

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

June 25, 2009

2:08 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Bill Wielechowski, Co-Chair
Representative Nancy Dahlstrom, Co-Chair
Senator Lesil McGuire
Senator Joe Paskvan via teleconference
Senator Gene Therriault
Representative Jay Ramras
Representative Pete Petersen
Representative Charisse Millett

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Charlie Huggins
Representative John Harris

OTHER LEGISLTORS PRESENT

Senator Fred Dyson
Representative Bob Lynn

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

Briefing and Discussion Regarding the Ground Based Midcourse
Defense Agency and Cuts to the Program

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record.

WITNESS REGISTER

MEAD TREDWELL, Senior Fellow
Institute of the North

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided Alaska perspective on missile
defense.

MICHAEL GREEN Ph.D., Senior Advisor and Japan Chair
Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
Washington D.C.

POSITION STATEMENT: Summarized North Korean nuclear activity
and related it to Alaska readiness.

ACTION NARRATIVE

2:06:48 PM

CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM called the Joint Armed Services Committee meeting to order at 2:06 pm. Present at the call to order were Senators Wielechowski, Therriault, McGuire and Paskvan [via teleconference]; Representatives Ramras, Petersen, Millett and Dahlstrom; and public member Adjutant General Jake Lestenkoff. She also recognized the presence of Senator Dyson, Representative Lynn, Lt. Governor Parnell, Lt. Colonel Eric Maxon with the Alaska National Guard, Ralph Scott the public affairs officer for the Missile Defense Agency for Alaska, and Phil Means the deputy to the assistant to the director for the Missile Defense Agency for Alaska.

Ground Based Midcourse Defense Agency

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CO-CHAIR DALSTROM said she is deviating from normal procedure to ask Lt Governor Parnell to talk about his recent visit to the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis.

LT GOVERNOR PARNELL explained that he and a number of legislators had the opportunity to spend a day on the USS John C. Stennis that is currently participating in the Northern Edge exercise in the Gulf of Alaska. The effort is designed to better collaborate with all branches of the armed services. He praised the dedicated, competent and well-trained men and women in uniform. He said they made him proud and grateful for all our military services.

Alaskans often are able to see and support Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves but it's not often that there is an opportunity to see and say thank you to sailors and Marines, he said. This was an opportunity to do so. He suggested that the committee encourage school districts to tap into these young people who are serving our country and invite them to school assemblies to talk about their experiences. This can only result in positives for Alaska communities and the nation. He added that he is always open to meeting with the committee and continuing this dialog.

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CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM stated that the purpose of the meeting is to hear presentations on the missile defense system here in Alaska and around the world. With the ongoing nuclear threats from North Korea it's important to have a brief hearing on the issue

so Alaska policymakers can keep as current as possible. First on the agenda is to hear a presentation from Michael Green who will focus on the North Korean threat to the U.S. and world. Following that Mead Treadwell will talk about what Alaska should be focusing on with respect to missile defense. Finally, there will be a video by the Heritage Foundation on the importance of missile defense.

MEAD TREDWELL, Senior Fellow, Institute of the North, introduced Michael Green explaining that he recently left the job of special assistant to the president for National Security Affairs and senior director for Asian Affairs for the National Security Council. Mr. Treadwell related that when he recently met with former Secretary of State Rice's chief of staff and asked who he should recommend to the Legislature to talk about North Korea, Mr. Green was at the top of the list.

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MICHAEL GREEN Ph.D., Senior Advisor and Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), summarized the current North Korea threat and their intentions beginning with the test of their new long-range missile. That was intended to be a three-stage missile and two of the stages successfully separated showing that the North Koreans have come some long way in their program development. Then in late May 2009 North Korea tested a 3-5 kiloton nuclear device making their trajectory quite apparent. Their intent is to marry nuclear, chemical and biological weapons on long-range ballistic missiles to enhance their threat against the U.S., Japan and other countries in the region. Mr. Green said it is his belief that the North Korea regime is clinging to survival by trying to develop a deliverable nuclear weapon system that will force the world to respond to their demands and make it difficult for the U.S. and other countries to punish them for their actions.

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Another factor that may be accelerating North Korea's behavior is the worry about succession to the ailing Kim Jong-il. He has put forward his third son, 26 year old Kim Jong-un, to succeed him. Little is known about him, but what is known is that the previous succession, from Kim il-Sung to Kim Jong-il, is the one and only example of a totalitarian communist dictator who has had a successful dynastic succession from father to son. In some ways this makes North Korea more unpredictable and succession worries may be a reason for the acceleration. But the bottom line is that their reason for doing this is to develop their nuclear capability.

In 2003 North Korea said that if the U.S. did not end its "hostile policy" they would test their nuclear weapons, expand their arsenal and transfer capability. Since then they've tested nuclear weapons and transferred some capability to Syria. He said he mentions this because the U.S. needs to worry about transfer capability and what might happen. He personally believes that North Korea understands that transferring a nuclear weapon is a red line and that it's possible to interpret the forensics of any nuclear blast and trace it back. But at the same time North Korea seems to think that it has some room before it gets to a red line. Currently there is a North Korean ship that en route to Burma that possibly contains chemical or biological capabilities. He suggested that a danger to watch is that North Korea will push the envelope to see how much it can transfer capability while staying short of that retaliatory red line. Transferring capability brings North Korea cash and keeps the U.S. on the defensive.

Understandably, Japan has been unnerved by this activity and further is worried about commitments the U.S. has made and not kept. South Korea has a more realist and hardheaded government and the U.S. is well aligned with that government. China is extremely unhappy with North Korea, but continues to try to dial back U.S. sentiments and action. His view is that the Chinese won't put serious pressure on North Korea until it's clear that the U.S. is willing to defend itself and exert pressure with its allies.

MR. GREEN stated that he worked for President Bush and on the McCain campaign, but he would give the Obama administration very high marks on how it has responded to this situation. They sent a high-level delegation to the region and pushed for a tough Security Council resolution. It wasn't tougher than the previous resolution but that one was never implemented. Implementation is key and it seems that this administration is serious about implementing this resolution by putting up financial sanctions, interdicting ships when there is reason to think they carry dangerous materials, and doing more on missile defense. The U.S. told the Chinese that there were two ways to deal with North Korea. China could help put pressure on North Korea or the U.S. will work with allies and enhance its missile defenses.

MR. GREEN said that in that context it's troubling that Congress is cutting missile defense spending when the administration is telling the Chinese and U.S. allies that it is going to be doing more on missile defense because of the North Korean threat.

Alaska needs the capability and the U.S. needs to show that it is serious. That backs up diplomacy.

MR. GREEN mentioned that the succession to Kim Jong-un, which is underway, raises the very real possibility that the regime could start unraveling. The U.S. is in good discussions with its allies about how it will respond, but it's difficult for the Chinese because they are still, on paper, allied with North Korea. Nonetheless, China is quietly talking to think tanks to the U.S. government about options if North Korea collapses. It's daunting to consider what might happen to that country's arsenal of chemical, biological, and nuclear capabilities as well as its million-man army when the controls come off. We will all welcome the day that North Korea is free, but that day will open another set of challenges, he said.

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MR. TREDWELL asked what he thinks Alaska should do to help the President show resolve vis-à-vis the North Korea situation.

MR. GREEN responded that Alaska already has added clarity to this debate in Washington and has demonstrated that capabilities from missile defense are not an abstract strategic concept. It has a very real significance for people living in Alaska. At the rate that North Korea is improving its program, it will have significance for all states so that voice to Congress, the State Department, and the Missile Defense Agency is important. Budgets for missile defense capabilities should not be going down, he emphasized.

He suggested that The Institute of the North can play a role in doing more with U.S. allies. The U.S. has a close relationship with Japan on missile defense; South Korea has missile defense capabilities but neither the U.S. nor Japan hasn't done much with them; Australia now is looking at missile defense. It's important for governments to think tank and for people on the outside to encourage dialog on how to integrate and cooperate on missile defense. This will get attention from the administration, North Korea and China. China doesn't want to see democratic allies in Asia integrating in this way, but it needs to understand that if it doesn't use its considerable leverage on North Korea that will be the future.

MR. TREADWELL said his focus today is to bring the committee up to date on some of the things the Institute of the North is working on as well as to articulate some of its concerns related to what's happening in North Korea.

MR. TREADWELL noted that this committee has played a major role in clarifying and personalizing the issues of missile defense. Furthermore he would emphasize that the committee has been a strong supporter of missile defense for the purpose of defending the country and not to get jobs for people living here. It's important to be clear that Alaska is the best place to do missile defense and it's not because our powerful Congressional delegation brought it here. This is the best place in North America to defend the country from a ground-based system. The ground-based system in Alaska is based at Fort Greely; a second set of interceptors is located at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California; and a third site is on the drawing board for Poland with radars in the Czech Republic. Alaska can be proud of its role in getting this global missile defense started.

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The Alaska legislative resolutions have always been clear about the concept of a layered missile defense. Whatever is done at Fort Greely has to be part of an integrated system that is sea-based, land-based, air-based, and possibly space-based for missile defense. If a missile is launched, the best way to catch it is in the boost phase so it falls back on the place it came from so it's been important to see the beginning of stronger theatre missile defenses and boost-phase missile defenses. To that end he recalls the Hawaii conference where state and national legislators from Alaska and Hawaii worked with their counterparts in Japan as Japan made decisions to go forward with the sea-based missile defense. The options at President Obama's disposal and the options that the Japanese have today are the sum of that cooperation.

MR. TREADWELL said there's been discussion that North Korea may try to show the capability to reach Hawaii and that means it could reach Alaska. This expected testing provides the U.S. with the opportunity to test all its defenses. He understands that Fort Greely will be stood up and so this is a way to test and improve our systems. At the same time it's of great concern that there is a \$1.2 billion cut in the Missile Defense Agency proposed budget for FY10, he said.

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The Institute of the North has been working on Missile Defense policies in a number of ways. First, they've followed up on the 2008 legislative resolution on electromagnetic pulse (EMP) and are working on a handbook for policymakers. He recently met with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to learn about their

plans to include testing for EMP international response and readiness.

He suggested the committee look at the book, "One Second After" by William R. Forstchen. It's about a small community and what happens during an EMP attack. One missile of the kind that North Korea is developing with one warhead exploded at a level that was high enough in the atmosphere that it shut down all power, telecommunications, and motorized vehicles. In this circumstance there wouldn't be a possibility to get mutual aid and our emergency responders haven't thought about that, he said. Thus we are encouraging the administration to respond to the commission on EMP and to go through that planning effort. It's not a major additional cost to plan for this, but it's a major gain to understand it, Mr. Treadwell said.

The second thing they've done is to issue a report along with other think tanks titled "Missile Defense: The Space Relationship in the 21st Century" that calls to build out the 44 ground-based missiles at Fort Greely and Vandenberg and to go ahead on the sea-based, air-based, and space-based efforts. Adjunct General Craig Campbell gave a briefing when the report was released.

The Institute of the North has continued to have international discussions with Canada, the Czech Republic, and Japan. The economies and defenses of Japan and the U.S. are closely integrated and it's important to understand just how important that alliance is. Finally, they are working to continue to publish their weekly newsletter the "Vanguard."

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MR. TREADWELL offered the following suggestions on behalf of the Institute of the North:

- Support Alaska's Congressional Delegation to move ahead in a bipartisan manner to finish the system in Alaska as it was planned and intended.
- Continue to review state planning for the state's greatest vulnerability of an EMP attack.
- Always understand the role Alaska would play in a layered system.
- Understand that space situational awareness and space control is an issue where Kodiak may play a significant role.
- Focus on international cooperation in fighting nuclear proliferation and strengthening missile defense.

CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM said this committee shows great bipartisan support for the military. She noted that in the audience today are representatives from the offices of Senator Begich and Senator Murkowski.

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SENATOR MCGUIRE asked what potential there really is to Alaskans for an attack from North Korea.

MR. TREADWELL explained that North Korea is trying to marry nuclear and missile technologies to show it has the throw weight to reach the U.S. If it has that capability, that means that Alaska's options are foreclosed in a number of ways. Alaska is a major supply point for any war in Southeast Asia and if the supply point is threatened then perhaps the U.S. can be intimidated. It's a chess game but his opinion is that they're not ready to declare war. The long-term game is to develop the capability to put the U.S. in check and we have to diminish that capability with a strong effective missile defense, he said. As they build up we should not retrench.

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CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM invited everyone to watch the movie, "33 Minutes" that was produced by the Heritage Foundation in 2009.

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CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM asked if there were questions.

REPRESENTATIVE PETERSEN asked how the 3-5 kiloton nuclear device that North Korea launched compares to the first bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.

MR. TREADWELL said he would get an answer. Responding to a question about the range, he said that information is in their recent report and copies will be distributed to all members.

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CO-CHAIR DAHLSTROM said the committee will continue to work on this issue through the Interim and into next session.

SENATOR MCGUIRE asked where the decision will be made about Fort Greely specifically with respect to the reduction in the number of interceptors from 44 to 30.

MR. TREADWELL responded he would need to get the information on what will go in the ground at Vandenberg as compared to Fort Greely. He believes that there were to be no more than ten at Vandenberg. Amendments made in committee to restore the funding were not successful. What will happen on the floor is uncertain. The concern with the \$1.2 billion budget cut is that there is only funding for the first air-born laser test. Funding for the warhead used in the boost phase and the multiple entry defense have been cut and the funding for the third - Czech - element of the system is reduced to 28 percent of what's needed. Having that third site in Europe brings security to Europe and to eastern and southern parts of the United States with greater redundancy, he said.

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SENATOR MCGUIRE asked if anything they saw on the USS John C. Stennis is part of the increase for the Navy programs.

MR. TREADWELL replied the Aegis systems were built to defend carrier groups and those missiles can be expanded to act against ballistic missiles.

SENATOR THERRIAULT remarked that they heard that the USS John C. Stennis went to Japan as part of this deployment. They also heard that the number of sorties they were practicing off the carrier is down because they don't have enough money for fuel.

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There being nothing further to come before the committee, Co-Chair Dahlstrom adjourned the meeting at 3:56 pm.