



# AEROSPACE, DEFENSE & HOMELAND SECURITY



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# The Coast Guard's Unique Role in National Security



**Coast Guard Commandant  
Adm. Bob Papp**

When we think of national security, especially in the maritime environment, we often think of national defense and the work done by our Navy and Marine Corps. They provide for control of the sea by Naval supremacy,

detering aggression, projecting power, and fighting and winning America's wars. The Coast Guard is part of that, but we are more than a military service, and national security is more than national defense.

National security also includes economic, energy, environmental and port security, and Coast Guard missions protect those elements of our national security in the maritime domain. Wherever human activity thrives, government has a responsibility to uphold the rule of law, ensure the safety and security of its people, and enforce environmentally responsible maritime activity. This is "maritime governance" and it is an essential component of homeland security and the national security of the United States.

The Coast Guard, as the maritime arm of the Department of Homeland Security, is America's primary instrument of maritime governance. It has a unique blend of legal authorities, has the ability to project U.S. presence well offshore, has multi-mission capabilities and is a member of the U.S. Intelligence Community. Every day the Coast Guard acts to prevent and respond to an array of threats that could disrupt regional and global security, the economies of partner nations, access to resources and international trade. In short, we protect

those on the sea, protect America from threats delivered by sea, and protect the sea itself.

For example, over the last year the Coast Guard saved 3,500 lives, seized 163 metric tons of drugs, responded to 3,300 pollution incidents, safeguarded 1.3 billion tons of cargo and seized 95 vessels. The Coast Guard also detained 377 suspected smugglers, including those charged with ramming a Coast Guard pursuit boat and killing Senior Chief Petty Officer Terrell Horne III.

Smugglers working on behalf of Transnational Criminal Organizations are continually adapting their destabilizing illegal networks. This in turn threatens the sovereignty, security, and prosperity in the Western Hemisphere. President Obama's Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime directed our national effort to employ "...all elements of national power to protect the citizens and U.S. national security interest from the convergence of 21st century transnational criminal threats."

A key element in this effort is the Department of Homeland Security's layered security strategy which has a goal of addressing threats as far away from our shores as possible rather than contend with them once they arrive on our shores. As a result, it is more

important than ever for the Coast Guard to have a credible presence on the high seas to not only enforce all applicable laws and treaties, but to also identify, target and prosecute these organizations.

However, the Coast Guard can't do it alone. We will continue to rely upon strong partnerships with the Departments of State, Defense, and Justice along with a variety of bilateral international agreements to disrupt Transnational Criminal Organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

Many of the challenges we face, such as maritime smuggling, are as old as the Republic. Others are more recent. For instance, I recently visited the Alaskan Arctic where the ongoing transformation of the Arctic Ocean from a solid expanse of inaccessible ice fields into an emerging maritime frontier is attracting increased human activity and creating new maritime governance demands in U.S. Arctic waters.

Earlier this year President Obama issued the National Strategy for the Arctic Region. Shortly after, under the leadership of the secretary of Homeland Security, we released the Coast Guard Arctic Strategy. This strategy will guide us in improving awareness, modernizing governance and broadening partnerships in the Arctic. We are

an Arctic nation, not a nation with an Arctic state and cross-cutting nature of Arctic issues requires a whole-of-government approach, fully informed by Native Alaskans and other Arctic stakeholders with unique Arctic insights.

Our service has a rich history of adaptation to risks that threaten our national-security. In the coming decade, the Coast Guard must continue to confront growing transnational threats and challenges in the Western Hemisphere with a broad strategic focus. Doing so will ensure our nation, our economy and our oceans remain secure and prosperous for the long-term.



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# The Growing Divide In Military Readiness



**Sen. James Inhofe  
(R-OK)**

*Represents the state of Oklahoma*

Throughout my time representing Oklahoma in Washington, I've advocated for a strong and well-resourced national defense as the foundation of our security, economic prosperity and

the backbone of our global leadership. Today, however, this force is at risk.

As a result of President Obama's reckless fiscal priorities, our nation's armed forces have endured a steep and damaging drop in capabilities and readiness. Our military leaders now warn of being unable to protect our interests and citizens around the world. His administration has reduced our naval fleet to historically low levels, eliminated hundreds of Air Force combat aircraft, imposed devastating cuts in funds to train military units and repair equipment, and is in the process of cutting more than 100,000 military personnel from the ranks.

There is no end in sight. The Defense Department will start a new fiscal year in two weeks with no guidance, no budget, and the harsh reality of another round of sequestration. We have been told that over the next three years much of the \$150 billion in sequester cuts will be taken from accounts used to train and equip our forces, further degrading our military's ability to fight.

The White House ignores this in their talking points because the results are alarming and the risks are grave. For the first time since the Clinton Administration, our military leaders use the term "hollow" to define their forces' future. Like a tree that rots from the inside out, the outside may still look

strong, but eventually the tree will fall without warning. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs warned in February that we are on a path where the force may become "so degraded and so unready," it would be "immoral to use the force." I believe we are already there.

This faith is sacred to me. Our nation relies on a small part of our population to volunteer for military service. When these brave men and women are ordered into harm's way, they will salute with courage and accomplish the mission with professionalism and overwhelming effectiveness. In return, they rightfully expect that a supportive nation will provide them with the best technology, equipment and training in order to reduce the risk to their lives. Unfortunately, this faith is being threatened by the growing divide between what our nation expects from our military and the resources being provided.

In 1983, President Reagan stated "What seems to have been lost in all this debate is the simple truth of how a defense budget is arrived at. It isn't done by deciding to spend a certain number of dollars. Those loud voices that are occasionally heard charging that the Government is trying to solve a security problem by throwing money at it are nothing more than noise based on ignorance. We start by considering

what must be done to maintain peace and review all the possible threats against our security. Then a strategy for strengthening peace and defending against those threats must be agreed upon. And, finally, our defense establishment must be evaluated to see what is necessary to protect against any or all of the potential threats. The cost of achieving these ends is totaled up, and the result is the budget for national defense."

This is not the case today under President Obama. This administration has not updated or released a National Security Strategy since 2010 nor has it presented a coherent strategy for our military to meet our current and emerging national security threats. Instead, this administration continues to gut funding for our military under the misguided belief that the "tide of war is receding" despite the growing range of threats and instability festering under its watch. Further, as sequestration continues to erode our military, the Commander-in-Chief has failed to present even one reasonable compromise for federal spending cuts to replace the defense sequester. Any risk we ask our military members to endure while indiscriminately reducing resources and training will directly result in a greater risk to their lives on the battlefield. This is immoral.

If we expect the men and women of our military to go to foreign lands and protect our national security, we have an obligation to ensure we are working every day to support and equip them.

Instead, the President appears content to play an amateurish political game of chicken with our national security by sacrificing our military's capabilities for more domestic spending and more government programs. Defense budgets are being driven down at the same time our service members are being asked to endure increased risks as a result of President Obama's failed foreign policy.

As Congress considers the overall spending of the federal government in the months ahead, we must remember and preserve the faith and commitment we have established with our military.



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# Replacing the Sequester Will Ensure a Strong National Defense



**Rep. Steny Hoyer  
(D-MD)**

*Representing Maryland's  
5th Congressional District*

Throughout this fall, Congress is again faced with a number of critical fiscal issues we must address: keeping the government funded, ensuring our nation pays its bills, and determining whether we will allow the federal budget sequester to continue. I remain firm in my belief that the

sequester is a dangerous and irrational policy. It not only threatens our military readiness and national security, but also brings serious economic consequences to communities that house our nation's defense installations. As Congress debates the best course of action to reduce deficits and put America back on a sound fiscal footing, we must continue to pursue a big, balanced, and bipartisan approach that achieves the savings required to end the sequester.

The sequester precludes Congress from setting budget priorities, instead forcing arbitrary cuts to our highest and lowest priorities equally. This has resulted in reductions in funding for both domestic and defense spending that could put our nation and its economy at risk. In addition to the cuts affecting vulnerable Americans - including to Meals on Wheels, Head Start, and housing assistance programs - the sequester has led to furloughs for 650,000 civilian defense personnel and canceled or reduced contracts for defense firms that support our military operations. Moreover, the Pentagon has cut back training hours and grounded air combat units.

I have no doubt that the sequester could have dangerous consequences for our military readiness. With another \$20 billion set to be cut from defense spending under next year's sequester, it is imperative that

Congress act quickly to replace the sequester with a big and balanced alternative, achieving equal savings in the coming year.

The communities that support our defense installations, such as Pax River Naval Air Station, the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Indian Head, and Joint Base Andrews in my home state of Maryland, are also feeling the adverse effects of the sequester. While federal investment in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland has helped attract new private sector opportunities, and defense and aerospace contractors have opted to locate their operations nearer to their federal customers, the sequester could cause these opportunities to dwindle, hurting local economies.

Certainly, the sequester provides a strong argument for greater economic diversification in these communities. While continuing to urge my colleagues to replace the sequester, I join in calling for greater economic diversification for our region. We have the opportunity to leverage the federal dollars invested in our area to help build up the local private sector and spur greater development, as has been successfully done in other parts of the country. That's why I am encouraged that Maryland has lately seen efforts to promote greater diversification and promote the commercialization of defense and aerospace technologies.

This has been especially true with

regard to autonomous systems, satellite components, cybersecurity technologies, and vehicle propulsion and navigation equipment, which all have wide possibilities for civilian uses. The companies that came to Maryland in order to supply Pax River or NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center are already finding it a lucrative place from which to manufacture these products, sell them around the country, and export them across the world. In May, I joined with the rest of our state's Congressional delegation to urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to support a bid by the University System of Maryland to operate a test facility for unmanned aerial vehicle training, development, and research with the goal of applying UAV technologies to private sector enterprises. New Jersey and Virginia have already agreed to partner with Maryland on developing and launching such a facility, which will strengthen our application to the Federal Aviation Administration.

But as much as I believe we ought to pursue greater diversification to ensure a stronger economic future for our region, I will keep working to make sure the Washington Metro area remains a target for federal investment. This investment has already made our region a hub for innovation and high-tech entrepreneurship. The best way to ensure that robust federal investment in the Washington Metro

area continues to have a positive impact on economic growth is for Congress to achieve the big and balanced solution to deficits necessary to turn the sequester off.

We owe it to our men and women in uniform and all those who work in civilian roles - supporting their missions and developing the latest war-fighting technologies - to make sure dysfunction in Congress does not get in the way of maintaining the greatest military force the world has ever seen. I will continue to work with the rest of our area's delegation to support funding for military and civilian facilities in our area that attract jobs and investment. And while we focus on our region's economic vitality, our principle focus must remain on ensuring that our national defense is second to none.





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# Future of U.S. Leadership, Vitality of Aerospace Industry Hinge on Budget Solutions



**Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)**

*Represents the state of Mississippi*

For months, the Department of Defense (DOD) has been forced to cope with the harmful, meat-ax budget cuts known as sequestration, which took effect in early March. The adverse impact has hardly gone unnoticed: Furloughs, grounded combat squadrons, and canceled ship deployments are just a few of the troubling changes

now characterizing America's defense landscape.

This year's National Aerospace Week is an important reminder of the vital role that the aerospace industry plays in providing our troops with the most advanced technology and equipment. Many leading global aerospace companies have operations in my home state of Mississippi, where they are developing the next generation of aircraft vehicles and components. Under sequestration, the ability of these companies to innovate and grow is placed in limbo.

Two years ago, when sequestration became law, top military officials made it clear that the disproportionate toll on defense would be disastrous to military readiness and national security. Tough decisions were needed from President Obama and lawmakers of both political parties. Otherwise, the ugly fallback plan devised by the White House would become a harsh reality.

Like many of my colleagues, I am disappointed by the lack of political consensus and leadership from President Obama in forging a long-term approach to fixing America's debt problem. Across-the-board defense cuts are not a viable strategy for a secure and stable future. Instead, sequestration is - to borrow former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's description - a "self-inflicted wound." Unless a bipartisan agreement emerges in the coming days, this wound will only

grow deeper and more painful. On October 1, when the new fiscal year begins, DOD will be required to slash an additional \$52 billion in spending. These reductions follow the \$37 billion that was cut this year and amount to only part of sequestration's \$492 billion in cuts over the next 10 years.

The stakes are too high to accept that a budget solution is out of reach and that sequestration is the only way to rein in wasteful government spending. Not only does the future of U.S. leadership depend on a robust and ready military, but our brave men and women in uniform deserve the best resources available when executing important missions around the world.

The ongoing crisis in Syria is just one example of how the international community looks to America for leadership in times of great challenge. A weakened defense industrial base would no doubt limit the ability of U.S. forces to respond swiftly and effectively to urgent priorities, which are becoming more complex as our adversaries bolster their technological tools. Delays in modernization also make it more difficult for the United States to maintain its technological edge while anticipating and preparing for future threats.

America has a long and proud legacy of aerospace excellence, extending from the Wright brothers' first flight in Kitty Hawk to the Apollo 11 moon landing to current advancements in unmanned aviation. Today, the aerospace

industry is a multibillion-dollar contributor to the U.S. manufacturing sector and responsible for millions of well-paying, skilled U.S. jobs.

Budget constraints affecting DOD's acquisition and procurement decisions will put these jobs at risk and could threaten DOD's ability to utilize competition and provide the best value to the taxpayer. This is especially true for U.S. military helicopters, which are now manufactured by only five corporations.

If we want to design, build, and support a modernized helicopter fleet, we must recognize the need for predictability and sustained investment in the defense budget. We must also seek the most cost-effective and successful procurement programs when making budget decisions. The UH-72A Lakota helicopter, for example, fulfills a wide range of roles, including border security, search and rescue, pilot training, and cargo transport. Built by American Eurocopter in Mississippi, the Lakota demonstrates an economical use of defense dollars with big returns.

We must also seek to nurture innovative companies that are producing low-cost, innovative solutions to meet the needs of the warfighter amid the current budget crisis. In Mississippi, Aurora Flight Sciences manufactures the Orion unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) - a groundbreaking and cost-effective UAV capable of staying aloft for up to five days and providing vital information to military commanders,

who must maintain battlefield awareness despite dwindling manned aircraft inventories.

The current budget debate in Congress is a pivotal moment for ensuring that the U.S. military remains the strongest fighting force in the world. I am hopeful that we can protect top strategic initiatives and national security interests by replacing sequestration with smarter budget savings. We must face our budget challenges with the same fortitude and vision that has marked our country's preeminence throughout history. America does not default to failure. The future of U.S. leadership depends on our answer to today's challenges.

*Roger Wicker represents Mississippi in the U.S. Senate and serves as a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.*



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## America's Future Air Superiority



**Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)**

*Representing Texas' 12th Congressional District*

As recent events around the world underscore, the world is getting more dangerous, and less certain, with every

passing month. If we don't prepare as a nation for the increasing threats we will most certainly face in the not so distant future, our nation and our allies will likely pay a steep price. The United States must remain the strongest nation, and have the best equipped and trained military, to ensure peace and prosperity for our children and grandchildren. The stakes are that high.

Maintaining air superiority is the key component of our ability to deter hostile actions and if necessary, win any war in the future. Our current legacy fighter fleet of F-15s, F-16s, AV-8s, A-10s and F/A-18s, known as 4th Generation fighters, are rapidly aging while the air-to-air and air-to-ground threat is increasing at a similar pace. Since the 5th Generation F-22 fighter buy was truncated at 187 aircraft, our military won't be able to guarantee air superiority in future conflicts and American airpower will no longer serve as a credible deterrent if the United States doesn't follow through with current plans to replace our remaining legacy fighters with the 5th Generation F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The old adage coined by President Reagan - "Peace through Strength" - must always guide our national security procurement decisions.

Russia and China are rapidly developing their own 5th Generation stealth fighter jets. Russia is developing its long-awaited stealth fighter - the PAK/FA T-50 - and planning to sell it in the world market. China is investing heavily in the J-20 and J-31 stealth fighter prototypes and many analysts believe they will build them in significant numbers. These countries are also building and proliferating, advanced surface-to-air missile systems that threaten to make our 4th Generation fighter fleet largely obsolete. Just this week, Russia announced it may renew its plans to sell advanced versions of its highly lethal S-300 surface-to-air missile system to Syria and Iran. These efforts by America's geopolitical adversaries should remind policymakers that it is essential for the US and our allies to maintain our technological edge.

The F-35's stealth technology and advanced capabilities are crucial to rapidly establishing air superiority and achieving military success against these advanced surface-to-air and air-to-air threats without incurring significant losses.

The F-35 will provide our Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps with one family of interoperable stealth fighters capable of providing support for ground

troops or attacking distant targets at sea or land. With three versions built around a common design, the F-35 program will provide the versatility needed for the Air Force to operate on conventional runways, the Navy to operate on aircraft carriers and the Marines to take off in very short distances and land vertically.

In addition to being a tri-service joint program, the F-35 is the Defense Department's largest international cooperative program with America's allies. By invitation of the US government, eight partner countries are participating: the United Kingdom, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, Canada, Australia, Denmark and Norway. These allied nations have indicated plans to purchase over 700 F-35 aircraft, with the UK alone expected to buy 138 aircraft for its Air Force and Navy, helping reduce the procurement cost of US F-35 fighters. In addition to the partner nations, key US allies Israel and Japan have committed to buying F-35s in the near future. Clearly, Allied participation is indispensable for keeping the program affordable, ensuring that the F-35 will enable the US to maintain our technological advantage over current or future potential rivals such as Russia and China and building international coalitions to counter emerging

threats throughout the world. The F-35 will close the capability gap that exists in coalition operations today, enabling true burden sharing among the allies while reducing the long term costs to all participating nations.

US and allied air superiority can no longer be taken for granted. Therefore, the US government and our partners must remain committed to the 5th Generation F-35 program during these fiscally challenging times. If we hold fast together, the F-35, along with the F-22, will provide dominance in the skies for the next half-century.

*Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) is Chairwoman of the House State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee and a member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.*



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## Terrorism Insurance Still Necessary to Foster Resilience



**Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)**

*Representing Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District*

Last week, we commemorated the twelve year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. One of the tough lessons of that day was that our Nation was not as resilient as it could be. In the weeks and months that followed, as Americans began coming to terms with the resulting loss of life and destruction, our economy sputtered. The Dow experienced its worst one-day drop ever (600 points), our civil aviation system teetered on economic collapse, and over 125,000 American workers were laid off. Property insurance claims resulting from the attacks were nearly \$40 billion—rendering September 11th the largest single insurance event that the Nation had ever experienced. By early 2002, fearing that the terrorist threat could not be adequately predicted and underwritten, prominent reinsurers exited the U.S. market and businesses across the country could not get terrorism coverage. In an effort to prevent further damage to the U.S. economy, particularly to the construction, hospitality, housing, and manufacturing sectors, Congress

enacted the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) which mandated that terrorism coverage be made available to at-risk businesses and, in turn, the Federal government would provide a backstop in the event of a certified terrorist incident that results in at least \$100 million in insured damages. As designed, a complex system of triggers must be activated before Federal funds are disbursed. To date, not a single dollar has left the U.S. Treasury under this program; it appears as though the Boston Marathon bombings will not meet the statutory threshold either, since insurance payouts are only about \$1 million.

Over the past ten years, TRIA has fostered a more resilient country and, notwithstanding these turbulent times, the number of firms securing terrorism risk insurance, as well as premium rates, has remained fairly constant. The Boston Marathon bombings are a stark reminder that mass violence, whether a result of terrorism or other acts, remains a homeland security and economic threat to the Nation and our infrastructure. Today, firms that

need insurance to bounce back from terrorism face the very real threat that it will not be available to them. According to a prominent insurance industry survey, if TRIA is allowed to expire, as is slated to occur at the end of 2014, there is a great likelihood that 68% of insurers would exclude terrorism coverage, thereby causing an enormous spike in the cost of this insurance and placing a heavy burden on the private sector as it emerges from the recent economic crisis.

Recognizing the importance of TRIA to fostering a more resilient America, it has been reauthorized by Congress twice, on wide bipartisan bases. Inexplicably, even as policymakers openly debate whether new insurance products should be made available to firms that proactively address the risk of cyber attacks, there is increasing likelihood that this Congress will let TRIA lapse. To ensure economic stability and ensure that at-risk businesses can continue to operate, plan, and grow, I introduced legislation to extend TRIA for ten more years. The Fostering Resilience

to Terrorism Act would ensure that responsible companies, big and small, can be certain in the knowledge that should they be hit by terrorism, they will be able to dust themselves off, roll up their sleeves, and get back to business. It is time for Congress to do its part to foster resilience. It is time for Congress to provide a long-term authorization for the TRIA program.

*Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MD) is the Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security.*



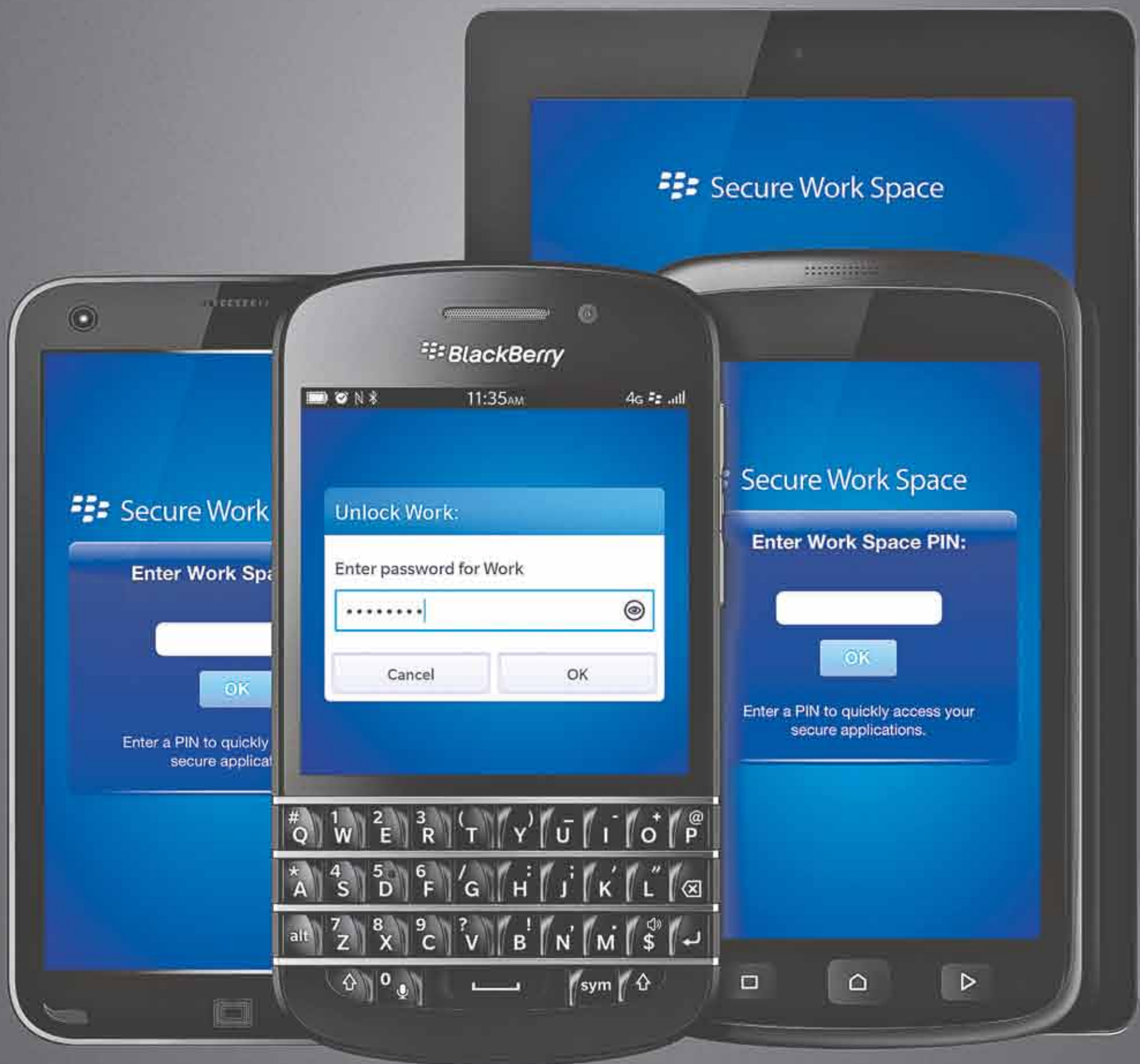
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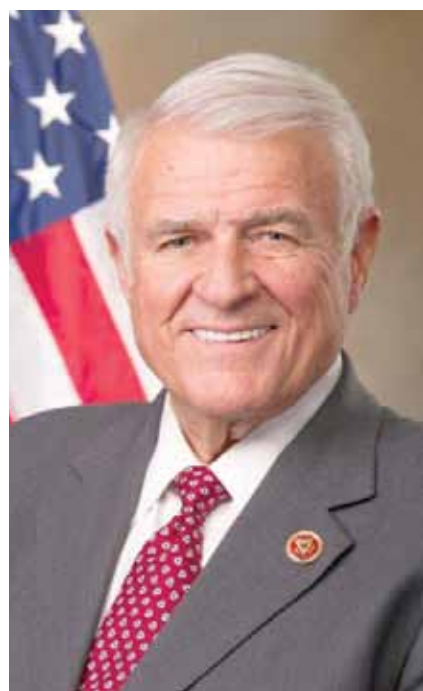


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# Priorities for the Next Secretary of Homeland Security



**Rep. John Carter  
(R-TX)**

Representing Texas'  
31st Congressional District

On September 6, Secretary Napolitano will have resigned from her post as the third Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and to her departure, I say "good riddance." Secretary Napolitano has failed to lead DHS,

ignoring the department's foundation of respect for the laws. As a longtime Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security and now the Subcommittee's Chairman, I suggest the following as a few necessary priorities the next Secretary, once nominated and confirmed, may wish to tackle—

## Re-Establish Credibility by Actually Enforcing the Law

First and foremost, the next Secretary must restore the Department's credibility in terms of enforcing the law. Our Nation and its government are predicated on the rule of law and DHS cannot shun this most fundamental duty.

For far too long, this Administration has played games and made a mockery of the law. We know the 9/11 and Boston terrorists who overstayed their visas and that committed visa fraud to enter and stay in the U.S. to carry out their nefarious plots would *not* have met this Administration so-called "criteria" for enforcement actions against "criminal aliens." So, the next Secretary must work to immediately restore the integrity of our immigration system and its laws.

"Prosecutorial discretion" is a judicial practice that must be left to the appropriate judge and prosecutor, not applied to this Administration to pick and choose which laws will be enforced. Of course criminal aliens should be identified, detained, and removed, but that does

not mean the Administration can simply ignore enforcement of immigration law. More to the point, the President and his advisers cannot carry out the law as they'd like it to be; they must comply with the law as it is written by Congress. The brave men and woman on the front lines within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) must be empowered to enforce the law by their leadership, not reprimanded for carrying out their sworn duties.

## Clearly Align Budget to Mission

Our Nation's budget continues to hemorrhage red ink. Getting our fiscal house in order must be a shared priority among both the Legislative and Executive branches of our federal government. I know the hard working taxpayers in my Texas District expect DHS to be a responsible steward of its more than \$50 billion annual budget and I certainly expect nothing less.

This Administration continues to play games rather than take our homeland security needs seriously. Instead of sufficiently and responsibly supporting the operations within DHS, the President proposed a budget that dangerously undermines these operational priorities. Instead, President Obama and Secretary Napolitano are more interested in funding a new DHS headquarters and poorly justified information technology projects. In Texas, we have a term for such a reckless and irresponsible budget

proposal, but it is not appropriate to print it in this publication. Needless to say, I wholeheartedly rejected this flawed budget proposal in the fiscal year 2014 DHS Appropriations bill that passed the House in early June.

The next Secretary must square away this budget morass and clearly propose a legitimate budget that aligns limited, precious funds to mission priorities—priorities that counter current and emerging threats. Operational personnel and assets must be valued within the DHS budget, not traded to find the funds for some bureaucrat's pet project.

## Improve the Department's Work with State and Local Governments

As Texans well know, Texas knows best how to take care of Texas. With that said, DHS has, at times, been a helpful partner by way of first responder grants and, more specifically, through Operation Stonegarden—the program that reimburses our local border sheriffs for expenses resulting from assistance to Border Patrol and support for the federal border security mission.

Through a federal partnership, our brave, local law enforcement professionals, first responders, and state homeland security officials in Texas have worked tirelessly to protect our communities from border incursions and natural disasters alike. We need to ensure federal, state, and local resources are working in sync...especially as both federal and

state budgets continue to be stretched to make ends meet.

Enforcing the law, responsibly aligning the Department's budget to mission requirements, and improving federal coordination with State and local governments are just a few of the issues the next Secretary would be wise to prioritize. Should the next Secretary embrace these priorities and get a confirmed leadership team in place, he or she will find robust support in Congress towards the shared goal of moving our Nation's security forward.

Now, if only the President would demonstrate a genuine commitment to our homeland security by actually nominating a successor to Ms. Napolitano...

John Carter represents the 31st Congressional District in Texas and current serves as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security.



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# Sequestration: When Spending Habits Jeopardize National Security



**Rep. Phil Gingrey  
(R-GA)**

Representing Georgia's  
11th Congressional District

Terrorists committed to the destruction of our way of life. Rogue regimes, hostile nations, and foreign militants seeking to do our country harm. Weapons of mass destruction. The growing military capabilities of nations who do not share our values. Cyber warfare.

There are undoubtedly other threats to our nation's security. But there is a self-inflicted threat that jeopardizes the ability of the United States to take on these other challenges. Out-of-control federal spending and the failure to stem it led us to a "solution" that is untenable and incompatible with the security of the United States. This "solution"—Sequestration—devastates our capacity to "provide for the common defense."

This is the federal government's most essential function, prescribed by the Constitution, and is the cornerstone of our liberties, upon which all other liberties and guarantees rely. A strong national defense not only allows the U.S. to react to acts of war quickly and effectively; it also serves as a deterrent to those who seek to do us harm. This security is the foundation upon which our freedoms are based. Simply put, the latter cannot exist without the former.

However, this requires providing the Department of Defense (DoD) with the

necessary resources. That does not mean that DoD spending should be held harmless. In order to drastically cut spending, we must look everywhere in the federal budget, including the DoD, in a responsible, thoughtful, and targeted fashion.

Sequestration, which took effect earlier this year, accomplishes the exact opposite. It mandates arbitrary, across-the-board spending cuts to the DoD. By taking a blunt instrument to our national defense rather than a surgical, introspective look at the Department's budget, the path of lazy legislating led to the flawed policy of sequestration that will add to the pressure on our already shrinking DoD budget.

Since taking office, President Obama has already slashed \$350 billion from various weapons programs, and put in motion a plan to take \$487 billion out of defense budgets. Sequestration slashes another \$492 billion from defense and dramatically impacts the United States' ability to protect its citizens and interests around the world.

In fact, sequestration will shrink our military to its weakest position in decades: shrinking our navy to its smallest size since before World War II, diminishing our ground forces to their smallest size since before World War I, and severely

inhibiting necessary modernizations and acquisitions of equipment.

In light of recent developments in Syria and Iran, and at a time when potential adversaries are ramping up their defense capabilities and budgets, this is especially dangerous. We are asking our servicemen and women to do increasingly more with much less.

These draconian cuts will not only leave us with a weakened national defense, but with an weakened economy as well. Sequestration stands to further devastate our already-suffering manufacturing sector. It is estimated that more than one million jobs could be lost nationally due to sequestration, resulting in higher unemployment and a reduction in U.S. GDP growth.

My home state of Georgia, with its strong military presence and proud tradition of service, stands to lose more than 54,000 jobs. In a recent visit to Warner Robins Air Force Base, its impact was evident. Aircraft repairs and maintenance were backed up, workers and families were grappling with furloughs, and base commanders expressed concerns that other operations would be negatively affected as well.

These reasons are why House Republicans have voted twice to replace

sequestration with common sense reforms to curb the federal government's irresponsible, "autopilot" spending. Republicans replaced haphazard, dangerous cuts by eliminating Obamacare slush funds, reducing waste and duplicative programs, combating fraud in government programs, and reforming entitlement programs.

Sequestration fails to account for our military operational and readiness requirements. We must always balance the need for fiscal discipline with our national security responsibilities. When we attempt to balance our nation's budget on the backs of our service members and veterans, we put all Americans at risk.



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# Twelve Years After 9/11: How Secure is the Homeland and How Can We Improve?



**Rep. Michael McCaul  
(R-TX)**

Representing Texas'  
10th Congressional District

Twelve years ago this month, nearly 3,000 innocent Americans were killed by al Qaeda terrorists in New York, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania. This attack exposed weaknesses in our counterterrorism efforts, and in the wake of 9/11, the Department of Homeland Security

(DHS) was created to connect the dots.

Undoubtedly, we are safer today because of the Department. Yet our nation continues to face great challenges. From the spreading threat of overseas and homegrown terrorism, to the insecurity of our transportation systems, borders and digital networks, we must constantly evolve our defenses.

As the terror attacks in Benghazi, Fort Hood, Boston, and Little Rock painfully demonstrate, terrorists have not given up their efforts to target Americans. The reality is that the threats we faced on 9/11 exist today, and they have changed and grown more threatening in many respects. While al Qaeda has been damaged by the killings Osama bin Laden and other top leaders, its ideology is now building a more decentralized and geographically dispersed movement. Every day, we must continue to improve our counterterrorism efforts, call terrorism what it is, and use every tool at our disposal to fight it.

Since 9/11, DHS has greatly improved our transportation security. However, commercial airlines remain a top target for terrorists and TSA must continue to develop cost-effective, intelligence-driven, and risk-based security measures to detect and prevent attacks. I applaud the steps TSA has taken to move toward a risk-based security model, such as the recent expansions of the Pre-Check program, to better meet the needs of passengers while targeting the real threat—potential terrorists.

Still, there is room for improvement. TSA has struggled with efficiently testing,

investing in and deploying new technology. According to the DHS Inspector General, mismanagement has left \$185 million in taxpayer-funded equipment locked up in warehouses. Transportation Security Subcommittee Chairman Richard Hudson and I have introduced bipartisan legislation to streamline TSA's process for purchasing new equipment to ensure security is improved effectively and efficiently.

DHS is also responsible for securing our nation's borders. If we do not know what is coming in our country, we cannot keep it safe. In the past, the Department has claimed our border is secure, but anyone who has been to the border in my home state of Texas, knows that is not the case. Ten years after the creation of DHS, we still do not have a comprehensive strategy to gain operational control of our borders, and instead we continue to plug holes only to see the problem shifted instead of solved.

In order to fix this problem, I have introduced legislation to finally compel DHS to develop a national strategy to achieve operational control of our borders. The bill requires that DHS achieve at least a 90% apprehension rate, and demands that it create credible ways to measure its progress, which include the use of taxpayer-owned sensor technology proven effective in Iraq and Afghanistan—so we can finally see what we're missing.

While our physical security is crucial, our digital security is also essential to maintaining our critical infrastructure and way of life. Earlier this year, the

Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, listed cyber attacks as the biggest threat facing our nation.

There are daily reports of attempts at cyber espionage or disruption of services on our financial institutions, media entities, and government websites. And last year, an al Qaeda operative called for "electronic jihad" against the U.S. and compared the country's technological vulnerabilities to those in American security before 9/11. It is DHS's responsibility to do all it can to put the proper safeguards in place to protect against such attacks.

One of these safeguards is addressing the cracks in our cyber defenses by bridging the gap between government and industry. DHS and outside stakeholders already have laid a strong foundation for a collaborative public-private cybersecurity partnership, and the Department has been successfully facilitating the communications between the 16 sectors of critical infrastructure for some time. To bolster these efforts, the Committee is currently working on legislation to codify these relationships and make them stronger and faster at seeing and responding to cyber attacks.

Finally, in order to fully confront these challenges to homeland security, DHS must address its lack-of-leadership problem. Currently, 18 out of the 44 top positions at DHS are vacant or "acting," which is over 40%. Without leadership, DHS operations, accountability and morale will continue to suffer, and the many dedicated individuals within the

Department deserve better from this Administration.

The recent departure of DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano also brings new challenges and opportunities for DHS. The many agencies housed within DHS are only as effective as their leadership, and it is crucial that the Administration appoints someone who does not underestimate the threats against us, who is committed to security the border and who able to give cybersecurity the attention it deserves.

While the homeland is more secure than before the 9/11 terrorist attacks, we must remain vigilant. The threat of terrorism is not diminishing and instability around the world has a ripple effect on our shores. As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I will continue to work with the Department to meet these challenges head on.

Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas) is the Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security.



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## Time to Pass a Bipartisan Budget and Put an End to Sequestration



**Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT)**

Representing Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District

If there is one issue that many Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle can agree on, it is that sequestration is an exceedingly inefficient approach to manage our nation's fiscal priorities – particularly with regards

to our defense budget. Agreeing on what to do about it, however, is another matter.

In the House Armed Services Committee, we have held a series of hearings over the last year, outlining the creeping and insidious impacts that sequestration is having – and will increasingly have – on our defense priorities. Recently, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel released the Strategic Choices and Management Review, or SCMR, previewing the tough but unavoidable steps that would need to be taken to live under continued sequestration – from reducing carrier strike groups to reductions in the civilian workforce. Recently, Chief of Naval Operations Jonathan Greenert provided a troubling snapshot of how the Navy – a cornerstone of our national security strategy – would be reshaped by ongoing sequestration, including reduced aircraft, ships, training and personnel.

Sequestration was triggered because of Congress' inability to pass a bipartisan compromise to cut \$1.2 trillion out of the budget over the next decade. Cuts of \$110 billion – split evenly between defense and non-defense programs – will hit the budget each year, causing compounding damage to nearly every aspect of the government. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently found that allowing sequestration to continue would result

in the loss of up to 1.6 million jobs – losses that could jeopardize our fragile economic recovery.

There are many areas where Congress can and should make thoughtful reductions in spending. The mindless chainsaw of sequestration, however, is not the right approach – nor is continued partisan gridlock that brings our nation to the brink of shutdown and default.

Notably, sequestration as a budget enforcement tool was not created as part of the 2011 Budget Control Act – it was authored by a bipartisan trio who helped pass one of the most significant budget policies in recent decades that helped drive down our deficits in the 1990s.

Senators Phil Gramm (R-TX), Fritz Hollings (D-SC) and Warren Rudman (R-NH) created sequestration as a blunt tool to force Congress to make tough choices about our budget. The law they authored, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, set hard budget targets and, if Congress failed to meet them, automatic, indiscriminate budget cuts would kick in. This framework successfully drove Congress to develop bipartisan plans to reduce our deficit and avoid sequestration – which should serve as the model for this Congress as we deal with the difficult tasks ahead.

In fact, Senator Gramm told Congress in 2011 that, "It was never the

objective of Gramm-Rudman to trigger the sequester; the objective of Gramm-Rudman was to have the threat of the sequester force compromise and action." It is long past time for members on both sides to come together to enact the bipartisan compromise and action that is needed to avert the long-term damage that sequestration will do to our defense priorities and countless other aspects of our federal budget.

Despite the noise coming from Washington as we approach the latest avoidable showdown over government funding, I still believe that it is possible for Congress to unite and prevent these indiscriminate cuts from continuing. Related to that optimism, the Congressional Budget Office has forecasted that government revenue this year will exceed initial estimates by over \$100 billion – or the necessary amount to end sequestration in 2013. These resources could be directed to help pay down sequestration.

The best way for Congress to work out these difficult issues is through the passage of a comprehensive budget for 2014. This past March, both the House and Senate passed their own versions of the 2014 budget. While the House plan crafted by Republican Budget Chairman Paul Ryan would lock in sequestration cuts in 2014 and the coming decade, the Senate plan eliminated sequestration through a combination of spending reductions and elimination of

tax loopholes.

However, instead of allowing the normal process of negotiating a final House-Senate budget to move forward, House Speaker John Boehner has disappointingly blocked completion of this critical process. Since passage of the House budget, it has become clear that those spending levels are unworkable. Before the August district work period, House leadership withdrew a transportation appropriations bill because it lacked support on both sides of the aisle – the cuts were simply too deep under the paltry budget allocation it received.

With the clock ticking down before the new budget year begins, we do not have a moment to waste – it is long past time to negotiate a budget that ends sequestration and takes a responsible, balanced approach to deficit reduction.



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## Rethinking Direct Threats: America's Decision to Stay out of Syria



**Rep. Steven Palazzo (R-MS)**

Representing Mississippi's 4th Congressional District

In the recent debate surrounding whether or not to use U.S. military intervention in Syria, Americans spoke out loud and clear to send the message: "Stay out of Syria."

That was despite the best efforts of the President and his advisers to convince the American people that action was the only option. Red lines were drawn, news about tragic events in Syria dominated headlines, and a deadly civil war raged on. Still, the American people just weren't buying it.

I don't consider myself a pacifist: I turned 21 as a Marine in the desert during the Persian Gulf War, I sit on the House Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees, and I continue to actively serve in the Mississippi Army National Guard. I've been a vocal opponent to senseless and disproportionate sequestration cuts to defense because I believe we need to be able to protect American interests at home and around the world.

My military perspective mirrors that of my district in South Mississippi. It is home to the state's largest employer, Ingalls Shipbuilding, producer

of amphibious warships, destroyers and national security cutters. (At one point, four out of five warships sitting off the coast of Syria were built in Pascagoula, Mississippi). Our military communities boast assets such as Keesler Air Force Base and Gulfport's Naval Construction Battalion. And, if you've served in Iraq or Afghanistan in the last 10 years, chances are good that you're one of 100,000 men and women in uniform to come through the gates of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, located right outside of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Yet, like most Americans, South Mississippians have no appetite for even the most limited of strikes. There's been a lot of speculation as to why. As I told Secretary Kerry at a recent House Armed Services Committee hearing, I don't have all the reasons why. But what I heard the most was that there was no direct threat, no strategy, and no vision.

I believe the Administration has failed on several fronts to make their case. For starters, Americans understand that a limited strike is much

more difficult than it sounds. I liken it to taking a stick and striking a hornet's nest. In a troubled region where the lines aren't clearly drawn, it's hard to tell the good guys from the bad or to predict what the backlash might be. Second, the conflicts of our past have taught us that even worthy causes can falter if there is no clear objective or endpoint. This is perhaps where the Obama Administration made the biggest blunder. In hearing after hearing, the President's advisers failed to satisfactorily, clearly and consistently answer this question.

In a post-Iraq and post-Afghanistan world, the bar for using military force overseas is set high. That means any decision to engage in even the most limited military strikes must be justified by a clear and direct threat to the American people and American interests. Some might see that as an impossibly high bar to reach, but I believe it is fair.

The standard for whether to engage military force has always been one set by the American people, and there is no reason for that to change now. It

cannot be about one man's red line, or one Administration's credibility. Just because Syrian intervention has fallen short of that standard does not mean the U.S. will not act when the time is right and the threat is direct. At such a time, I believe the American people will once again speak out loud and clear.

*Rep. Steven Palazzo (R-MS) is a member of the Armed Services and Homeland Security Committees.*



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## A Product of Southeastern Pennsylvania, the V-22 Osprey is Proving its Worth



**Sen. Patrick Meehan (R-PA)**

Representing Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District

In March of 2011, in the night skies over Libya, an American F-15E Strike Eagle attack aircraft suffered a serious mechanical malfunction and crashed

into the Libyan desert.

One of the plane's two aircrew, Capt. Tyler Stark, was recovered by friendly Libyan forces and returned to allied forces. The other was not as lucky.

Maj. Kenneth Harney landed alone in the desert, more than 100 miles from the nearest American forces. Another nearby American aircraft was able to make contact with the stranded pilot, and a rescue mission was quickly devised. Two Marine AV-8B Harrier jets were scrambled to provide air cover. At 1:33AM, Marine V-22 Ospreys from the USS Kearsarge, off the Libyan coast, were launched to recover the pilot.

Less than 90 minutes later, Maj. Harney was safely on the Kearsarge, with no American casualties as a result of the operation.

This dramatic rescue was possible only because of a cutting-edge aircraft that blends the speed and range of a fixed-wing plane with the vertical takeoff ability of a helicopter.

The V-22 Osprey is one of the most advanced military aircraft on the planet. The Osprey is able to take off and land vertically like a helicopter, and can rotate its engines mid-flight to transform itself into a fixed-wing turboprop aircraft.

Just a few years into active military

service, the Osprey, constructed at Boeing's facility in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, is proving its worth to our men and women in the field.

The V-22 is able to travel more than 350 miles an hour, more than twice as fast as the CH-46 Sea Knight it's designed to replace. Its range is 40 percent further than the Sea Knight's, and it can fly 50 percent higher, avoiding much of the most dangerous anti-aircraft fire.

The V-22's development was not without difficulty. Just like any other new aircraft system, the Osprey program endured budget, maintenance and performance challenges, raising questions about the program's future.

But in recent years, the Osprey's design issues have been resolved and its reliability and safety has improved. Readiness rates are up, costs per flying hour are down, and the aircraft's safety record is such that the Marine Corps helicopter squadron responsible for the transportation of the President, is now taking delivery of V-22s for Presidential support missions.

Most importantly, the Osprey has earned high marks from our men and women in the field, who praise its unique ability to move soldiers and equipment across the battlefield. As one Marine commander says our forces are now "able to do in one day

with one aircraft what used to take two days and two different aircraft."

The Osprey doesn't simply replace the Sea Knight. As Marine Commandant Gen. James Conway put it, the Osprey "changes the entire calculus of planning and fighting at the tactical and operational level" and empowers our forces in the field with unprecedented flexibility.

After the raid on Osama bin Laden's Pakistan compound, it was the V-22 that was called upon to ferry his body out to sea.

With the Osprey's proven success in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon is looking at more potential uses for the Osprey's capabilities. The Osprey is currently undergoing tests as a carrier-based aerial refueling plane, and the Navy is exploring the possibility of using it as a resupply aircraft for ships at sea. The operational flexibility of the V-22 could improve the delivery capability to carrier strike groups and save the Navy money because of the V-22's ability to haul cargo and meet a variety of other important missions to the carrier strike group.

Earlier this year, the Department of Defense awarded Boeing and Bell Helicopter a multi-year procurement contract for 99 more Osprey aircraft. Multi-year contracts save taxpayer dollars and they give employees like

those at Boeing's facility in Ridley Park, Pa., and Bell's plant in Amarillo, Texas, certainty that production will continue into the future.

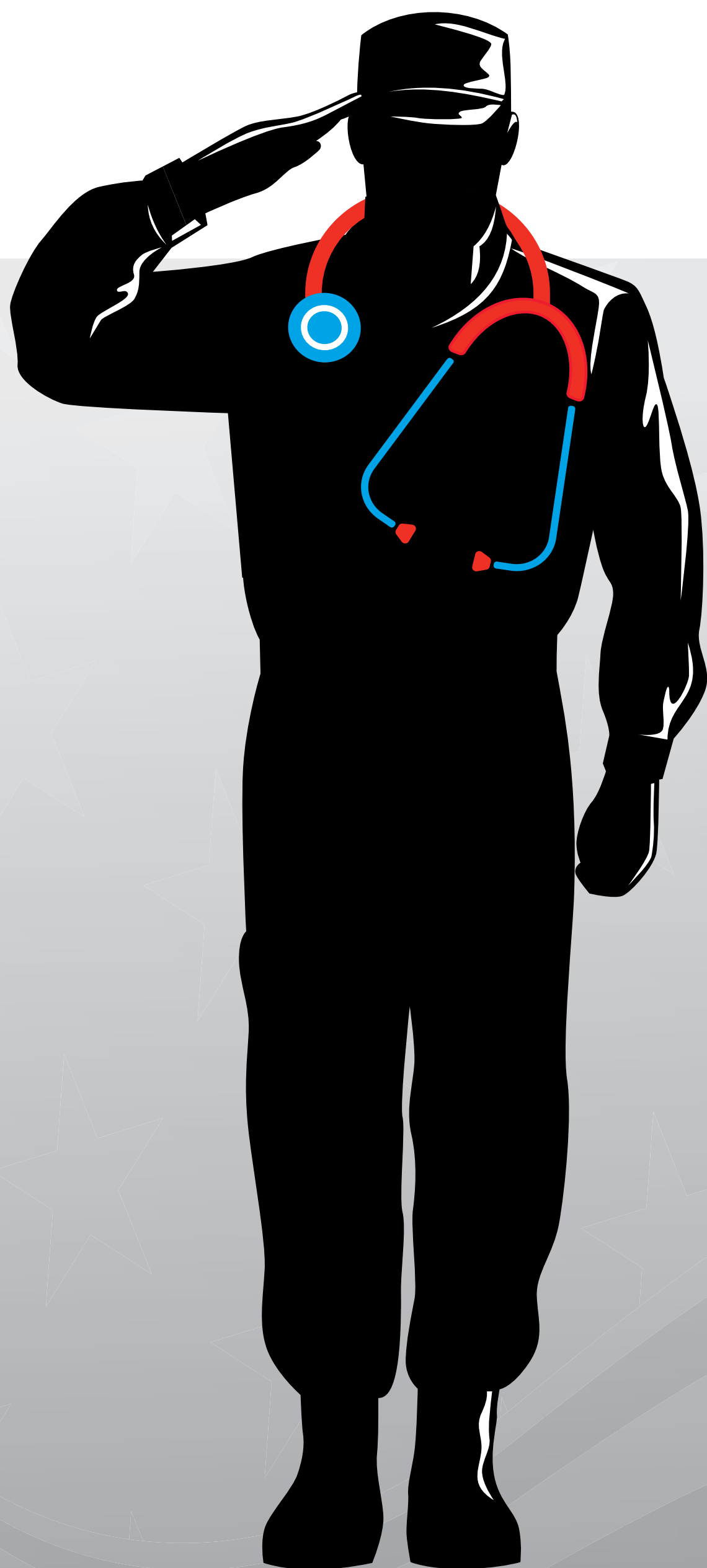
Our men and women serving abroad deserve the best tools and equipment. We must ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent where they will most effectively strengthen our national security and support our troops in the field. The V-22 Osprey has proven itself to be a safe, versatile aircraft that gives our commanders tremendous capability.

We're only beginning to understand the ways in which the Osprey can revolutionize the battlefield. At a time when the Pentagon is facing sequestration's budget cuts, the V-22 is a force multiplier. It has saved American lives, and it has earned continued support from Congress.





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## Time to End the Sequester



**Rep. Scott Peters**  
(D-CA)

Representing California's  
52nd Congressional District

It is the top priority of Congress to ensure that the United States is safe and secure. We are acutely aware of this in San Diego, part of which I represent, where the military and defense related industries hold significant economic and cultural importance. San Diego is a military city to its core. The Congressional district I represent is home to seven military installations, including the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

When I was on the San Diego City Council and a member of the Port Commission I was honored to interact with local military leaders. In my new role in Congress, and as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I've continued that interaction with visits to these bases to hear how Congress can help them fulfill their mission of protecting this country. Each and every one of them tells me that they are forced to spend large amounts of time figuring out how to accommodate the nonsensical, across the board cuts from the sequester, which total \$37 billion this fiscal year from defense. This leaves them with less time to focus on

the strategic planning necessary to defend our nation.

They are forced to ask questions like: 'which contracts should I delay or cancel?', 'which civilian employees should we keep or let go?', 'are there open positions that are important but can go unfilled?', 'how do I make long term plans without knowing what the budget will be?'

Given the interconnectedness of San Diego's economy between the private sector and the military, I also visit with local employers who contract with the Department of Defense to hear first-hand from them about how the federal government can help, or when we need to get out of the way, in order for them to succeed.

Not surprisingly, I hear similar messages from these employers, many of whom are among the largest employers in San Diego. They provide vital technologies, equipment, and services to the military in support of the mission. They tell me their biggest impediment to success is the constant uncertainty caused by the lack of a federal budget. This uncertainty leaves them

wondering if they can count on the contract award actually coming through or if they should staff up or down.

Our base commanders and business leaders – not to mention the servicemembers, contractors, employees, supporting families, and communities – deserve better. They need answers on what to expect from the federal budget.

I think that we can all agree that there is wasteful spending in the federal budget. Getting rid of it, and saving billions of taxpayer dollars, should be a top priority. But sequester cuts, by slicing across every department, are not mission driven. Commanders have little flexibility on where to cut costs, whether it be letting facilities maintenance go beyond scheduled repairs or reducing training hours for pilots. The inability to make strategic planning decisions puts our national security in jeopardy.

Just in San Diego, more than 25,000 civilian contractors have faced furloughs of more than a week this year. Unless Congress works toward a budget compromise, contractors and defense related industries will likely face cuts,

furloughs, and increased uncertainty.

Bottom line, sequester cuts, precisely because they were created with the mission in mind, are hurting our national security apparatus and leave us vulnerable long term. In San Diego, and across the country, real people are being impacted, the economy is being harmed, and our mission readiness is suffering.

It is time to give our commanders answers. It is time for a real budget compromise.

*Scott Peters represents the 52nd District of California. He is a member of the House Armed Services Committee.*



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## Cyber Security: The Pivotal Role of Communications Networks



**Scott Totzke**  
Senior Vice President for  
BlackBerry Security

In today's world, we have so many device options – smartphones, tablets and laptops – to stay connected to either the office or manage our personal lives. For consumers, many use their mobile devices to manage everything from their personal calendars to making online

purchases and even secure financial transactions with their bank.

But, unlike computers, most of us rely on applications we download to our mobile phones and tablets. These applications may have the ability to broadcast your location, private conversations, pictures, banking information and other sensitive data, sometimes even when these mobile devices are not in use.

Now imagine if your smartphone contained classified information pertaining to our national security.

Whether it's a device owned by the consumer or one that's managed by your company, every piece of data that leaves your device or that comes in from another source is at the potential risk of hackers.

It has been well documented that various foreign entities – both governmental and criminal – have ramped up attacks on the electronic communications and information systems of the United States. Given that mobile computing has become a necessity, government agencies need proven partners that follow top-to-bottom security protocols.

As veterans of this industry, my colleagues and I have learned to understand the impact of cyber security and cyber defense from a global perspective. And, we must understand the value of securing mobile communications from end to end.

At its core, cyber security means

protecting and securing our networks from all forms of attacks and ensuring that these networks continue to operate in times of crisis. For governments and enterprises this is best done through the application of a comprehensive cyber security policy that enhances the safety of an organization, its partners and its customers, thereby minimizing the risks of exposure and exploitation while maintaining valuable brand credibility. The cumulative measures that individuals and organizations take to protect their network assets (personal computers, mobile phones, servers, and so on) are generally known as cyber defense.

My company, BlackBerry, holds the position that a secure mobile solution needs to be built from the ground up and embedded in all aspects of the design and implementation of the products we ship. We also know that the best way to protect data is end-to-end data encryption. This means encrypting data before it leaves the enterprise and decrypting it within the device such as a smartphone, after it is delivered.

Encryption works to protect the integrity of the data at all points outside of your control, and traveling over the carrier network. Since the time BlackBerry released the first mobile communications device – a pager that changed the world – our focus has been to protect the transaction between the end points – your device and the BlackBerry Enterprise Service

running behind your company's firewall.

Today, BlackBerry uses AES-256 as our standard for our encryption. AES is an international standard and one that has more public scrutiny than any other cipher in the world. In short, when it comes to encryption, AES is state-of-the-art.

For those not familiar with AES, it is the most studied and trusted encryption scheme available today. It is fundamental to all online security from securing web traffic when you do online banking, to the VPNs used that enable employees to connect to their corporate networks, to the embedded encryption included in every BlackBerry device we ship.

As an industry, we need to meet the public demand for secure personal and business information, and our communication solutions need to provide built-in security features that allow users to manage their privacy protection easily and consciously. Every security decision is an exercise in risk management and we need to ensure that the mobile technology that users have access to a level of transparency and assurance around the protections afforded to them by their mobile solution providers. While

technology vendors can provide components of these solutions, it is equally important that we help government, enterprises, and consumers understand the risks involved with all types of online activities.

Security has to be a pillar of everything we do to protect our information. It is in all our interests to focus on implementing the strongest, industry leading, open standards possible. This includes being open to independent testing and validation of claims, and to provide an open framework for customers so that they may incorporate their own security capabilities.

BlackBerry products and solutions have already received more security accreditations globally than any other wireless solution and our customers value this level of transparency when it comes to protecting their information. We intend to continue to lead the industry in innovating smart solutions that help government, enterprises, and consumers understand how to keep their sensitive information from falling into the wrong hands.

*Scott Totzke is Senior Vice President for BlackBerry Security.*

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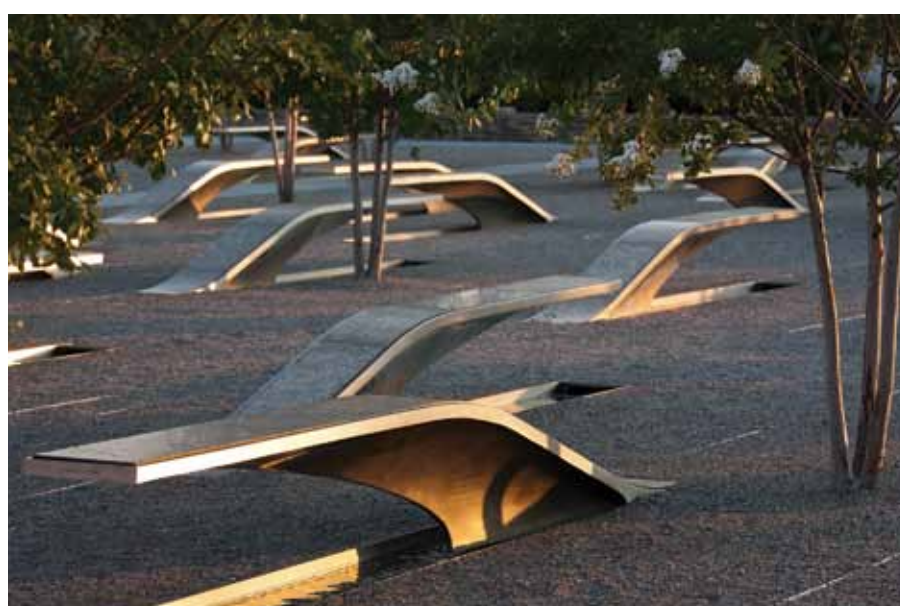
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