



## **National Security Working Group**

### ***Special Report: Obama's Weakening of Missile Defense***

**Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ), Chairman**

President Barack Obama and the Democrat Leadership in Congress have imposed an exorbitant spending plan on the American people. But there is one part of the budget that is going to take a cut- our national defense, and especially, our ballistic missile defense system (BMDS). In light of these facts, the RSC's National Security Working Group has prepared the following document.

On April 6th, the Obama administration announced that it will cut the missile defense budget by \$1.4 billion – or nearly 15%.

77-percent of last year's budget for the Missile Defense Agency is for the testing, fielding, and sustainment of our current missile defense programs – not for research and development, as is generally believed. **Significant funding reductions cut into real capabilities.** Although the Obama administration was silent on several important BMDS initiatives, they did single out several specific programs.

The ground-based interceptors (GBIs) in Alaska are a critical component of the segment of the BMDS that protects the United States of America (as opposed to forward deployed forces and allies) from long range ballistic missiles. In order to increase the chances of the U.S. successfully intercepting incoming missiles, the U.S. must maintain a robust number of interceptors in our arsenal. Despite this, the Obama administration has decided not to increase the number of current ground-based interceptors in Alaska "as had been planned." This comes on the heels of two profoundly disturbing events.

**1.) On April 4, 2009, North Korea defiantly launched a Taepodong missile, in violation of [U.N. Security Council Resolution 1718](#), demonstrating North Korean efforts to develop a missile capable of striking Guam, Hawaii, and the continental United States. Reports indicate Iranian experts were present at the launch; and North Korea has a history of sharing ballistic missiles and technology with Syria and Iran. North Korea already has enough plutonium for 6-13 nuclear weapons, [according to experts](#).**

2.) On February 2, 2009, Iran successfully produced and launched a satellite. The technology to launch a satellite is essentially the same technology used to launch a missile.

- **General Maples, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, March 10, 2009:**
  - "Iran's 2 February 2009 launch of the Safir space launch vehicle shows progress in mastering the technology needed to produce ICBMs."

- **"North Korea has continued development of the Taepo-dong 2, which could be used for space launch or as an ICBM."**

More than 20 countries have ballistic missiles, and proliferation among dangerous countries persists.

- **General Maples, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, March 10,2009: "The threat posed by ballistic missile systems is likely to increase over the next decade."**

The Obama administration also announced it will impose cuts on the Airborne Laser program (ABL) and will terminate the Multiple Kill Vehicle (MKV) program.

- Both the ABL and MKV programs are designed to counter "sophisticated threats." As America's enemies continue to develop more sophisticated weapons, the United States must invest in systems to defend against these threats.
- ABL is designed to intercept missiles in their earliest phase of flight (boost phase), before the enemy's missile can deploy countermeasures. Intercepting a missile in its boost phase will cause the warhead, toxic or otherwise, to land in the enemy's lap, rather than on innocent Americans or our allies.
- The MKV program is designed to enhance the segment of our BMDS that intercepts long range ballistic missiles by providing many more opportunities to destroy an incoming missile(s).

It is clear, that despite the increasing missile threats against the United States and its allies, the Obama administration is bent on receding from such threats. Despite being constitutionally required to defend the United States, the Obama administration wants to lower America's defense against threats it knows are worsening.

For more information on America's Missile defense, visit these webpages:

<http://www.mda.mil/mdalink/html/mdalink.html>  
<http://www.heritage.org/research/ballisticmissiledefense/>  
<http://www.missilethreat.com/>  
[http://www.afpc.org/publication\\_listings/viewBulletin/606](http://www.afpc.org/publication_listings/viewBulletin/606)

To see the Obama administration's proposed cuts to missile defense and other American defenses, visit this webpage:

<http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/transcript.aspx?transcriptid=4350>

RSC Contact Bruce F. Miller, [bruce.miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:bruce.miller@mail.house.gov).