

**National Security Working Group**  
***Weekly National Security Working Group Update***  
**Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman**  
**Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ), NSWG Chairman**  
*11 May 2011*

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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*In This Newsletter:*

- *Space Based Interceptor Amendment (Rep Franks)*
  - *The Defense of the Jewish Homeland (Rep West)*
  - *NATO is Indeed Still a Relevant Partner in our National Security Strategy (Rep Hunter)*
  - *Drug Cartels Seek Military-Grade Weapons as Drug Wars Rage (Rep Mack)*
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*Space Based Interceptor (SBI) Amendment (Rep Franks)*

Congressman Trent Franks will introduce the Space Based Interceptor (SBI) study amendment today. The SBI amendment would require a study by the Missile Defense Agency on the operational and technical considerations associated with developing and deploying a limited spaced-based missile defense interceptor capability that could augment the existing and planned terrestrially based missile defense system. \$8.0 million would be authorized.

The Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA) conducted a study that evaluated the technical, operational, cost feasibility and advisability of developing an active space-based defense system. The study was completed in 2011 and was the first effort since the Bush Administration's Space Test Bed concept that sought to evaluate the SBI concept. IDA evaluated concerns associated with the SBI program to include program costs. The study included examination of potential operational limitations, consequences of any space debris produced, susceptibility to countermeasures and attack, and total estimated life cycle costs. Many study findings are classified. However, on an unclassified basis, the costs for a limited constellation, such as what would defend against a Chinese anti-ship ballistic missile attack on the US Navy, or an attack on the U.S. by North Korea, should be less than the \$30 billion the U.S. has spent on the ground-based mid-course defense system in California and Alaska, for significantly greater defense.

Opposition to space-based interceptors is primarily due to either animosity toward President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), cost, concerns about "weaponizing" space, or, concerns about creating space debris. However, the IDA study proves that these concerns are without merit. The Franks SBI Amendment would pick up on the IDA report and move to the next logical step: a study by the Missile Defense Agency on the operational and technical considerations with developing and deploying a limited space-based missile defense interceptor capability.

SBI is a modest and very reasonable amendment. It is the next logical step, after the completed IDA study, in the sober analysis of the feasibility of a space based missile defense interceptor capability. The SBI amendment merely funds a study that will look at technical aspects that the IDA study did not cover. It does not build or deploy anything. Gathering all the facts on this issue is the prudent thing to do, and I urge every member to support this reasonable and modest amendment. This is merely due diligence. We should not fail to do our homework while we have the time.

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*- The Defense of the Jewish Homeland (Rep West)*

The recent announcement by the Palestinian Authority of the formation of a unity government comprised of Fatah and Hamas is deeply troubling. This united front only adds to the overall unrest and instability in the Middle East and is a first step in the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state. Any government, in which Hamas - a terrorist organization whose charter calls for the destruction of Israel - plays a role, should not receive one dollar from the United States.

This announcement signals that President Abbas has chosen Hamas over peace with Israel, America's strongest ally in the Middle East. Make no mistake, Israel is under attack from an enemy that will stop at nothing until the State of Israel is destroyed, the same enemy that also wants nothing more than to see the US defeated and diminished.

I believe the United States Congress has a solemn duty to ensure that the homeland of the Jewish people remains as such. The State of Israel is the one bright light shining in a dark ocean of tyranny and oppression. Israel must be allowed to defend itself from external and internal aggression; the Israeli people must be allowed to continue to build within their borders, and Jerusalem must be recognized as the nation's only capital. Furthermore, the United States must stand by Israel's side in the face of a United Nations who clearly views the State of Israel through the lens of anti-Semitism and hatred. Anything less than full support for Israel and its citizens at the United Nations by the United States government is simply unacceptable.

The United States and Israel share the common bonds of freedom, liberty, democracy, and the right to worship in the name of any religion you see fit. We share a common enemy in radical Islam, and have both seen our citizens murdered and maimed by terrorist thugs who kill women and children in the name of religion. We are indeed each other's greatest ally – without the United States, Israel would not exist; without Israel, the US would soon fall.

As Members of Congress, we have to take a cold hard look at what the recent moves by the Palestinian Authority mean for the peace and security of Israel. The United States must remain firm in our commitment to the Jewish State and cease all funding to the Palestinian Authority immediately.

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#### *NATO is Indeed Still a Relevant Partner in our National Security Strategy (Rep Hunter)*

A recent opinion piece in the Washington Post called for a national debate on the future of NATO once operations in Libya have concluded. Others have leveled accusations that calling operations in Libya and Afghanistan NATO led disingenuous. At a time when our allies in Europe have begun to reduce the size and funding of their military forces; and the Administration has called for a \$400 billion reduction in defense spending over the course of the next decade, cooperation with our partner countries in NATO in conducting international operations will become even more relevant to our national security strategy. The collective military strength of the twenty eight nations that make up NATO should be seen as the first option in any response to an international crisis involving one of its members. Certainly the argument can be made that the United States holds a significant leadership position in this particular international organization, but to say it is simply a pseudonym for American military operations is a mischaracterization of this partnership and unfair to our NATO allies' contributions to the command structure and manpower that are currently conducting operations in Afghanistan, Libya, the Horn of Africa, Kosovo, and Maritime counter-terrorist operations in the Mediterranean. The United Nations has proven itself to be a toothless, bureaucratic, body with no real loyalties or common purpose amongst its members. Whereas NATO is currently demonstrating its relevance in the Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Middle East with boots on the ground, a common purpose, and strategic goals. NATO is and will continue to be a relevant partner in our national security strategy.

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#### *Drug Cartels Seek Military-Grade Weapons as Drug Wars Rage (Rep Mack)*

According to a press release out of the Arizona U.S. Attorney's Office last week, two Mexican citizens have pled guilty for their attempt to purchase military-grade weapons, including a Stinger anti-aircraft missile, for the Sinaloa drug cartel. U.S. Attorney Dennis K. Burke called the attempt "a well-financed criminal conspiracy to acquire massive destructive firepower." Although President Felipe Calderon's government should be commended for gains it has made against the cartels and success in building a vetted Federal Police force, tangible benefits of the Calderon's commitment to breakdown the cartels are difficult to demonstrate. The attempted purchase of a Stinger anti-aircraft missile is just one example of the power, capability, and determination of the cartels in their fight against the Mexican government. STRATFOR's 2011 report on the Mexican Drug War raised the possibility that Calderon may have no choice but to compromise with the Sinaloa cartel in order to stem the violence. As the violence rages in Mexico and spills across our southern border, we can no longer ignore America's Third War. The United States must develop a comprehensive yet targeted strategy before political pressures derail current progress.

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Question or comments regarding RSC National Security Working Group items can also be directed to Bruce F. Miller, [Bruce.Miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:Bruce.Miller@mail.house.gov)