Thank you, Madam Chairman.

And Mr. Deputy Secretary, thank you for being here today.

With the onset of U.S. military action in Libya, I am troubled by

the circumstances surrounding our nation’s involvement there.

Having served in the United States Air Force for 26 years myself,

my military experience has taught me that any mission must have

clear objectives to be successful and an unambiguous end state in

mind from the onset.

And I appreciate the President providing the American people

with the background leading to his decision, however our engagement

in this conflict should not have begun without a clear definition

of the mission we hoped to accomplish with our military forces.

I find it extremely troubling that the President did not first discuss

American involvement with the Congress, but rather consulted

with the United Nations and the Arab League for approval. I submit

that that is not who he gets his approval from.

As we continue with the President’s stated mission of protecting

the people of Libya, I hope to hear some clarification today on what

our objectives are, what our long-term national security interests

are and what the risks were that prompted our involvement there.