

NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, one of the most serious threats facing our nation today is the risk of terrorist organizations like al Qaeda obtaining nuclear weapons—and we can all rest assured that they are trying their hardest to turn this risk into a reality.

This is much different than the nuclear threat we faced thirty years ago in the midst of the Cold War. We no longer need to build up our nuclear stockpile to prepare for a world war. That threat is diminishing, instead being replaced by the risk of nuclear materials being spread to countries and terrorists who are hostile to the U.S. As this nuclear landscape continues to change, we cannot be effective in protecting our great nation unless our nuclear policy changes, too.

Over the past several weeks, the Obama administration has made historic efforts to finally bring our nuclear policy out of the Cold War era and into the 21st century. This is an administration that recognizes the importance of pursuing a comprehensive agenda to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to our enemies and to secure vulnerable nuclear materials from those who seek to do us harm.

Earlier this month, the President released the Nuclear Posture Review, a responsible plan that aligns our nuclear strategy to better address the threats we face today. We know that it doesn't make sense to try to keep nuclear material away from terrorists by creating more nuclear material.

The Nuclear Posture Review instead focuses on taking steps to work with other nations to secure the nuclear material that is already out there—while at the same time making sure that we maintain a robust nuclear deterrence here at home.

The NPR, for the first time ever, places the prevention of nuclear terrorism at the top of our nuclear agenda. It defines key steps to strengthen our global non proliferation regime and keep nuclear material secure. Just yesterday, President Obama wrapped up a historic nuclear security summit here in Washington, where nearly 50 nations committed to secure all of their nuclear material in four years. This is a significant achievement, and makes real progress toward keeping this dangerous material out of the hands of those who seek to do us harm.

The NPR also renews our commitment to hold fully accountable any state, terrorist group, or other entity that supports or enables terrorist efforts to obtain or use weapons of mass destruction.

Madam Speaker, I have heard some critics try to distort the facts about this piece of the NPR, but here is the truth:

President Obama made it very clear that if we see states developing biological or chemical weapons that we think endanger our safety, he reserves the right to revise this policy. He also made it clear that if any state not compliant with the Non-Proliferation Treaty—and this includes countries like Iran and North Korea—were to attack us with chemical or biological weapons, Secretary Gates made it clear that “all options are on the table,” including responding with nuclear weapons.

What the new security guarantee in NPR offers is an incentive for those nations that do not seek nuclear weapons and comply with the NPT.

We have an unmatched conventional military capability at our hands, and my colleagues should not try to minimize this very powerful tool in our toolkit.

Our new nuclear policy seeks to strengthen strategic deterrence and stability at reduced nuclear force levels, with the New START Treaty that we signed with Russia last week as an important first step. It also strengthens regional deterrence, broadening regional security architectures—including through missile defenses and improved conventional forces—to provide reassurance to our partners and allies.

Finally, the NPR maintains a robust nuclear deterrence and sustains it by investing in our existing stockpile and the workforce that maintains it—a process that will keep our nuclear weapons reliable, safe, and secure without the need to make new nuclear warheads.

Madam Speaker, this is not 1980. The nuclear threats facing our nation have moved beyond those of the Cold War, and we must move our nuclear policy beyond the narrow Cold War mentality. President Obama is taking the right steps to match up our nuclear policy with our current needs, and I commend him for his leadership to protect American families.

OPPORTUNITY ENTERPRISES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I recognize Opportunity Enterprises Incorporated, which hosted its Celebration of Achievement Award Ceremony on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at Strongbow Inn in Valparaiso, Indiana. Opportunity Enterprises honored the accomplishments of members of its noteworthy staff, clients, volunteers and community partners. Opportunity Enterprises also paid special tribute to President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gary Mitchell, who will be retiring in June of this year. For his outstanding leadership and his lifelong commitment to those in need, he is worthy of our respect and admiration.

Opportunity Enterprises is a non-profit organization that serves to create opportunities for individuals with unique challenges and abilities. Because of many dedicated, loyal, and passionate people who believe in the organization and its goals, Opportunity Enterprises is able to provide day and enrichment services, residential and children's programs, and vocational opportunities for individuals of all ages whether they have physical, emotional or developmental disabilities.

This year, Opportunity Enterprises honored individuals and organizations who have played a major role in their success. The Spirit of Opportunity Enterprises award recipient is Jake Wagner. Jake has been a board member for many years and has played an instrumental role in terms of property acquisition, identifying lead donors, and seeking grant funding. The Community Employer of the Year award recipient is Strack and Van Til. The company

hires many clients through the organization's JobSource Community Employment Program and passionately assists these individuals in developing their skills. The Business of the Year award recipient is Framing Concepts Gallery, which gives tremendous support to the organization's Art Enrichment Program. The Jeanne Baird Volunteer of the Year award recipient is Cheryl Kozrowski. Cheryl continuously and selflessly gives her time to Opportunity Enterprises and its many programs. The JobSource Client of the Year award recipient is Mike Biggs. Mike has been employed through the JobSource Program for eighteen years. Despite being hearing impaired, Mike maintains an outstanding positive attitude and is beloved by everyone who works with him. The Amazing Client of the Year award recipients are: Samuel Collins, Paula Norfleet, and Derek Rogers. Samuel, who receives respite services, has made remarkable progress since becoming an Opportunity Enterprises client. Paula is employed through the Supported Employment Program and the Community Employment Program. Although she has limited use of her hands and legs, Paula is constantly helping and supporting other clients. Derek is involved in the Supported Living Department and has made extraordinary improvement since joining the team at Opportunity Enterprises. For their dedication and commitment to Opportunity Enterprises and the community of Northwest Indiana, the 2010 Achievement Award recipients are to be commended.

Opportunity Enterprises also honored and congratulated President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Gary Mitchell, who will be retiring this year. In 1986, Gary joined the team at Opportunity Enterprises as the Chief Executive Officer. Opportunity Enterprises has enjoyed unprecedented growth and success under Gary's leadership. In 1986, the organization served 263 individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. Since then, Opportunity Enterprises has constantly expanded and now serves over 1,000 individuals within Porter County and throughout Northwest Indiana. For the past 15 years, Opportunity Enterprises has received accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), a not-for-profit organization that establishes standards of quality for service to people with disabilities. For his efforts over the years on behalf of his community, Gary has received numerous honors, including the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (INARF) President's Award in 1992 and the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1993 from then-Governor EVAN BAYH. For his selfless and passionate support for helping individuals to re-establish their roles in community life, Mr. Mitchell is to be commended and admired.

Gary's dedication to the people he serves is matched only by his devotion to his family. Gary has been married to his wife, Paula, for an astonishing 44 years. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Opportunity Enterprises 2010 Achievement Award winners, as well as Mr. Gary Mitchell, for their outstanding contributions. Their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life for countless individuals in Northwest Indiana is truly inspirational, and they are worthy of the highest praise.