



## **The National Security Working Group**

**Rep. Trent Franks, Chairman**

The National Security Working Group (NSWG) begins the 113th Congress with Trent Franks (R-AZ) and John Fleming (R-LA) leading the way. Last Congress the NSWG provided coverage on a wide spectrum of issues, including the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START and events in Syria. Judging by the start of this year, the NSWG will have no difficulty filling the pages of our newsletter and keeping the RSC updated on issues concerning our nation's security. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members, and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.

### **Iran Uses Stall Tactic in Nuclear Talks (Rep. Franks)**

Just four weeks after seemingly agreeing to further nuclear negotiations, Iran has shown its true colors again by stalling - declining to respond to at least two proposals for meetings with US and European diplomats. Despite a visit by the International Atomic Energy Agency this week, officials in Tehran have still refused to commit to any logistical proposals.

IAEA agency chief, Yukiya Amano, recently told reporters he was "not necessarily optimistic" about the outcome of the meeting, even though last month the U.N. nuclear watchdog reported progress in resolving the dispute. Iran still hasn't granted access to military facilities where the agency believes the country has secretly conducted research on nuclear weapons a decade ago.

Seyed Hossein Mousavian, a former nuclear negotiator for Iran now living in the United States, said Iran leaders are concerned a meeting will be 'unsuccessful'; other experts speculate Iranians are locked in an internal debate over whether to agree to limits on its nuclear program in return for future sanctions relief.

Regardless of what Iran said this week to IAEA officials, we must continue to demand a nuclear-free Iran. This stalling tactic is just one more example of the deception Tehran is willing to undertake to safeguard their nuclear agendas. We see this time and time again from Iranian leadership; they will say anything to create confusion and chaos within Western ranks.

In the next few weeks we will likely see the appointment of a new Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense. Are these nominees ready to hold a hard line on Iran's deadly nuclear ambitions and defend our bonds with Israel? Or will they believe the falsehoods and stall tactics employed by Tehran? The Obama administration seems bent on weakening our position, and allowing Iran to further stall important investigations into military sites like Parchin, where new satellite imagery provides compelling evidence that conventional explosives have been tested and could be used to detonate a nuclear charge.

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