Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And, Dr. Lute, thank you for your testimony and your life’s work.

I want to follow up a little bit on the final questioning that Senator

Hagel brought forth, just the—and you alluded to—the strategic

piece. And I don’t know how you do what you do. It’s almost

like—when you were talking about standing up efforts as they

come about and not having a standing operation. But, it seems like

a big piece of making the most of a very difficult situation, where

you have to stand these up, means having, at the central office and

United Nations headquarters, sort of, the personnel, if you will, to

organize and logistically make these things occur. Could you tell us

a little bit about that? Because, in addition to—because, in addition

to having to get countries to volunteer to help, if you will, I suppose

that the whole issue of having things logistically planned out and

ready are—is another huge obstacle that you have. Could you tell

us a little bit about how you’re set up at headquarters, how many

authorized positions, how many of those are filled, and, sort of,

where you are in that position?

But, at the headquarters itself, as far as the

people who are to line these things up and make all of these things

happen, talk to us a little bit about that capacity.

OK. It seems like, to me, that even if you had

tremendous cooperation, which we do not have right now in these

efforts, that you lack just the basic infrastructure to be successful.

Matter of fact, if you had a standing operation, it seems to me that

you lack the basic infrastructure—440 people to support that large

number of missions and all the many logistical issues that need to

be dealt with—that that’s an impossible task. I’d like for you to respond

to that.

It seems to me that, in spite of the apparent

great leadership you’re providing, that what we have right now is

built for failure.

But——

But, my point——

But, my point is——

The infrastructure—the infrastructure

that lacks seems to me to—is that one of the reasons that we

have difficulty getting people to contribute troops and contribute

helicopters, which I want to get to before we end—it’s—what—

you’ve been in the U.S. military—let me just go to that, with a

minute-25 left—you were part of the U.S. military.

Just—I know we’ve sort of been nibbling

around the edges. I’ve asked this in other hearings. But, what is

it that keeps the United States, with its vast resources—with its

vast resources, from participating at least, if you will—I know they

don’t want our troops there—but at least in having the helicopters

available?

We’re fully engaged in trying to find them.

Twenty-six helicopters.

But, do you—I know you sense what spoof that

sounds like, to say that our military is working with you to try to

find 26 helicopters, and yet has not produced one.

It’s almost beyond belief that we have hearings—

I know we had one in a secure setting recently, talking about

this, but it’s almost beyond belief that, with the numbers of people

that are dying, the number of people that have been affected, we

sit here and we’re criticizing China, rightfully so, but that our own

country, with the vast resources we have in military hardware,

cannot even produce one helicopter as it relates to this particular

conflict.

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

And thank you for your testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you both for your testimony, the thoroughness, and

certainly for what you’re doing.

I want to, sort of, step back and—I think that the whole world,

and all of us on this panel, and probably you, are just semi-, I

guess, in shock, that, if you will, so much is happening in a part

of the world, and yet, nothing is happening, in some ways, to rectify

the situation. I think we all have, sort of, a range of thoughts.

One is that this is a problem that cannot be solved—OK? I think

we range in and out of that from time to time—that potentially the

U.N. is incompetent to deal with this issue, or, third, the United

States doesn’t care.

And, Mr. Williamson, I’d love, if you could, to sort of share your

thoughts. I know you’ve just been on the ground, doing this for 6

or 8 months, but, if you would, sort of, walk us through that, briefly,

just to give some context as to why we haven’t made more

progress.

I know you took issue—I was—I went out in

the hallway after questioning the—Dr. Lute, and you said you

wanted to talk about some of the factual—I know this is all, sort

of, diplomatic kinds of things you’re talking about now, but, you

know, this is—seems like such a low-level issue, I hate to keep

bringing it up, and I wonder whether it’s just a red herring and

some excuse for some other major issue, but they—just the simple

things like helicopters and things like this. I mean, could you, just

very briefly, answer that? And is this just something people keep

throwing out which matters not? Or, if it does matter, since you’ve

been assigned to take care of all these things, why hasn’t that, like,

occurred 3 months ago?

So, the helicopter issue is, priority-wise, not a

big deal right now.

OK. So, again, it’s sort of a red herring at this

moment. I——

I assume that’s why——

I assume it’s not been filled, for that reason,

and—if people don’t see it as a real need today.

OK. So, that really is just a red herring, according

to you. And the other—the big issue is getting boots on the

ground.

Go back to the issue of the United Nations only spending 26 percent

of their money on camps. If you will, expand a little bit on

that.

Now, just in closing—I know my time is almost

up—but, Senator Biden asked the question about the no-fly zone.

And I guess another solution to—I mean, you seem like a very competent

person, and I know you have a very, you know, extensive

career—it does seem like the—it’s a relevant statement that, in

fact, they’re all going to be dead, because we continue just to talk

and talk and talk. I know there are boots on the ground. Hopefully,

they’re going to occur later this year. But, tangible actions, like nofly

zone, like maybe blockades, those are things that we can do. I

guess I wonder, Why don’t we do those tangible things that might

actually, now, save lives while we’re doing some of the diplomatic—

taking care of some of the diplomatic efforts?

That——

The blockades would interfere with——

I mean, in fairness, I think the Congress is—

the dialog is—it almost seems like we have—it’s a waste of time

to have these hearings, because we constantly are talking about dialog.

I know that—when, in essence, it seems like tangible activities

are the only thing that are going to bring about less people

dying and being raped and having no food. But, I know you want

to say something—my time’s up—Ms. Almquist.