Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I appreciate Senator Risch’s questions because I’m going to also

talk along that line in terms of who the rebels are and what support

they have and that kind of thing. But let me just at the outset

say that I support the President and the international community

moving the way it has moved to protect the civilian population.

But I am very worried about this whole idea of mission creep and

how we move to the next phase. I mean, is the next phase arming

the rebels? Is the next phase doing additional things that take a

side in the conflict? So I’ll have a question there.

But first of all, just to the arming the rebels. What is the United

States doing to determine the level of al-Qaeda influence among

the rebel groups and what do we know with respect to that?

Before we took the international step to create

a no-fly zone, was there a significant al-Qaeda presence in Libya?

No; OK.

Who is the leader or leaders of the rebel groups, and do they

assert any effective amount of control over their fighters?

I’d like to get you to focus on the U.N. Resolution

1973 and the issue of shipping weapons to rebels. There have been

reports that Egypt is shipping weapons to the Libyan rebels. Is this

true and is the United States supporting the Egyptians’ movement

of weapons in any way, including with the use of taxpayer funds?

Now, you’re making the argument it’s permissible.

The equally strong argument could be made that it’s not

authorized in the resolution and so you cannot do so, can it not?

I mean, it’s absolutely silent. I don’t see—can you point me to any

language——

Do you have it in front of you, that you could

point me to the language where it says that any of the coalition

forces can specifically give arms to the rebels?

There’s no specific authorization to give support——

I see I’m getting close to the end of my time

here, so let me just ask one final question here. How many of these

rebels are professionals in other fields? You’ve given some description.

How many have died in the fighting? And how many are there

actually there fighting in Libya?

And you don’t have any idea on the numbers in

terms of professionals in the field that are——

Thank you very much, and thank you for your

service. I appreciate it.