

## Rep. Ellen Tauscher to Visit Missile Defense Installations

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CONTACT: Kevin Lawlor (202) 225-1880

<http://www.tauscher.house.gov/>

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Will Tour NORAD, NORTHCOM & JNIC in Her Capacity as Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee

Washington, DC &ndash; Chairman Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) will visit our Nation&rsquo;s Missile Defense Installations in Colorado Springs, CO between February 19th and 21st, 2007. This will be Chairman Tauscher&rsquo;s first visit to the heart of our missile defense operations since becoming Chair of the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee.

“I plan on making sure that these programs are not only fully functional, but cost-effective, so that the American people not only are safe, but trust that their government is spending their tax-dollars wisely. Ensuring these programs work is vital to the overall security of our nation so I intend to monitor their day-to-day operations and budgets closely as Chair.” said Chairman Tauscher.

The official program will begin on Tuesday morning with a breakfast meeting with General Kevin Chilton, Commander, Air Force Space Command (AFSPC). AFSPC is responsible for space operations (i.e., satellites, radars, and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) operations.

Following the Chairman’s meetings at AFSPC, she will visit the U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). USNORTHCOM was established Oct. 1, 2002, to provide command and control for Department of Defense homeland defense efforts and to coordinate defense support to civil authorities. USNORTHCOM’s specific missions are to, one, conduct operations to deter, prevent, and defeat threats and aggression aimed at the United States, its territories and interests and two, as directed by the president or secretary of defense, provide defense support of civil authorities including consequence management operations.

Chairman Tauscher will spend Tuesday afternoon at the Joint National Integration Center (JNIC), located at Schriever AFB. The JNIC’s three primary missions are to, provide system level engineering, integration and evaluation support for the development and testing of missile defense systems, support the development of missile defense doctrine and concepts-of-operations, and support combatant commands by conducting joint and combined simulations.

Finally, Chairman Tauscher will close her trip by visiting the Joint Functional Component Command-Integrated Missile Defense (JFCC-IMD), the USSTRATCOM component responsible for planning, integrating, and coordinating global missile defense operations and support. JFCC-IMD conducts the day-to-day operations of assigned forces and coordinates activities with associated combatant commands.

“I hope this visit will help me gain a better understanding of how the war fighter plans and executes global missile defense operations, and participates in the missile defense development process,” Chairman Tauscher said. “We need to be building a missile defense that both fits into our overall national security posture and one that incorporates the needs of the war fighter.”

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