MR. PETER HUESSY: My name is Peter Huessy. And on behalf of the Air Force Association, Reserve Officers Association of America and the National Defense Industrial Association, I want to thank you for being here for the 26th of our seminars on missile defense, homeland security and nuclear weapons. I also want to thank our friends from CSPAN who are here today, as well as my friend Scott Larkin from SMDC, for all the help that he did helping put this on. I also want to thank our friends from Congressman Brook’s office who is here today representing Huntsville, Alabama and the SMDC base. I also want to thank our friends from a number of embassies, particularly Murad (ph), my friend from Israel, and also from Finland, Russia, Austria and England that are here today.

Just a program note, the 11th of September is our next breakfast with Johnny Foster, a member of the Strategic Forces Commission. On the 13th we have completed a lineup with Frank Miller as our keynote breakfast speaker, followed by Senator Conrad, Senator Enzi, and a number of other members of the Senate and House. We also then follow that with a panel with Terry Benedict, the head of SSP, General Kowalski, the head of Global Strike Command, and Gary Culture (ph) from OSD; followed then by a panel of individuals who are outside experts, as I call them, including: Dan Goure, Fred Celc, David Trachtenberg and myself; followed by closing remarks of Keith Payne. And John Harvey then will be speaking later in the fall at his request. And our final breakfast in September will be Deputy Assistant Secretary Jim Miller.

We are honored today to have Lieutenant General Richard Formica, who as you know is the commanding general for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command in Huntsville. The general is from Connecticut. He was commissioned in 1977 on completion of ROTC at Providence College, and graduation from Bryan College in Smithville, Rhode Island.

He also went to the field artillery officer basic and advanced courses and the cannon battery officer course. He’s a 1990 graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and got a master’s in military arts and sciences. He graduated from the National War College in 1997 and got a master’s degree in national security strategy. He assumed command of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense command, Army Forces Strategic Command and Joint Functional Component Command Integrated Missile Defense on December 15th. And his previous assignment was on the department of Army headquarters staff and special assistant to the chief of staff of the Army, where he worked headquarters air and missile defense task force and other missile defense related issues. On behalf of our corporate sponsors and on behalf of our organizational sponsors, General Formica, thank you for
coming up here from Huntsville to share with us your thoughts on missile defense issues. Would you give a warm welcome to Lieutenant General Richard Formica?

(Applause).

LT. GEN. RICHARD FORMICA: Well, thanks. I actually came in from Colorado Springs last night, but I’m going back to Huntsville this afternoon – or this morning, I should say. So good morning, everybody.

I’d like to thank the NDIA and the Air Force Association, Reserve Officers Association and Peter Huessy for asking me to speak to you this morning. It’s an honor to be here. And I’ll represent the men and women who serve the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Forces Strategic Command and the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, which is a functional component to U.S. StratCom. And this morning I’ll be talking about those commands and their missile defense contributions to U.S. StratCom and to the Army.

Using the new defense strategy as their guide, both the Army and U.S. StratCom are developing their campaign plans, the global missions and capabilities of SMDCR-Strat and JFCCIMD-NIST within the Army and StratCom campaign plans. As I reported last year when I was here, but I’ll remind you, SMDCR-Strat has three core tasks. First, to provide trained and ready space and missile forces and capabilities to the warfighter and to the nation. We say that’s our operations function. Those are the capabilities that we provide today.

Second is to build the future space and missile defense forces. That’s our capability development function. We’ll provide those capabilities, we say, tomorrow.

And third, we do research, test and integration of space, missile defense and other related technologies. That’s our material development function. Those are the capabilities that we’ll provide the day after tomorrow.

Our command is uniquely organized to do those three functions, and we are geographically well positioned in Huntsville, Alabama and Colorado Springs, Colorado, with forces arrayed globally to do those tasks. As the Army service component to U.S. Strategic Command, we provide planning, integration and control and coordination of those Army forces and capabilities that we provide to support assigned StratCom missions. We also serve as the Army’s force modernization proponent for space, high altitude and global missile defense, and we’re the operational integrator for global missile defense for the Army. Our focus is to provide space and missile defense capabilities to the warfighter.

Last year I talked about our deliverables within each of these core tasks, so this year I thought I’d highlight a few of the activities in the area of missile defense. On any given day SMDCR-Strat has more than 875 operational forces controlling space operations and ballistic missile defense systems around the world: CONUS-based, forward stationed or deployed. We have soldiers from the Active Army, the Army National Guard and the United States Army Reserve, Army civilians and contractors, all
providing timely and relevant space and missile defense capabilities to the Army, U.S. StratCom and the geographic combatant commands.

Soldiers in the 100th Missile Defense Brigade are on point at Fort Greeley, Alaska and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, and headquartered in Schriever Air Force Base, Colorado, ready to defend our homeland against limited ballistic missile threats from a rogue nation. The 100th also provides the forces for the ANTPY-2 forward-based radar detachments. These radar sites are part of the phased adaptive approach and will enhance our BMDS capabilities.

Turkey, a NATO partner, hosts one of our radars. I visited there last spring and was able to see firsthand the difficult environment our soldiers and contractors are enduring in a remote location on a hill in central Turkey. They slept in field tents and used port-a-potties. In the winter months, the temperatures fell below freezing. They shared the hardships with their Turkish allies. But you know, when I visited not one soldier or contractor complained to me about the conditions in which they were serving. I left with a strong sense of urgency to help secure the funding to allow USER (ph) to improve the quality of life of the soldiers and the support personnel that serve there. And we appreciate the Congressional support for approval of the out-of-cycle milcon funds that are needed to improve the quality of life at that remote location.

Our space forces contribute to missile defense. We have space support teams from the 1st Space Brigade deployed to the CentCom area of responsibility, and we bring space capabilities to theater commanders and to their missile defense forces. We manage five Wideband Satellite Operations Centers around the globe. These WSOCS manage the payload and control the transmissions for the wideband global satcom constellation.

Our joint tactical ground station detachments operate in support of theater commanders, force protection and missile defense capabilities by providing battle space assessments and assured direct missile warning for our deployed forces. In our capability development function, our future warfare center executes those activities for both space and missile defense. Our priorities are all about providing DOTMEL-PF, or doctrine, organization, training, leadership, manning, education, personnel and facilities in place to support the Army’s contribution to both space and missile defense systems.

As a force provider in the ballistic missile defense system, the Army is catching up on the DOTMEL-PF aspects of the TPY-2 radars that are being fielded as part of the phased adaptive approach. We’re working with the Army service component commands in the geographic regions to ensure that the radars are sufficiently manned and operated. We developed Army force structure requirements to man the detachments, including converting some of the contractor positions to soldiers. In conjunction with the Missile Defense Agency who’s the material developer, we are synchronizing those DOTMEL-PF actions to better enable the radars to perform.

We’ve published missile defense doctrine and TTP, or tactics, techniques and procedures documents, that support our missile defense soldiers. And we work closely with the combatant commands to ensure that lessons are learned and are captured in future doctrines and tactics,
techniques and procedures. We’ve integrated these doctrinal tenets into the Army operating and capstone concepts.

This year, we’ve done the institutional training for over 800 soldiers and civilians in 80 different missile defense related courses. Annually, we provide around 200 formal space and missile defense courses, and train over 6,000 students. We provide analytical support to the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, the headquarters DA (ph), and to the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization here in Washington. The work provided by our Studies and Analysis Directorate was key to informing operational decisions and help inform Joint Staff, MDA and Army for future investments in missile defense capabilities. And we work with theater commands and with Congress to secure adequate funding to improve the facilities and infrastructure at our remote locations and to improve the quality of life for our soldiers and civilians that are deployed.

In our material development function, our technical center currently manages space, missile defense, some directed energy, cyber and some counter-IED programs. I’d like to highlight a few of these that support regional and homeland missile defense needs. The High Energy Laser Mobile Designator, HELMD, is being developed to demonstrate a solid state laser weapons system to counter the rocket, artillery and mortar threat. If successful, HELMD will consist of a ruggedized and supportable high energy laser and sub-systems installed on a tactical military vehicle that would enhance the safety of deployed forces.

We recently developed the Economical Target 1, or what we call ET-1. It’s a research and development effort to supplement present flight test inventories and to provide a lower cost target for our missile systems. ET-1 successfully completed its initial flight test objectives in February.

SMDCR-Strat also operates the Reagan Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll, located in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. Kwajalein is a strategic asset for the nation and is critical to the testing of missile defense capabilities, U.S. Air Force strategic ballistic missile assets, and other DOD testing requirements. We also support StratCom’s space situational awareness mission by conducting space surveillance at the Reagan Test Site.

This fall, the Missile Defense Agency plans to execute a comprehensive developmental test that has operational objectives. The test will demonstrate regional ballistic missile defense ability to defend against an array of simultaneous threats. missile defense assets will be positioned on the island at Kwajalein Atoll, and our Reagan Test Site will contribute to the test.

In November of 2011, we successfully conducted the first flight of the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon as part of DOD’s conventional prompt global strike program. The successful test was the result of the great teamwork of several organizations, including Sandia Labs, much of the complex at Redstone Arsenal, our industry partners, and all under the leadership and management of the office of the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. Interest remains high in this type of technology.
For me, it’s important technology, from my perspective. Knowing that we’ll never have enough missile defense capacity to defend against all the threats to the homeland and our regional interests, we need to ensure that we use the full range of kinetic and non-kinetic assets available to provide integrated offensive and defensive capability to address the limited missile defense threat from a rogue nation.

So that’s a little bit about what’s going on at SMD-Strat. Let me shift gears to Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense and its role. The unique capabilities that SMD-Strat offers, benefits JFCCIMD, and we work hard to maintain a synergistic relationship between the two commands. So let me talk a little bit about what’s going on at JFCCIMD.

JFCCIMD brings a global and operational perspective to the missile defense system. Headquartered in Colorado Springs, the command is manned by Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, civilian and contractor personnel. We have five derived mission tasks from the U.S. StratCom’s unified command plan responsibilities and from Department of Defense guidance.

Those mission tasks are nested within U.S. StratCom’s campaign plan. Those five tasks are: one, to conduct operational missile defense planning, security cooperation activities and global force management; two, to provide operations support, asset management and alternate execution capability; three, to provide integrated joint ballistic missile defense training, exercises and test – and I’ll caveat that that’s an emerging task that we’re now developing; four, to provide global missile defense advocacy, analysis and assessments; and five, to conduct C4 security and support for the ballistic missile defense system. To accomplish these tasks we maintain close and collaborative relationships with the geographic combatant commands, with the services and OSD, with the Missile Defense Agency, the Joint Staff, our coalition allies and, of course, our industry partners. So let me talk about a few of the efforts underway that relate to those five key tasks.

As the designated joint functional manager for missile defense, we assist U.S. Strategic Command in developing recommendations on the allocation of these high demand, low density missile defense capabilities. In support of this responsibility, we’ve taken some initiatives. Last year, in conjunction with the geographic combatant commands, we drafted a ballistic missile defense framework. The framework identifies global combatant command force requirements to execute the ballistic missile defense mission within their campaign, and contingency plans, and include those forces that are allocated through the formal global force management process.

This tool is not a substitute for that process. Rather, if it’s approved, it will serve as a senior leader decision support tool to articulate the risks in the allocation of high demand and low density BMD capabilities. We are currently working with both the Joint Staff and the services to get this concept approved.

Other efforts supporting global force management include identifying the operational requirements that will support a THAAD deployment strategy. And those efforts are ongoing.
Missile defense cannot be viewed in isolation from the larger integrated air and missile defense mission. And while StratCom is designated the single integrating authority for integrated air and missile defense, to date our responsibilities there have been limited to advocacy. But we note that as many high demand capabilities are shared assets, linked in a common architecture, we need to consider the implications of our current operational perspective. And we’re assessing our strategic way ahead as we look to shift our aperture towards integrated air and missile defense.

We are completing this year’s efforts to provide a global assessment of ballistic missile defense capabilities. With homeland defense as its priority, and taking into consideration the development of the regional phased adaptive approaches, and given the current allocation of BMD capabilities, we’re finalizing our assessment in conjunction with the geographic combatant commands on our ability to execute the ballistic missile defense mission in their war plans.

We believe the United States is postured to protect our homeland against limited attacks, and our forces and allies from regional threats. We continue to carefully balance the prioritization of assets for homeland defense priorities and the regions.

Missile defense threats will always remain a challenge, and we recognize that the demands on the geographic combatant commands will exceed the available BMD capacity. And so our operational assessments have informed the Missile Defense Agency and the services as we seek the correct fiscal balance for ballistic missile defense capabilities. Active defense systems are one pillar of missile defense and must be augmented with passive defense and attack operations to effectively counter the threat, again, from rogue nations.

This integration of offense and defense, as well as our overall ability to provide effective missile defenses, is underpinned by our ability to properly receive, process and disseminate indications and warning. So persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities are keys to effective homeland and regional missile defense. As the phased adaptive approaches are being developed, we expand our international efforts to better integrate allies into our regional missile defense architectures. We leverage training exercises and war games to increase our dialogue and partnership with our allies.

For JFCCIMD, our significant role in that is Nimble Titan, an unclassified war game that we conduct on behalf of U.S. StratCom. We just recently concluded Nimble Titan ‘12, a two-year BMD campaign of experimentation that for Nimble Titan ‘12 involved 14 participating nations, NATO, and had 10 observer nations. The war game enables us to collectively examine issues such as command and control, consequence of engagement, multi-national offense-defense integration, and rules of engagement. We are now designing the Nimble Titan ‘14 campaign, which will likely add several new nations, and we’re excited about the growth in international missile defense engagement.

As I indicated an emerging task that we’re preparing for is the development of joint ballistic missile defense training to fill the gap between the service level training and joint training that’s operationally relevant for the BMD systems, for their operators, planners and senior leaders. As I indicated earlier in the SMDCR-Strat part of my pitch, MDA will conduct the largest integrated live fire missile defense test at Kwajalein Atoll in the fall. JFCCIMD pulls together the warfighter participation,
coordinating with the geographic combatant commands and MDA, helped to develop the warfighter objectives, participating requirements in the test plan, and we represent the warfighter in the development of the test concept of operations.

The test, when it’s complete, we will use those results to assess BMDS engagement, to inform our operators on how to best use those systems, and to be able to provide feedback to the material developer, MDA. As I said, we conduct the computer network defense service provider mission for the ballistic missile defense system, in conjunction with U.S. StratCom. We are actively working with the Missile Defense Agency to develop exercise environments that facilitate network defender training against potential adversary cyber attacks. We provide the integrating role for missile defense across multiple regions as we operationalize new capabilities, evolve those command relationships, and then reinforce missile defense partnerships with our allies. Our missile defense capability continues to strengthen as warfighters gain increased confidence and confidence in the ballistic missile defense system.

So I’d like to close with a short story that I tell frequently. It’s by a former Hawaii Congressman and Army Reserve JAG officer, Charles Jue (ph), if I pronounce his name right. It’s about the time he spent with the Third Brigade Combat Team in the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan, from 2011 to 2012.

You may have read the email that he sent out. It was one of those emails that went viral, as they say. And I don’t know if you had a chance to read it, but it talks about two soldiers. And his overarching message was about what he learned about the character and heart of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and civilians that are serving.

And he talked about two, in particular, that caught my eye. One told the story about a West Point lieutenant that was 24 years old. He stopped his platoon while they were on a patrol at a bridge. They were supposed to go over the bridge and the intelligence told him that the bridge was clear. But the lieutenant had a funny feeling. I’m not quite sure where a 24 year old lieutenant develops battle field instincts, but thank god that they do. But he approached the bridge on his own to investigate, because he didn’t want to put his patrol in harm’s way. He was, as you can imagine, attacked by an IED on that recon and it killed him. His death, and his instincts, saved the lives of his patrol.

But the lieutenant had a funny feeling. I’m not quite sure where a 24 year old lieutenant develops battle field instincts, but thank god that they do. But he approached the bridge on his own to investigate, because he didn’t want to put his patrol in harm’s way. He was, as you can imagine, attacked by an IED on that recon and it killed him. His death, and his instincts, saved the lives of his patrol.

The Congressman also served with a staff sergeant who was similarly leading a squad of soldiers when they picked up radio traffic of insurgents in the area that were massing to ambush his troops. The sergeant knew that they needed to find cover, and he saw a ditch. Again, his battle field instincts were to check that ditch before he exposed his soldiers to it and put them in harm’s way. So he went over to make sure that they could take cover in that ditch safely. He was attacked by an IED. He lived, but he went home missing both legs.

It’s for them that we serve. They are the warfighters. And the mission success we achieve is a direct result of the dedication of a great team of military, civilians and contractors, our partners in
industry and academia, who serve to deliver capabilities so that they may live to see another day and to come home with all of the body parts that they went over there with. So we often talk of the technology part of the ballistic missile defense system. I remain very conscious that it’s the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and civilians that operate our military defense systems that are truly the heart of its missile defense capability.

I thank you for your support to our men and women in uniform and to their families. Hoo-ah, Army strong, thank you.

(Applause).

And now I have time for one question.

(Laughter).

MR. GREG THEILMANN: Greg Theilmann from the Arms Control Association. Thank you for coming, General, and thank you for your service. I have heard concerns expressed about the vulnerability of the TPY-2 in Turkey. It’s fairly close to a potential Iranian threat. There’s a lot of Iranian missiles that could be thrown at it, for example. Can you give us any kind of assurance about the survivability of that radar in the event of hostilities?

GEN. FORMICA: Obviously, I can only go so far in talking about threats, vulnerabilities and capabilities. The Turks are responsible for and are providing external security for the radar. And I’m pretty confident that we’ve got the radar in the right place to meet the needs that we have and to be able to withstand the threats.

MR. HUESSY: General, could you lay out those things that have surprised you in terms of the positive capabilities of the missile defenses that you deploy, which as you said are somewhere north of 800, and those challenges that you face?

GEN. FORMICA: Yeah, just to make sure we’re clear, the 800 I said were 875 soldiers and civilians on any given day from SMDCR-Strat that are out there doing either space or missile defense functions. I’m new to missile defense. I’m not a physics guy.

You say what surprised me? The fact that we can hit one of those missiles coming in at mach speed and take it out, that surprises me. But I’m very confident in our capabilities and I’m glad that we’ve got them.

MR. HUESSY: And your challenges?

GEN. FORMICA: Well the biggest challenge, of course, is capacity. As we continue – and I say we, Missile Defense Agency predominantly is the material developer for much of this technology – as we continue to master the physics and get the interceptor capabilities right, and I am very confident in our system, I think we’ll always be challenged by capacity. There is no end to the potential threats out
there, and we’ll never be able to keep up with the many low cost, don’t have to be particularly accurate, missiles that come in. And so I think capacity is probably the biggest challenge.

MS. : General Formica, you referred to the Nimble Titan exercise.

GEN. FORMICA: Yes.

MS. : I wonder whether you’d elaborate on that a little bit in terms of some of the positive developments that you saw coming out of that and the areas where you (see this ?) in the next couple of years?

GEN. FORMICA: Yeah, Nimble Titan is one of those things – I had an opportunity to see the Capstone exercise. It’s a two year campaign, during the first year generally focused on different regional aspects and has conferences that key in on specific issue areas. And then we generally have a capstone event in the spring at the end of the second year.

And so as I was preparing for command, I actually had an opportunity to observe the capstone exercise for Nimble Titan ’10; and then, of course, participated in most of the Nimble Titan ’12. And I was really encouraged by it. I realized early on that it was a signature event that gave CCIMD (ph) its charter to do on behalf of U.S. StratCom.

It has the support of the office of the secretary of Defense and the Department of State and Joint Staff and gets their participation. Of the 14 participating nations NATO, representatives from foreign ministries and ministries of defense, and military staffs all participate. And because it’s an unclassified war game, it’s an opportunity to talk in an international forum about the kinds of policies and capabilities that need to develop that aren’t – we’re not threatening to national positions, because it’s unclassified.

It’s not an exercise, it’s a war game. And it gives us an opportunity to talk about and to explore different policies and how they might impact ballistic missile defense. And what we found is that those representatives come together, we share discussions on concepts.

We war game them. We learn lessons. They bring them back to their nations and have an opportunity to discuss those in their nations and see what their nations can and cannot, and will and will not, support. They bring those back to subsequent discussion and the level of discourse gets richer and richer as we go down that.

So I think there’s tremendous opportunities. In Nimble Titan ’12, we specifically focused – we had a European war game that focused on the development of ballistic missile defense policy there. And we had an Asia-Pacific war game. And then we brought to two together for the capstone in the spring. It was a very, very positive experience.

As I said, we had 10 observer nations last year. We expect several of them to ask to be included as participating nations next year. And that gives us tremendous opportunities to continue to expand the dialogue and to explore potential policy for missile defense.
MS. : General, you spoke about the challenge of capacity and you also mentioned technology like the High Energy Laser Mobile Designator. Could you speak to maybe your views on how directed energy may over time fill some of the capability gaps or help you add capacity more cost-effectively?

GEN. FORMICA: I’ll stay in my lane initially, because the high energy work, the directed energy work that we’re involved in on the technical development side at SMDC, is specifically related to counter-rocket, artillery and mortar. So it’s not a missile defense capability per se. But if we can demonstrate that you can get a solid state laser on a mobile platform that provides the amount of energy and capability to counter rockets, artillery and mortars, then I’d like to develop that capability, see where that brings us, and I think it has the potential for future missile defense application. But I’m not doing that particular – as you know – but I’m very encouraged by where we’re headed on the C-RAM application of directed energy and working with Boeing on the LMD program, and looking forward to some successes here in the next several months – continued successes, I should say.

MR. : You started talking about the defense strategy for the 21st century. Could you expand on that a little bit?

GEN. FORMICA: Right, the defense strategy for 21st century, as you know, came out a few months ago. And I like to – a little bit tongue-in-cheek -- say that if you read it you could almost accuse somebody from the U.S. Strategic Command of having written it, because many of the global capabilities that U.S. Strategic Command is responsible for are highlighted and featured in the defense strategy for the 21st century. The kinds of global capabilities that are important for the future: space, cyber, missile defense, counter-WMD and the like, ISR. And so those are featured prominently in the strategy for the 21st century.

As the Army service component to U.S. StratCom, we contribute the Army forces for both the space and missile defense aspects of that. And so it’s important that as U.S. StratCom revises its campaign plan to subordinate to that defense strategy, then we identify the kinds of tasks that we’re responsible for to nest with them to make sure that we’re providing exactly the kind of capabilities that are required by that strategy.

MR. : General, have your operations already changed because of that or –

GEN. FORMICA: Well it’s not changes, actually it reinforces what we’re doing. And I would say – by the way, you know, nobody is immune to the potential for cuts. But space and missile defense forces are in high demand and are being resources at an appropriate level as a result of the emphasis and the strategy.

MS. : You mentioned – (off mic).

GEN. FORMICA: I mentioned Nimble Titan, yeah.

MS. : (Off mic).
GEN. FORMICA: The question is on SMDC’s role in Austere Challenge. Austere Challenge is really a European Command exercise done in the theater. We have participated in it, but it’s really not an exercise that we’re responsible for. So we participate in it, contribute to it, but it’s really a EUCOM exercise.

Two years ago it was tied to a StratCom Tier One exercise, and so it was an opportunity for us, as we were doing our global responsibilities, to see how it links with regional commands. And I think that’s an important feature. In the Tier One exercise programs at StratCom, one of the things we learned is we can’t operate in a vacuum. You can’t just exercise global capabilities. The geographic combatant commands exercise regional capabilities, but the opportunity to exercise both together is important so that you get the benefits of both global and regional capability.

Sir, do you get paid to just keep the questions going?

(Laughter).

MR. HUESSY: Critics say that because missile defense isn’t perfect, that it’s better to have no defense than any defense. When you look at the requests from your combatant commanders, what would it look like in a world where we had no missile defense and your combatant commanders had to do the job they had to do?

GEN. FORMICA: I suppose that’s like saying that I’m going to stand here and take all of the punches and wait for the other capabilities to come stop those punches. In my view, missile defense is never going to be an end in and of itself. As I said, we’re going to always be challenged by capacity and will never have the sufficient capacity to challenge all of the threats that are out there. But it is an important component of our defense system. And I think when you look at all of the different capabilities that the military can bring to bear, missile defense is a key and critical component to it -- identify you to defend those critical assets that are identified by a geographic combatant commander to defend, and then incorporate that into an overarching plan that brings to bear all of the capabilities available to a commander. I can’t imagine having no missile defense.

MR. HUESSY: Just to follow up, would it surprise you – what do you take away from the international cooperation and the allied work? Ten to 15 years ago, we had Japan and Israel? We have a lot more countries now. Can you give us a sense of how you see allied participation and help contributing to our defense as well as we contributing to their defense?

GEN. FORMICA: Again, I’ll use Nimble Titan as my primary reference point, but in my interaction as I go around travelling around, I’m really encouraged by the amount of interaction that we have with our allies and coalition partners. They all share a common interest in developing missile defense capacity. All of us are balancing the need for missile defense capabilities that we need, the inherent risk and fiscal realities.

And so I think there’s recognition that we can do more in concert with one another than we would be able to do individually. And so the amount of interaction and the degree of interest by all of
our allies in contributing to missile defense is encouraging to me. And I think that’s represented by the growth that we’re talking about in Nimble Titan.

There are, depending on the country, varying degrees of how they contribute to the missile defense system. But I’m encouraged that they’re all looking at different ways to do so. There are challenges: form disclosure, data sharing and some of the others that have to be resolved and dealt with, but my view is that the more we can work in concert with one another, we can optimize the various systems, whether you’re linking sensors, sensors and shooters across all of our contributing allies and partners. I think as we get down that road, we’ll be able to optimize the missile defense capabilities available to each of us.

MR. HUESSY: Thank you, General Formica.

GEN. FORMICA: Thank you so much.

(Applause).

GEN. FORMICA: Thank you all for coming, by the way.

MR. HUESSY: Have an enjoyable August recess. Be safe. See you back here on September 11th with Dr. Johnny Foster. And again, thank you, General.

GEN. FORMICA: Thank you. Thanks for having me.

MR. HUESSY: Thank you very much for the tremendous work you have done to bring our allies and the United States together on missile defense. You’ve done a wonderful job, and thank you.

GEN. FORMICA: Thank you, I appreciate it.

(Applause).