

National Security Working Group
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.

- US National Defense and China's Growing Military Prowess (Rep Franks)

Last week, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Chief of General Staff Chen Bingde said the US is spending too much money on defense, "placing too much pressure on taxpayers." Bingde made the statements during a joint news conference with Admiral Mike Mullen. According to the Associated Press, China's annual military budget is US\$95 billion which is second only to the United States military budget of US\$650 billion.

Bingde made the statements while down playing China's rapidly growing military capabilities. Furthermore, Bingde stated China is "more than two decades behind the US in terms of military technology and Beijing needs to upgrade by adding new hardware such as aircraft carriers." Bingde statements don't match China's recent military weapon system developments and demonstrations. In January 2011, China conducted its first test flight of a new stealth jet, the J-20. The communist nation is also renovating a Russian aircraft carrier that it purchased from Ukraine, which is close to "setting out" while at the same time preparing to build its own aircraft carriers. Bingde also confirmed last week that China "was developing the Dong Feng 21D anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM), the first Chinese official to publicly state that the missile is in development." (Taipei Times) The DF-21D is designed to hit moving targets at sea which is a direct threat to US aircraft carrier battle groups.

Let's be clear, the US defense can never stall or fall behind any nation. As the worldwide defender of liberty and freedom, our military superiority must always be maintained to ensure a free and secure United States. We must not fall into a trap of letting our military superiority degrade - we must continually advance and improve our military advantage. Our ability to maintain military superiority over other nations is a national treasure.

- Now Is Not the Time to Cut Defense (Rep Hunter)

In April 2009, Secretary Gates addressed the Navy War College and warned against the historical precedent of major defense cuts at the conclusion of the nation's wars. Two years later, probably at the urging of the Obama administration, Gates engineered \$180 billion dollars in cuts to defense spending which were sold as "efficiencies". Unfortunately, more and more attention is being given to even larger cuts to defense as part of negotiations to raise the debt ceiling in order to cut spending. However, this is not the time to be cutting defense while we are a nation at war with our brave men and women fighting in harm's way on multiple fronts. As Members of Congress with direct authority given to us under the Constitution, we need to ensure that our Armed Forces are well equipped with every resource they need to protect this great nation.

Prior to his departure, Secretary Gates said in commencement speech at Notre Dame, "A recurring theme in America for nearly a century has been a tendency to conclude after each war that the fundamental nature of man and the iron realities of nations have changed. That history, in all of its unpredictable and tragic dimensions, has come to a civilized end, that we will no longer have to confront foreign enemies with size, steel and strength." The obvious implication to this argument is that our enemies have not left the battlefield, the war on terror is not over, and much will be risked if in Gates' words, "the political leadership of this country decides that it must reduce the investment in defense by hundreds of billions of dollars."

Specifically, we must not do what we did in the 1970's and in the 1090's which was across-the-board cuts. Yet, many are calling for indiscriminate cuts, proposing everything from an overall 10% cut in spending, eliminating the MV-22 (currently being successfully employed by the Marine Corps and Special Operation Forces in Afghanistan) to cancelling the F-35 program. The latter is most concerning since the F-35 is a must buy for the United States along with the next generation Air Force Refueling Tanker and ballistic missile submarines. Reports indicate our forces will

face a significant shortfall in equipment availability from over ten years of war and will require adequate time and funding to boost equipment levels back to numbers that are necessary to sufficiently defend this nation.

We can all agree that we must be judicious with every taxpayer dollar that is provided to the Pentagon, but we must also invest in the requirements needed to keep our country safe. It would be irresponsible to offer up great sums of defense dollars to be cut without first understanding the impact it would have. The Pentagon is going through \$178 billion in savings and efficiencies, but before they can work through that, they are being told to prepare for additional cuts reportedly totaling around \$400 billion over the next decade. Our military leaders are not being provided with any analysis on where that number came from and how it will impact the forces and their ability to complete the missions overseas and protect America. Defense dollars should not be used as a scapegoat as part of a solution to our fiscal problems. Now is not the time to arbitrarily cut defense spending.

- No Foreign Military Sales to the Muslim Brotherhood Led Egypt (Rep West)

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress on July 1, 2011, of a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Egypt for 125 M1A1 Abrams tank kits for co-production and associated weapons, equipment, parts, training and logistical support. The possible sale includes 125 M1A1 Abrams tank kits for co-production, 125 M256 Armament Systems, 125 M2 .50 caliber machine guns, 250 M240 7.62mm machine guns, 125 AGT-1500 M1A1 series tank engines and transmissions, 120 mm test cartridges, spare and repair parts, maintenance, support equipment, special tool and test equipment, personnel training and equipment, services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The current government in Egypt is in a fragile state without a new leader, and this void may create dangerous political consequences for Egypt, as well as for the United States and Israel.

In fact, since Mubarak stepped down from power on February 11, there have been four separate attacks on a pipeline that supplies Israel with natural gas from Egypt, the most recent just having occurred last week. Further, Israel's southern border has seen intensified rocket and mortar attacks since Mubarak's ouster. Even more troubling was the February 22 passage of 2 Iranian naval vessels up the Suez Canal, which was approved by Egypt's ruling military council, along with the May visit of the Egyptian Foreign Minister to Iran, in which he declared that Iran is not an enemy of Egypt.

One of the greatest threats to Egyptian stability, as well as to regional stability, is the growing prospect of a new Egyptian Government under the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB). If given control of the country, the MB would nominate its own candidates and turn Egypt into a radical Islamic state. The MB also maintains active ties to Hamas and Hezbollah, terrorist organizations that openly call for the destruction of Israel, America's greatest ally in the Middle East. Furthermore, the Brotherhood has repeatedly called for the termination of the Peace Treaty signed between Egypt and Israel during the Camp David Peace Accords.

America must continue to stand with the Egyptian people and encourage them to build their own democracy with new political parties and freedoms. However, we must exercise caution with regards to military sales and support to the Egyptian Government until a government is formed absent of the radical elements of the MB that will maintain active peace with Israel.

I strongly oppose any military sales of any kind to the Government of Egypt as long as the MB remains active in the political process. Doing so would seriously jeopardize the safety and security of the State of Israel. The last thing I want to see are Egyptian M1A1 tanks rolling through the Sinai towards Jerusalem.

- Free Trade Agreements Need Attention Now (Rep Mack)

America's trade deficit in May increased 15.1 percent to \$50.2 billion. The American trade deficit can no longer be ignored by the leaders of our country. The three pending Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea are valuable contributions to lowering this deficit and an opportunity to gather the benefits of international commerce and important allies. The current status of the FTAs is hurting U.S. national security by isolating these allies and destroying possible economic opportunities. These agreements must be set in motion in order to allow sufficient time for necessary proceedings before August recess. It is crucial to reduce this alarmingly high deficit before the opportunity to capitalize on key export markets diminishes.

The Free Trade Agreements can assist in lessening the debt by reducing barriers to U.S. exports, which creates a more stable and transparent trading and investment environment. This makes it easier and less costly for U.S. companies to export their products and services. Also, an increase in exports will decrease the unemployment rate, which is a widespread epidemic across the country. Not only do FTAs promote economic integration and enhance competitiveness, they build a greater sense of security and certainty in today's globalized society. America needs the Obama administration to help the country now by submitting these pending Free Trade Agreements.

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