

**The Honorable Peter J. Roskam of Illinois**  
**Testimony on U.S.-Israeli Missile Defense Cooperation**  
**House Armed Services Committee**  
**May 8, 2013**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, distinguished Members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to testify at this critical hearing on our national defense priorities for the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

Mr. Chairman, I appear before you today to discuss U.S.-Israeli missile defense cooperation, an issue of critical importance to our national security. I am grateful to this committee for its past support of this component of America's partnership with our ally Israel. The reality is that we live in dangerous times. The situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, Iran is hurdling toward a nuclear weapons capability, and its proxies— Hamas and Hezbollah—continue to stockpile advanced missiles that pose a deadly threat not only to Israel, but our brave men and women serving overseas. In light of these challenges, we must continue to work closely with our allies to maintain a qualitative and quantitative military edge over our enemies. A robust missile defense apparatus is a strategic imperative in confronting these evolving threats.

Over the past two decades, the United States and Israel have worked seamlessly to develop, produce and implement cutting-edge missile defense programs. These systems are lifesaving, war preventing, and, most importantly, a joint venture. Israel matches U.S. funding and technology and intellectual property is shared. And certain aspects of these systems are produced here in the United States, which creates well-paying manufacturing jobs. Simply put, it is a win-win.

Mr. Chairman, many of us here have visited the Israeli city of Sderot along the Gaza border, which has endured literally thousands of Hamas rockets over the years. On my visit, the brave residents told me how they have just 15 seconds to take shelter from an incoming rocket. One woman explained that she dreamed of a "normal" life for her family without the constant fear of attack. That dream has become a reality thanks to Iron Dome. Iron Dome shields Israel from short-range rocket threats like those posed by Hamas and Hezbollah. Last November, during Operation Pillar of Defense, Iron Dome intercepted 500 Hamas rockets with a success rate of nearly 85%. With help from the United States, Israel has already deployed five Iron Dome batteries, with plans for a sixth by the year's end. Ultimately, Israel hopes to operate 10 to 13 batteries to protect the entire state.

Iron Dome has exceeded expectations, but it is unable to defend against more advanced, long-range missiles, which are becoming an increasingly viable danger. Therefore, the United States and Israel have teamed up to jointly develop David's Sling, which is designed to intercept short and medium-range ballistic missiles, long-range rockets, and cruise missiles. In its first test this past November, the system successfully intercepted an inert medium-range rocket, and defense officials expect the program to be fully operational in 2014.

The Arrow Weapons System has been operational since 2000 and targets medium-range ballistic missiles. This system, co-developed by Israel Aircraft Industries and Boeing, is manufactured by subcontractors here in the United States in Mississippi and Alabama. Together, Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow create a strong force field capable of defending against nearly any rocket attack. However, the outstanding threat to Israel, the United States, and the world remains a nuclear-armed Iran. As a result, the United States and Israel are developing the Arrow 3, a long-range, exo-atmospheric interceptor designed to catch missiles in high altitude to minimize leakage from a nuclear or chemical warhead. A successful fly test of Arrow 3 was conducted in February, and the system is expected to be operational within the next few years.

This multitier missile defense system is in the direct national security interest of the United States, and I'm pleased that this commonsense investment has enjoyed strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. I want to commend and express gratitude to the entire committee for its past support for U.S.-Israeli missile defense cooperation, and I look forward to working with you to maintain and expand this partnership. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.