Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I and the other Members

quite often get in very emotional

debates, each believing in their position.

I think that is the case with the

subject that we are breaching now. I

would hope to bring some light as far

as to why my feelings are as strong as they are.

New York, the Pentagon, Pennsylvania,

over 3,000 men, women, and children

dying, that is horrific and remains

a bitter taste in all Americans’ lives.

But imagine New York, Chicago, or Los

Angeles like Nagasaki or Hiroshima.

Think of the pain and the agony that

we would go through. Imagine millions

of Americans dying with ebola, with

smallpox, anthrax, or even nerve gas,

which would render generations genetically with problems.

Is it possible? Yes. Is it probable?

Yes. As a member on the Committee on

Intelligence, I would say it is highly

probable if we wait and do nothing.

Fact: In 1981, the Israelis destroyed a

nuclear plant in Iraq ready to develop

weapons-grade plutonium. In 1990,

right in my hometown in San Diego,

Iraqis were caught with nuclear triggers on their way to Iraq.

Fact: In 2002, a small amount of

weapons-grade plutonium was intercepted heading for Iraq.

Fact: Saddam Hussein does have

chemical and biological weapons, and

even today he denies that. We know 100

percent that he has them, and he is

working towards nuclear weapons.

Saddam Hussein has been expanding

the delivery systems, including pilotless

aircraft. Guess what is in range of

those pilotless aircraft: Turkey, Saudi

Arabia, Israel, where thousands of

Americans and other citizens of other nations reside.

Saddam Hussein is dispersing, as we

speak, and it is not just his capability

with chemical and biological weapons,

but he is dispersing those weapons of

mass destruction to other terrorist groups.

Saddam really does not care for al

Qaeda, but they have a common goal,

and that is to hurt the United States.

It is a fact that Saddam pays $700 for a Palestinian that is wounded; and he

pays $1,500 for a Palestinian that is

wounded in a terrorist attack; and Saddam

Hussein pays $25,000 to the family

of someone that straps a bomb on themselves and blows up men, women,

and children. Americans have been

killed in Israel from suicide bombers.

Mr. Speaker, my eyes tear even 30

years later from friends that I saw die

in combat. This is no simple thing. My

mother was rushed to a hospital when

she learned that I was shot down.

I know the horrors brought on the

men and women that we will ask to go

to war, but I also know the heartache

and the pain of the families that are

left behind. I would say to my colleagues,

do we want to subject them to

the horrors of war in our own country?

That is why I have this resolve. I think it is highly probable that terrorists

would act against the U.S. if we do

not act; and I ask my colleagues, do not let it happen.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago I was

unable to finish my discussion. I hate

not being in control. But I would like to finish it at this time.

Mr. Speaker, if you take every emotion

you have ever felt, of love, anger,

hate, it swells up in a person. If you

can imagine what it is like to see a

friend or friends go down in flames, and

even more know how that is going to

affect the families, this vote rips my heart out.

But, yet, being on the Permanent Select

Committee on Intelligence and the

Committee on Armed Services, I would

tell my friends that disagree, I believe

with every fiber in my heart that it is

necessary to give the President the

flexibility to stop not only terrorists

but Saddam Hussein, because I believe

that threat will reach the shores of the United States.