

Urgently Need to Counter an Existential Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Threat from the South

By

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See www.highfrontier.org for more information.

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Last October 22 was 50th anniversary of Kennedy's TV Address Advising the Nation of Soviet Nukes/Missiles on their Way to Cuba

- ***A Sober “Duck and Cover” Moment***
 - *US Introduced a Blockade;*
 - *Went to DEFCON 2 and threatened retaliatory response against USSR;*
 - *Behind the Scenes Negotiations—including agreement to remove our missiles from Turkey and for the USSR not to deploy missiles/nukes in Cuba*
 - *The Soviet ships stopped and the construction in Cuba halted and reversed*
 - *Secretary of State Dean Rusk said Khrushchev “blinked” in the face of US resolve*
- ***We “dodged a bullet” but did not know how close we came to disaster***
 - *After the Cold War, we learned there were already ~100 nukes in Cuba and Castro wanted them to stay—Khrushchev refused and they were removed by the end of 1962*
 - *Had we understood Khrushchev's deception, there might have been no deal*
- ***Today, we are on the brink of another threat “from the South”***
 - *Last week's intercept of a North Korean ship carrying SA-2 and other technology illustrates the “Cacophony of Proliferation”*
 - *Iranian (or terrorist) missiles on ships off our coasts, especially in the Gulf of Mexico and/or in Venezuela*
 - *North Korean or Iranian Satellites could carry nukes over the South Pole and detonate them over the US*
- ***But we seem oblivious to this threat, to which we are vulnerable***
 - *Should not count on deterring Iran—the Mullahs want to hasten the return of the Mahdi and might not shrink from a US holocaust at the risk of retaliation*
 - *And we are doing little to nothing to protect against the threat*

We need for the powers that be to “Provide for the common defense”!

This is not a new Threat

“Countries have placed ballistic missiles in ships – dime a dozen – all over the world. At any given time, there’s any number off our coasts – coming, going. On transporter-erector-launchers, they simply erect it, fire off a ballistic missile, put it down, cover it up. Their radar signature’s not any different than 50 others in close proximity.”

Defense Secretary Don Rumsfeld

Pentagon Press Briefing—September 16, 2002

- **Actually this threat was well known by the late 1990s**
- **But nothing has been done to protect against it**
 - Now even more profound, especially when coupled to the EMP threat
- **We have near-term countermeasure options**
 - Deploy sensors to provide needed warning and cueing information
 - Make use of currently deployed assets, and
 - Improve them as quickly as possible
 - Aegis BMD is key to early response

We have relatively inexpensive options to make significant improvements quickly, if the powers that be acknowledge the problem and take immediate actions!

Aegis BMD Features

- **Impressive test history**
 - 26 hits out of 32 tries—all executed by operational crews
 - Against short, medium and intermediate range ballistic missiles
 - In ascent and late mid-course threat phases
 - Includes 2008 satellite intercept (Faster target than an ICBM)
- **Now deployed at sea, and some operate near our coasts**
 - 16 in the Pacific, growing to a similar number in the Atlantic by 2015
 - A number are often near the East Coast
 - On an average day last year, there were two near our east Coast and 3-6 in port or undergoing maintenance
 - If prepared and with needed warning, the associated crews could defend against ICBMs
 - But seldom go into the Gulf of Mexico
- **Aegis Ashore, which is funded to be operational in Romania by 2015 and Poland by 2017**
 - Could also be deployed at military bases around the Gulf, perhaps sooner

All that is required is effective sensor information to cue the SM-3 and its associated radar and command control system

Key Step: Fill in the Warning Gap—and Supplement It

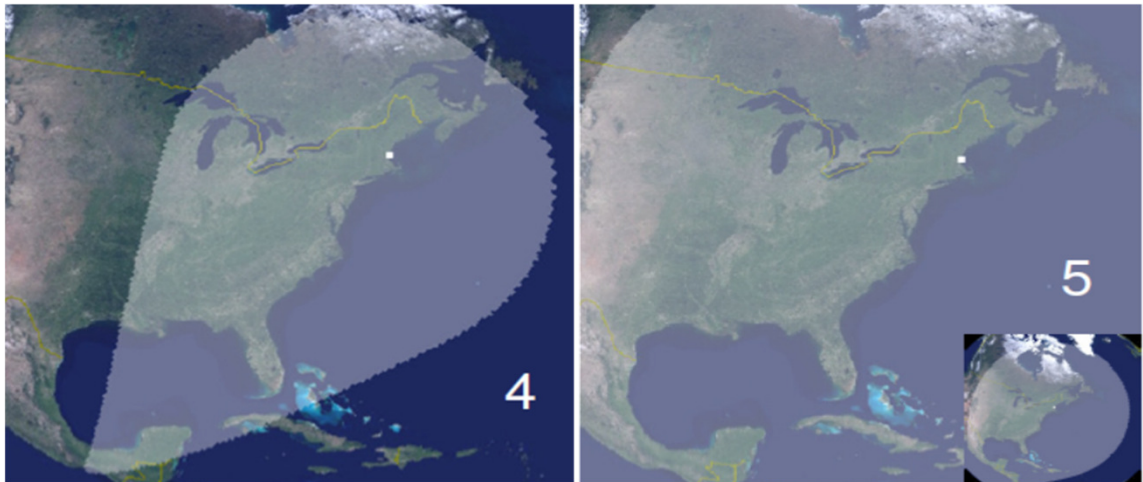
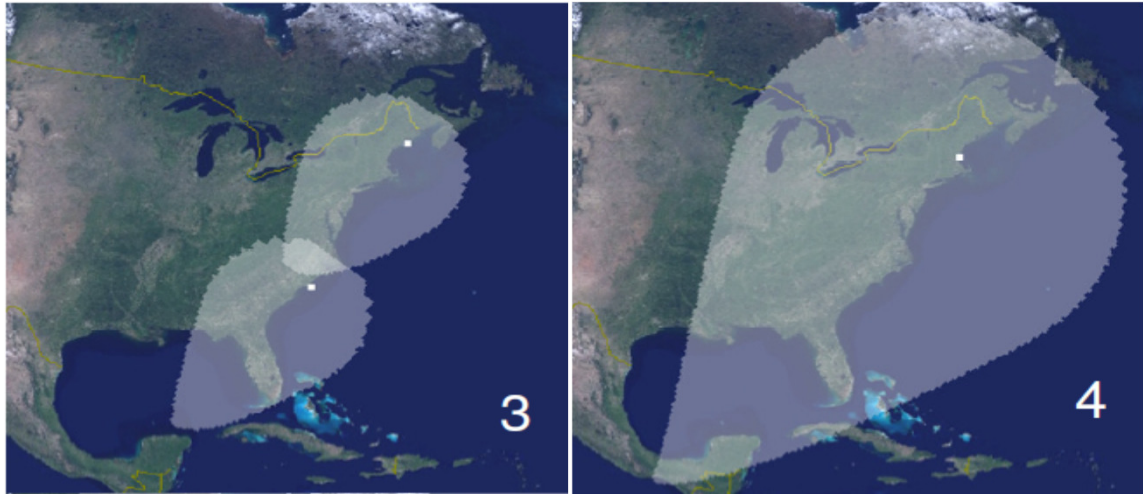
- **Baseline: Cold War Warning Fans**
 - Threat from the North
 - Gap to the South
 - Can be filled by a radar near Panama City, FL
- **But this is not sufficient—at least to enable Aegis BMD**
 - Forward based Aegis based Spy-1 radars also can help
 - Especially when coupled with space sensor information



Chart provided by Peter Huessy

Aegis Capabilities Against ICBMs From the North

- **With SM-3 IA&B and TYP-2 radars in MA & NC**
 - Potential coverage of Eastern Seaboard
 - Single TYP-2 in MA would enable North East to DC defense
- **SM-3 IIA (ready to deploy by 2017)**
 - Single TYP-2 would enable defense of US East of Mississippi
- **Future faster SM-3 (with lighter KKV) could defend the entire US**



Charts provided by Ret. VADM J.D. Williams

Summary and Recommended Action

- *EMP poses an existential threat from even short range ballistic missiles, especially if launched from the Gulf of Mexico*
- *Another threat from the South is the possibility of a satellite launched from over the South Pole to detonate its warhead over the US*
- *In case of the threat from rogue states or terrorists,*
 - *The Navy's Aegis BMD system can provide an effective defense if trained and ready crews operate it near enough to where attacking missiles are launched*
 - *Aegis ships do not normally operate in the Gulf of Mexico—leaving the US with a soft underbelly vulnerable to this threat—as well as others from the South, e.g., such as from Venezuela.*
 - *In that case, the same Aegis Ashore system American taxpayers are buying for deployment in Romania and Poland can be deployed on military bases around the Gulf of Mexico—possibly as soon as 2015 (Romania's scheduled deployment)*
- *In case of a the threat from over the South Pole, empower the Navy BMD to see what they can do—remember they shot down a dying satellite in 2008*
- *The powers that be need to take this threat seriously and provide for the common defense and protect our way of life.*
 - *Build truly effective BMD systems*
 - *Harden the electric power grid*

For more information on the threat and possible responses, see www.highfrontier.org and its links to others who are already engaged in this important fight.