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NV - Talking Points – Missile Defense

- September 11, 2001 proved that rogue nations and terrorists will attack the sovereignty of the United States with total disregard to the theory of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)
- Missile defense has played a crucial role in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Successful intercepts of Iraqi missiles by Patriot missiles have proven that the fundamental missile defense technology of hitting a bullet with a bullet works and that there is a real and credible threat.
- If North Korea were to threaten the West Coast of the United States, Hawaii or Alaska we would have no other option but to go to war because we do not have a missile defense system in place
- Missile defense would deter other countries from using and developing their missile offensive capabilities against the United States. It would dissuade investment by nations in acquiring ballistic missiles
- Over three dozen countries now have ballistic missile capability and Weapons of Mass Destruction and are not afraid to use it
- Ballistic Missile Technology is rapidly being proliferated to third world and rouge nations by several nations including China, Russia and North Korea
- Missile Defense is a non offensive system that does not destroy life but instead destroys inanimate objects
- CIA Director George Tenet and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld have confirmed the threat by North Korea that they have a missile capable of hitting the United States of America. North Korea has previously tested missiles and is believed to have re-started their nuclear power plant facilities
- Ballistic Missile threats to the United States come in different platforms – land based or sea based (that can be delivered on container ships 200 miles off the coast)
- Any use of a Weapon of Mass Destruction will kill thousands of Americans, incur massive infrastructure damage and cost billions or trillions of dollars to our economy
- The annual cost missile defense system is less than 3% of the defense budget – and is insurance against a another 9/11 type attack which would cost trillions of dollars in loss to our economy
- The testing of the missile defense system is continuing along smoothly. Five of the past 8 tests have been successful. The 3 that failed were caused by quality control incidents, not technology problems.