



Gen. Anthony Zinni, U.S. Marine Corps (ret.), left, speaks at Saint Anselm College Friday with WMUR's Tom Griffith about American foreign policy at the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition's and New Hampshire Institute of Politics' national security town hall forum. SIMON RIOS

Retired Marine general calls for broad foreign policy vision

◆ **Town hall:** St. Anselm College event also includes presidential candidate surrogate forum.

By SIMON RIOS
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GOFFSTOWN — Gen. Anthony Zinni, U.S. Marine Corps (ret.), now chairman of the board of BAE Systems, spoke of a new vision for American foreign policy Friday in an event at St. Anselm College, followed by a panel with surrogates for six presidential candidates.

Zinni said the 20th century was defined by three events — the two world wars and the Cold War. Now times have changed, tempered by the revolutions known as the Arab Spring and the advent of social media.

"Facebook is the third largest nation in the world," he said.

Zinni argued that the pre-dominance of the military as an extension of foreign policy has to be balanced by the presence of other departments of government — for example, the Department of Agriculture to assist allied countries.

"When I commanded the U.S. Central Command, my missions were to ensure access

to that part of the world, ensure the free flow of energy, ensure the freedom of navigation, because the major trade routes go through those choke points."

But political turmoil wasn't Zinni's only concern.

"There are environmental problems out there," the general said. "Those that would deny that the environment is changing need only to go outside and take a look."

The Arctic icecap is disappearing, but that raises the question of who will exploit the newly navigable routes, Zinni said.

"I could tell you there are parts of the world that I visit that are becoming deserts, that were formerly agriculturally lush and provided for people."

After Zinni's remarks WMUR's Tom Griffith opened the stage for the presidential surrogates to field questions.

Former Minnesota Sen. Norm Coleman spoke on behalf of Mitt Romney: "I think what Governor Romney brings to the table ... is his 24 years in the private sector, his understanding of what it takes to grow jobs."

Bud McFarlane, a national security adviser to President Reagan in the mid-1980s, came in the name of Newt Gingrich.

"(Newt) believes strongly that we have to have an integrated approach for how we engage foreign countries," McFarlane said. "Defense, development, diplomacy: these are the three pillars of what will be a Gingrich nation."

Ron Paul was represented by UNH professor Jim Forsythe, who said Paul "doesn't believe in using the military for things

other than defense."

In response to a question about what a President Paul would do in the case that Iran attacked Israel, Forsythe said he didn't believe Paul would either send troops or unleash a nuclear war.

On the part of Rick Perry was Paul Bonicelli, who worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"I think Gov. Perry would be very clear we're trying to achieve free, stable, prosperous, self-reliant, independent countries," Bonicelli said.

Randy Shriver of the global consulting firm Armitage International spoke of the nuanced approach of his candidate, Jon Huntsman. Shriver said Huntsman, who served as ambassador to both China and Singapore, would welcome dissidents from various countries, arguing that "we can still be that shining city on the hill."

"When you serve as ambassador ... you're called Chief of Mission. And you're called that because everyone who serves at the embassy ... they all report to the ambassador."

Last was Rick Santorum, represented by his New Hampshire co-chairman Bill Cahill:

"He's a great family man. He's got a bunch of great kids. He loves his family. It's a big focus in his life. And when he talks about the power of the family, the core family ... I think it sets him apart."

The event was put on by the U.S. Global Leadership Council, a bipartisan group supported by 400 businesses and humanitarian organizations, including BAE Systems, Bread for the World and Walmart.