Mr. President, I

rise to speak on amendment No. 3017

which Senator KYL of Arizona and I

have offered. This amendment would

designate the Iranian Revolutionary

Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization

and thereby subject this deadly,

nefarious group to a series of economic

and diplomatic sanctions that

Senator KYL and I think will be felt in

Iran and that this group, because of its

dangerous and destabilizing work

throughout Iraq and the Middle East,

deserves.

This is obviously a week in which the

leader of Iran, President Ahmadi-

Nejad, is in the United States of America.

A great debate rages about what is

the appropriate way to greet him?

What sanctions, what platforms should

be given to him? What sanctions should

be discussed?

Personally, I feel it was a terrible

mistake for Columbia University to invite

him to speak because he comes literally

with blood on his hands—the

blood of American soldiers who are

being killed today in Iraq by Iraqi extremists

trained by the Iranian Revolutionary

Guard Corps, the Quds Force,

in Iran at bases surrounding Tehran.

But I offer this amendment in this

spirit: If we are looking for a way to

meaningfully respond to the presence

of Ahmadi-Nejad in the United States,

I cannot think of anything better than

adopting this resolution which documents

exactly the campaign of death

and murder of Americans and others

throughout the Middle East that it is

carrying out.

Regardless of where any individual

Member of this Chamber stands on the

war in Iraq and what the best way forward

on the war in Iraq is, this matter

of Iran’s deadly role in Iraq and

throughout the Middle East should

draw us all together. This is a matter

on which we are not for or against the

war in Iraq, we are not Democrats or

Republicans, we are Americans standing

based of the evidence against a

force, the Iranian Republican Guard

Corps, the Quds Force, that has blood

on its hands, and the blood is American

blood.

General Petraeus, 2 weeks ago, testified

before Congress, and he could not

have been clearer about the threat we

face from Iran. In his words:

General Petraeus’s testimony is the

latest in a growing dossier of evidence

about Iranian terrorism—call it what

it is. Ahmadi-Nejad is maybe called

President; he is the terrorist dictator

who, with a small group around him,

has seized control of a great Nation,

Iran—a growing dossier of evidence

about Iranian terrorism in Iraq and

throughout the region that we in this

Chamber have received from our American

military commanders on the

ground in Iraq, from our top diplomats

there, and from our own intelligence

community.

This is not opinion; this is fact. Specifically,

we have received detailed information

in recent months about how

operatives from the Iranian Revolutionary

Guard Corps have been training—

have been training—arming, funding,

and even directing extremists inside

Iraq. As Ambassador Crocker testified:

The IRGC, Quds Force, is also importing

terrorists from the Lebanese

Hezbollah to help build its extremist

proxies in Iraq. We know this because

coalition forces, American forces, have

captured one of the Hezbollah leaders

inside Iraq and recovered documents

that detail the relationship between

the Iranian regime and the extremist

groups they are sponsoring who are

killing Americans.

General Petraeus said it when he was

here:

We also know Iran has been using its

territory to train and organize these

extremists, as I said. What is the

source of that? The U.S. military

spokesperson in Iraq, BG Kevin

Bergner, U.S. Army. He has said groups

of up to 60 Iraqi militants at a time

have been taken to three camps near

Tehran, where they received instruction

in the use of mortars, rockets, improvised

explosives, and other deadly

tools of guerrilla warfare that they

then use against our troops in Iraq.

General Bergner also reported this

summer the U.S. military has concluded

that ‘‘the senior leadership’’ in

Iran is aware of the activities of the

Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps in

sponsoring attacks against our soldiers

in Iraq, and that, in his words, it is

‘‘hard to imagine’’ that the Supreme

Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei, does not know about them.

The consequences of this Iranian terrorism

in Iraq have been immense and

terrible for our men and women in uniform

and for their families and friends

at home. According to LTG Ray

Odierno, the deputy commander of our

forces in Iraq, Iranian-supplied weapons

were responsible for a full onethird

of American combat deaths this

July. That builds on a similar record in

preceding months. Let me repeat that.

Up to a third of the deaths of American

soldiers in Iraq in July were caused by

sophisticated explosive devices used by

people trained in Iran, with those devices

supplied by Iran. This means the

Iranians and their agents are killing

our troops. Why are they doing it? Because

they want us to retreat from

Iraq.

The Iranians understand—sometimes,

it seems, better than a lot of Americans

do—that if American power collapses

in Iraq, if we retreat and abandon

our allies and the hopes we share

with them for a better future in Iraq

and throughout the Middle East, our

position throughout the region will become

much weaker and Iran’s position

will become much stronger.

Iranian aggression in Iraq fits

squarely into a larger pattern of regional

aggression, leading, they hope,

to regional domination.

Tehran is also training, funding, and

equipping radical groups that are responsible

for the deaths of Lebanese,

Palestinians, Afghanis, and Israelis.

They are attempting to destabilize a

series of moderate regimes in the Arab

world.

Last week, Admiral Fallon, the commander

of our Central Command, said

the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps

is supplying anticoalition forces with

the same sophisticated explosive devices

it is giving to extremists in Iraq.

In Admiral Fallon’s words:

The fact is, it is Iraq that today is

the central front of Iran’s efforts to become

the hegemonic power in the Middle

East. The Iranian regime knows

Iraq has become the central front in

our war with Islamist terrorism. It is

where they believe they can begin the

process of pushing us out of the region

and seizing control. That is why I do

not believe a person can be serious

about responding to the threat of Iran

while calling for our precipitous withdrawal

from Iraq.

Ahmadi-Nejad, a few weeks ago, said:

By that he means us.

Asked about that statement, our own

Ambassador Crocker said:

That is a quote from our Ambassador

in Baghdad.

It is vital to the national security interests

of the United States that the

Iranian Government not be allowed to

prevail in its war against us and the

Iraqi people’s hopes for a better future.

The amendment Senator KYL and I and

others are offering, we believe, is an

important component of our response

to this threat.

First, it will send a clear message

both to the fanatical regime in

Tehran—not, I believe, representative

of the feelings and hopes of the Iranian

people—and it will send a clear message

to our allies in the region that the

United States will not stand idly by

and allow Iranian-backed terrorists to

kill hundreds of American soldiers. We

will not stand idly by and allow Iran,

through its proxies and then directly,

to dominate Iraq.

This amendment acknowledges what

our military commanders and top diplomats

are telling us, which is that regardless

of what we might desire in

Washington, the Government in

Tehran has made a decision, and they

are carrying it out—to wage a proxy

war against the United States in Iraq

and against our allies in the Arab

world and Israel throughout the region.

We must respond.

Our amendment states it should be

the policy of the United States to stop

the violent activities and the destabilizing

influence inside Iraq of the

Government of the Islamic Republic of

Iran, as well as its foreign facilitators

such as Lebanese Hezbollah and the indigenous

Iraqi extremists.

Our amendment recognizes that

thwarting Iran’s campaign of terror

must be among the crucial considerations

for any plan for the transition

and drawdown of our forces in Iraq. As

General Petraeus warned us in his testimony,

the threat of Iran may, in the

long run, prove an even greater danger

to the stability of Iraq—their hopes for

political reconciliation and self-government—

than al-Qaida. We cannot ignore

Iran.

For that reason, the amendment Senator

KYL and I are offering calls on the

State Department to designate the Iranian

Revolutionary Guard Corps as a

foreign terrorist organization and place

the IRGC on the list of Specially Designated

Global Terrorists. This is no

small organization. I have seen estimates

to say it is as large as 150,000 or

180,000. They have ground troops. They

have air capability. They even have

naval assets. They have businesses

which are doing business with other

businesses throughout the region and

the world.

This is the organization that the evidence,

presented to us by the American

military intelligence communities,

tells us is responsible for the murder of

American soldiers in Iraq.

They are launching terrorist attacks

through their agents against our

troops; therefore, they should be treated

as terrorists. They must begin to

suffer the economic and diplomatic

punishments that come with being designated

as a foreign terrorist organization.

Of course, everyone in this Chamber

would prefer that we find a way to convince

the Iranian regime to stop these

attacks against our soldiers, Iraqi soldiers,

and civilians through negotiation,

but reality requires that we recognize

that we have tried to use the

tools of diplomacy with Iran, Mahmud

Ahmadi-Nejad’s government, and it has

produced nothing.

Since May, Ambassador Crocker, our

Ambassador, has met three times with

his Iranian counterparts in Baghdad—

the highest level official meetings between

American and Iranian representatives

in decades—and what have these

talks produced? These talks, at which

our Ambassador has presented the Iranians

with hard evidence that we know

the IRGC, the Iranian Revolutionary

Guard Corps, is training Iraqi extremists

who are coming back into Iraq and

killing American soldiers—what has

that evidence produced? Nothing.

Nothing at all. In fact, there is some

evidence that the Iranian activity is

growing.

In Ambassador Crocker’s own words

as he testified before Congress:

Ambassador Crocker says—

Far from convincing the Iranian regime

to stop its proxy attacks on Iraqi

soldiers, the evidence is that these attacks

have escalated—increased—over

the last month. According to the most

recent National Intelligence Estimate:

The war Iran is

fighting against American troops and

our allies in Iraq is an undeclared war,

but it is, nonetheless, a real war in

which real Americans and Iraqis are

being murdered by Iranian agents. We

cannot close our eyes to that outrageous

reality. This amendment exposes

that behavior and demands justice.

As we speak, the President of Iran is

in the United States. There is no better

time than that for us to stand together,

united as Americans, regardless

of our position on Iraq or our party affiliation,

and send a crystal clear message

to Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad and the

fanatical terrorists and tyrants who

now run the great country of Iran and

oppress its people that their campaign

of terror against our troops in Iraq

must end and we will stand united as

Americans against it. Ahmadi-Nejad

should not be given any American platform

to speak from until he acts to

stop his government’s killing of Americans.

They have been shouting for almost

three decades ‘‘death to America.’’

He leads those chants of tens of

thousands in Iran today. But they have

done more than shout; they have acted

to bring that death to Americans in

the marine barracks in Beirut, Khobar

Towers in Saudi Arabia, and today in

Iraq.

Giving this evil and fanatical man a

platform at a great American university

is an insult to the hundreds of

Americans whose blood he and his extremist

allies in Iran have on their

hands. He deserves no audience, no respect,

no opportunity to explain away

his hateful words and murderous actions.

He and the ruling clique in Iran

deserve the punishment, and more, this

amendment Senator KYL and I are introducing

would impose on them as the

terrorists they are.

I urge my colleagues to support the

amendment.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the

floor.