

REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF
NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS
AND IRANIAN SANCTIONS**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the grave threat posed to the stability of the Middle East if the Iranian regime were to acquire or develop nuclear weapons technology.

In June, CIA Director Leon Panetta speculated that Iran probably has enough low-enriched uranium for two nuclear weapons. The silver lining, if there is one, is that according to Panetta we likely have sometime before they would be able to build weapons with this material. I firmly support the Administration's effort to use this limited time to press Iran in every way available to deter them from attaining a nuclear capability. It is important that the President have strong tools to enforce this effort, which is why I co-sponsored the Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act, which was signed into law on July 1, 2010. These sanctions have also been backed by the European Union.

Last week, in a speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Stuart Levey, the Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, said U.S. and international sanctions are "dramatically isolating Iran financially and commercially." He was optimistic that this "can and will create leverage for our diplomacy." By targeting Iran's import of refined petroleum and its banking industries, these sanctions are putting a squeeze on the regime and hopefully will ultimately discourage any illicit activity.

As Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I know all too well the seriousness of the nuclear weapons business. While these weapons cannot be put "back in their bottle," responsible nations with this technology can work to stop those who seek to acquire them in order to hold the world and their neighbors hostage. I commend President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, and my predecessor and friend Ellen Tauscher on making non-proliferation a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy, and I hope the world community will join us in prioritizing non-proliferation and maintaining pressure on Iran as one critical step towards this goal.

NET ARMOR MADE IN FRANKLIN,
MA SAVES LIVES IN AFGHANISTAN**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a message I received last week from Technology Solutions Group—LAST Armor, a manufacturing solutions company in Franklin, Massachusetts, and a production facility of QinetiQ-NA (QNA). This company keeps good jobs in Franklin—but

more importantly, Mr. Speaker, they save lives in Afghanistan.

The Franklin facility produces what is called "net armor" to protect a wide range of vehicles that transport our soldiers on missions in Afghanistan. This net design was developed jointly by QNA, DARPA and ONR. Easy to use, these QNA nets provide many types of vehicles with 360-degree protection, including overhead, from rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs). This ultra-lightweight, low-cost and easily adaptable protection will even defeat multiple RPG hits.

Earlier this year, I toured the Franklin facility. I had the opportunity to talk with the workers and plant managers, and I saw the net armor they were manufacturing. I heard the enthusiasm and pride they had in their work, and I tried to imagine how the light-weight nets that I held could possibly stop a rocket-launched grenade.

And then last Thursday, I received a note from the company. It was a story that appeared September 22nd in an online newsletter from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It's written by U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant R.J. Peek, who is with the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. His story is filed from Ghazni Province in Afghanistan, and he talks about how his platoon was ambushed and his truck, covered with the new net armor, had taken three direct hits by insurgent RPGs and not one penetrated the truck. He finishes his story with the following quote, "All of the Soldiers whose vehicles were hit by RPGs are alive today and still in the fight" because the QNA nets did exactly what they were supposed to do.

Madam Speaker, I hope all the workers at the Franklin facility have seen this report from the field. We are proud of the courage and sacrifice of our uniformed men and women in Afghanistan. But we are equally as proud of the men and women in Franklin, Massachusetts whose labor helps save the lives of our troops each and every day.

Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD 1st Lieutenant Peek's story, so that all my colleagues can appreciate his candor and the description of what his platoon faces every day, and how the QNA nets are making a difference.

[From Clarksville Online, September 22, 2010] (By U.S. Army 1st Lt. R.J. Peek, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division)

GHAZNI PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN.—When 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry began using new mine-resistant, ambush-protected all-terrain vehicles, they also made the switch from bar cage armor to net armor.

When the first few trucks moved into circulation with the net armor, many Soldiers were concerned about its effectiveness, but the nets were combat tested September 19th, and Soldiers approved.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Matthew Ward from Herndon, VA, platoon leader of 2nd Platoon, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, confessed he was skeptical about the nets. "I just didn't think the thin net would be able to safeguard the vehicle and the Soldiers from a rocket-propelled grenade."

While conducting a patrol along a highly traveled road in eastern Ghazni, insurgents initiated an ambush from close range. Less than 100 meters away, insurgents fired a volley of RPG rounds, followed by a series of machine gun fire and then another RPG.

The Soldiers of 2nd Plt., B Co. returned fire and moved their trucks forward out of the ambush. From their new position, the Soldiers continued to fire, forcing the enemy to break off the attack and flee. What amazed the Soldiers, and the leaders, was the trucks had taken three direct hits by insurgent RPGs and none had penetrated the trucks.

"The worst effect of the insurgents' RPG fire was that I got my bell rung a bit," said U.S. Army Pfc. Joseph Sweat from Smithville, Tennessee. Sweat was driving one of the trucks that was hit. "The RPGs detonated at the nets, failing to penetrate the vehicle's armor," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cameron Erisman from Hiram, GA.

"It turns out, the nets did exactly as advertised they would do," added Ward. "All of the Soldiers whose vehicles were hit by RPGs are alive today and still in the fight."

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS
OF AMERICA—READING,
PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, on September 24th, 2010, in Reading, Pennsylvania, a ceremony marked the 22nd anniversary of that proud community's Vietnam Memorial. It is my personal honor to join the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Reading, PA Chapter in celebrating that event. The author Myra MacPherson wrote that "above all, Vietnam was a war that asked everything of a few and nothing of most in America." When called, many young Americans went abroad to fight for our Nation—just as their fathers did before them. Sadly, the sacrifices they made in Southeast Asia were not reciprocated by our government or the American public. They returned to a nation wracked by recession and without the medical care, counseling, educational opportunities or public support they deserved.

That outrageous neglect persisted for over thirty years as a grossly underfunded Department of Veterans Affairs was unable to meet their needs. As a result, courageous men and women suffered alone for years with the debilitating illnesses associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other physical and emotional maladies unique to that war. The fight to right those wrongs was led by the VVA, and as the senior most veteran ever elected to the House of Representatives, it has been my solemn duty in Congress to see that our Vietnam veterans receive the recognition and resources that belatedly fulfill our obligation to them and their families for their service to a now grateful Nation.

The 110th and 111th Congresses have worked very hard in that regard but more needs to be done. Madam Speaker, I ask that this chamber pause to acknowledge the patriotism, courage, and fraternity of the VVA and salute every veteran of the Vietnam War. With our nation again at war, let us continue our work to finally, fully support veterans of all conflicts. And let us pledge to never again abandon a generation of brave American warriors.