First, I would like to also add my words of acknowledgement

to the members of the armed forces who once again

have stepped into harm’s way at this time as part of a international

coalition to prevent Ghadafi regime from massacring Libyan

citizens seeking democratic and human rights.

President Obama has emphasized the military mission in response

to potential humanitarian crises be both limited and have

the support of a broad international coalition, including the endorsement

of the U.N. and the Arab League and the African Union.

The President has upheld this pledge by successfully handing off

command and control the NATO lead coalition. The fact that the

call to action by the broad international coalition is there has been

absolutely critical. There is a clear regional and international

agreement on the use of military force to protect civilian, and the

coalition leadership helps ensure that we do not assume sole responsibilities

for operations or costs.

In addition to the military involvement, the United States has

applied strong diplomatic and economic pressure on Ghadafi; that

is a good thing. I hope to hear more about that, including freezing

more than $30 billion of Libyan assets.

Ghadafi is more and more isolated and his military capabilities

has been seriously degraded. However, the outcome of our intervention

is uncertain and I share the concern of so many Americans

about the weeks ahead; the concern about the possible escalation

of our intervention as well as the costs of continued or increased

involvement.

So I look forward to the information provided at this hearing to

answer the many questions that we have posed on behalf of the

American people.

Thank you.