Academy of Sciences, along with various other government agencies and independent researchers. All came to very similar conclusions. The sobering reality is that this vulnerability, if left unaddressed, could have grave, societal altering consequences.

In 1859, English Astronomer Richard Carrington discovered the cause of natural EMP when he identified and chronicled a major geomagnetic solar storm which brilliantly intensified the Northern lights and caused the telegraph system, the only major electrical system that existed on earth at that time, to go down across the planet. The National Academy of Sciences predicts this effect, to a lesser or greater degree will recur globally approximately once every 100 years.

America's EMP commission began their 70 page executive summary describing a one or two missile EMP attack as one of the few threats which look as if it could defeat the US military. Dr. William Graham, the chairman of the EMP Commission, testified before the U.S. House Armed Services Committee, and stated:

"EMP is one of a small number of threats that can hold our society at risk of catastrophic consequences. A determined adversary can achieve an EMP attack capability without having a high level of sophistication. For example, an adversary would not have to have long-range ballistic missiles to conduct an EMP attack against the United States. Such an attack could be launched from a freighter off the U.S. coast using a short or medium range missile to loft a nuclear warhead to high altitude. Terrorists sponsored by a rogue state could potentially execute such an attack without revealing their identity."

Dr. Graham has said that a major catastrophic EMP attack on the United States could cause an estimated 70-90 percent of the nation's population to become unsustainable.

But for terrorists, this is their ultimate goal, and I believe EMP is their ultimate asymmetric weapon. In 1988, Osama bin Laden called it a religious duty for al-Qaida to acquire nuclear weapons. U.S. Admiral Mike Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has stated, "My worst nightmare is terrorists with nuclear weapons. Not only do I know they are trying to get them, but I know they will use them."

This is indeed the greatest danger of all - If a rogue state like Iran steps over the nuclear threshold, rogue regimes and terrorists the world over will have access to these monstrous weapons.

We are now 65 years into the nuclear age, and the ominous intersection of jihadist terrorism and nuclear proliferation has been inexorably and relentlessly rolling toward America and the free world for decades. But, when we add the dimension of asymmetric electromagnetic pulse attacks to that equation, we face a menace that may represent the gravest short term threat to the peace and security of the human family in the world today.

Certainly there are those who believe that the likelihood of terrorists or rogue states obtaining nuclear weapons and using them in an EMP attack is remote. It may be a reasonable conclusion for the moment. But the recent events of the Arab Spring, which our intelligence apparatus did not foresee, show us that regimes can change very quickly. Is a regime change in Pakistan possible? Will there be blowback from our involvement in Libya? What about the current crisis in Syria? Will North Korea ever supply or sell it nuclear technology or warheads to terrorists? Will Iran develop or obtain nuclear weapons?

If terrorists or rogue states do acquire nuclear weapons, hardening our electric grid would become a desperate priority for our nation. However, that process will take several years, while a regime change takes only weeks and a missile launch only minutes. The fact that we are now 100% vulnerable means we should start securing our electric infrastructure now. Indeed, by reducing our vulnerability we may reduce the likelihood that terrorists or rogue states would attempt such an attack.

Thankfully, there is a moment in the life of nearly every problem when it is big enough to be seen by reasonable people and still small enough to be solved. We live in that moment when there still may be time for the free world to address and mitigate the vulnerability that naturally occurring or weaponized EMP represents to the mechanisms of our civilization.

The challenge to ultimately and fully protect our peoples and nations from all of the various perils of natural or manmade electromagnetic pulse will be long and lingering. But the time to protect our nation from the most devastating scenario is now; the threat is real, and the implications are sobering.

I urge every member to support the Secure High-voltage Infrastructure for Electricity from Lethal Damage (SHIELD) Act. The time is now for us to begin protecting the grid against EMP events, whether natural, nuclear, or non-nuclear. The SHIELD Act provides a catalyst at this pivotal time to ensure that the grid is protected. There is still time, but we must act now to keep this nation the shining light it has always been to the world.

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