Top audit officials repeatedly and consistently told my investigators that doing genuine contract audits was ''impossible, we can't do it, it's too difficult.''

One audit appears to illustrate and typify the seemingly impassable obstacle, or brick wall, perceived by the auditors. The report is entitled ''The U.S. Air Force's Central War Reserve Material Contract.'' It is report No. D–2009–108.

Instead of attempting to verify payments at the primary source, which is the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the audit team opted for an unauthorized shortcut. When you are following the taxpayers' money to see if there is fraud involved, you are going to find some shortcut?

They chose, then, to rely on payment data provided by who? The contractor, DynCorp, the target of the audit. Even using this flawed audit procedure, examiners were unable to match contract requirements with payments. Then when they could not do it, they just give up. The report concluded:

> The government did not know what it was paying for. . . . It may have paid for services DynCorp did not perform.

The auditors then simply turned a blind eye to the potential fraud here in this instance.

One hundred sixty-one million dollars went out the door, and for what, we don't know. The report does not tell us. It does not nail down all of the pertinent facts. It is inconclusive and unfinished. The auditors just kicked the can down the road, bucking it to another Defense Department audit agency.

Clearly, auditing large, complicated Defense Department contracts where there is no audit trail to follow is, we have to admit, a daunting task. But that does not mean it is a mission impossible. It can be done. It has to be done. Senior managers refer to this task as ''audit trail reconstruction work. It is labor intensive pick and shovel work.''

Today, the inspector general relies on small rinky-dink 5- or 10-member audit teams. That doesn't cut it. The IG needs to deploy much larger teams consisting of 25, 50, or even 100 auditors or more to tackle the most egregious contract jobs. And I don't mean hire more than the 675 employees who are already there eating up $90 million.

Let me make one point crystal clear right now—and I am repeating because I think it is important. I am not suggesting the IG needs to hire more auditors. This should be done within available resources. What I am saying is this: The audit office needs to switch from a large number of small teams to a small number of large teams. That would be a reallocation of audit resources. The top audit office official said it would be possible ''to cobble together such an audit team to look at one of the big weapons programs.'' However, doing that would ''deplete resources needed to meet other priorities.''

The ''other priorities'' referenced by this top official are probably wasteful reviews of the Department's policy and procedures—in other words, doing policy auditing instead of doing financial auditing.

In 2009, the audit office did not conduct one in-depth contract audit of a major weapon system or contract. Aren't major weapon systems an audit priority? The record suggests that it is not an audit priority.

To this Senator from Iowa, this is an astonishing revelation. The inspector general is not doing contract audits. How can this be? If the IG is doing contract audits, then the office of the IG is not or should not be open for business—ought not to be spending that $90 million.

The core IG mission is to detect and report fraud, waste, and abuse to the Secretary and to the Congress and to recommend corrective action. To detect and verify fraud and waste, auditors need to be on the money trail 24/7. That is where most fraud occurs. They need to be connecting all the dots between contract signing over here and the last payment being made over here.

Instead of trying to do contract audits, the audit office gave up and moved to greener, easier pastures. Most audits now focus on policies and procedures. In moving in this direction, the inspector general has strayed far from a core mission costing $90 million. Today's preference for policy audits yields zero benefits to the taxpayers. These reports cost about $800,000 apiece. Cranking out worthless policy audits may not qualify as misconduct, but it surely is a blatant waste of precious tax dollars, at $90 million a year.

The current focus on policy audits helps me understand why 765 auditors—with an annual budget of $90 million—could not root out any measurable fraud or waste last year. The IG there at the Department of Defense needs to hit the reset button and refocus the audit effort on the core IG mission.

First, he needs to resume full-scope contract audits to root out fraud and waste. Second, the audit office needs to aggressively review all the Defense Department's plans and programs for deploying a modern accounting system. It needs to offer specific recommendations that would help the Department reach the 2020 readiness goals.

I am receiving assurances from the IG at the Department of Defense that he is moving smartly in the right direction. The signals from that office are very encouraging. Yet I remain skeptical. The audit office still seems to think that full-scope contract audits are a nonstarter and policy reviews are highly relevant. We need a change of course.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORT ON FOREIGN TRAVEL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, It has been my custom to make a report to the Congress, my constituents, and the general public when I return from a trip. I have sought recognition to speak about foreign travel I made to Beijing, Hanoi and Taipei from August 6, 2010, to August 16, 2010.

We departed Dulles International Airport on United Airlines on Friday morning, August 6 en route to Beijing, China. This was my sixth visit to China, with the most recent taking place in 2006.

On Sunday, August 8, we had a meeting with Mr. William Farris, Managing Counsel for Google. Mr. Farris had previously served as general counsel for the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, which was created by congressional statute in 2001 to oversee human rights and the rule of law. Especially with his background in these critical issues, Mr. Farris offered his views on the potential for unfettered access to the internet in China, the recent cyber attack against Google, and an overview of the Chinese business environment. Although Google initially censored its search engine in China, I was pleased that it has decided to offer a reroute through Hong Kong servers in order to provide uncensored access. China continues to put pressure on international firms over the nature of content produced. The Chinese government maintains a block on many U.S. Websites, including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The pressure that the Chinese government places on firms has already led to the departure of major foreign ventures. Go Daddy, a leading U.S. Web site registration firm, has recently left the Chinese market. Increasing freedom will facilitate economic growth and attract investment.

In my fiscal year 2011 appropriations request letter to the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I urged the provision $50 million from the democracy fund to promote widespread, secure Internet use by individuals residing in countries with Internet monitoring, censorship, and control. This is a low-cost method of allowing people, especially those living under repressive regimes, to access all-source, unfiltered information. This capability enables freedom of thought, expression, and the unimpeded flow of ideas and information. One group, the Global Internet Freedom Consortium—an alliance of several organizations specializing in anti-censorship technologies—has submitted several important proposals. This group has been particularly effective in China, neutralizing the Chinese government's ''Golden Shield'' and ''Green Dam'' barriers.

As I wrote in my July 7, 2009, op-ed in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette:

> The United States must fight fire with fire in finding ways to breach these cyberwalls, which dictatorships use to control their people and keep themselves in power. Tearing down these walls can match the effect of what happened when the Berlin Wall was torn down. No one understands this better than the dictator states.

The Internet has proven to be one of the most powerful tools for cultivating nascent democracies. American companies who have abetted repressive regimes by censoring information should reexamine their relationships and ways of doing businesses.

That afternoon, we met with Ambassador Jon F. Huntsman Jr. and his wife, Mrs. Mary Kaye Huntsman, at the Ambassador's residence. I have known Ambassador Huntsman since his days as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative in the George W. Bush administration as well as the Governor of Utah. Ambassador Huntsman, fluent in Mandarin, brought unique skills to this post, gleaned from studying China for much of his life, serving as a missionary in the Republic of China, and extensive business experience. We discussed different dynamics of the U.S.-China relationship, including international trade, regional security, and human rights.

On Monday, August 9, we began the day with a country team briefing from the U.S. Embassy in China. The briefing was led by Robert Goldberg, the Deputy Chief of Mission, and included Christopher Adams, Minister Counselor for Trade Affairs at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Aubrey Carlson, Political Minister Counselor, MaryKay Carlson, Acting Consul General, David Dollar, U.S. Treasury Economic and Financial Emissary to China, Robert Forden, Acting Economic Minister Counselor, Bradley Gehrke, Defense Attaché, Randal Phillips, Minister Counselor for Plans and Programs, and William Zarit, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs from the Department of Commerce. Following the Country Team Briefing, I met John Klena, Julie Schneider, Andriana Wiegand, Sanford Dawson, Frank Joseph, Msg. Simon Price, Msg. Michael Fernald, Msg. Kenneth Hayles, and Megan Kellogg, fellow Pennsylvanians who admirably serve the U.S. through our Embassy in Beijing.

Although the U.S. has many shared interests with China, it is important that we do not shy away from issues of potential conflict. I pushed for the need to gain leverage in our relationship with the Chinese in order to get them to change their behavior. I posed the question whether congressional action on trade issues and other disagreements with China would be helpful in pursuing U.S. policy aims. The country team indicated that congressional engagement helps China understand different stakeholders in the U.S. system. One other way to engage the Chinese is to coordinate with other countries and the business community to apply unified pressure against China on specific trade issues.

An area of concern is China's commitment to reducing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially with regard to Iran and North Korea. Although China initially resisted a new round of sanctions against Iran this year, China seems to have been compliant with United Nations Security Council resolutions. China has significant energy and banking investments in Iran, and is reluctant to undermine its own interests. Iran has a history of using deceptive financial practices to circumvent U.N. sanctions, and it is important that all nations block banking relations with Iranian financial institutions if those transactions could facilitate Iranian nuclear proliferation. I made the point that an Israeli strike on Iranian nuclear weapons facilities could harm China's energy supply, and that China might not have considered the impact of such an armed conflict on their bilateral relationship with Iran.

China is North Korea's most significant economic partner and continues to provide North Korea with food aid. In 2009, trade between China and North Korea surpassed $2.7 billion. In 2009, North Korean exports to China rose by 4.3 percent to $793 million. China needs to be more willing to collaborate with the U.S. and international partners on urging North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program and destabilizing rhetoric. According to the U.S. Mission, engagement with North Korea is the best bilateral working relationship we have with China.

A recurring issue during my visit to the region was territorial disputes in Southeast Asia. One especially problematic area is the South China Sea, which stretches from Singapore and the Strait of Malacca to the Strait of Taiwan. This waterway includes over 200 small islands, the majority of which are uninhabitable but rich in such natural resources as oil and natural gas. Although projections for energy reserves in the South China Sea vary, a 1994 U.S. Geological Survey approximated that there were 28 billion barrels of oil. Because there has not been any exploratory drilling in the area, estimates for energy reserves in two of the particularly resource-rich island chains, the Spratly Islands and Paracel Islands, are unknown. According to the Energy Information Administration at the Department of Energy, oil consumption in Asia is estimated to rise by over 2.7 percent per year to nearly 29.8 million barrels per day in 2030. Given the strategic importance of the South China Sea, many of its proximate nations have competing claims for territory. Although the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has not determined specific territorial delineations, it has offered guidelines for the resolution of competing claims through negotiation between nations.

China submitted a map to the United Nations Security Council that depicted China's claim to over 80 percent of the South China Sea. The map includes a U-shaped line, connected by ''9 dots,'' granting China access to portions of the shores of Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines. This year, China began referring to this disputed waterway as a ''core national interest,'' similar language used to describe Tibet and Taiwan. China currently occupies several of the Spratly Islands. Vietnam has also claimed the Spratly Islands, occupying a small portion of the chain, as well as the Paracel Islands, despite ceding the latter to China after being forcibly removed by the Chinese military in 1974. China claims a wide-ranging exclusive economic zone, EEZ, an area of a sea zone for which a nation owns rights for use of marine resources including fishing and subterranean energy stores, in the South China Sea, despite the fact that Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam all have proximate coastal areas and competing claims for sovereignty. An EEZ, as described in the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, is permitted for certain waterways given their proximity to the coast of a country and other geographic factors.

The South China Sea is host to over one-third of global maritime commerce, as well as more than 50 percent of Northeast Asia's energy supplies. U.S. forces also use the South China Sea to support the war in Afghanistan. China's naval aggression is troubling. China has developed its naval power to an unprecedented extent in recent years. Not only has China provoked U.S. military and aircraft in the South China Sea, but its defense budget has grown by 10 percent per decade, only slowing to 7.5 percent in 2010. China's naval modernization began in the 1990s, integrating such components as anti-ship ballistic missiles, submarines, new weapons acquisition, and surface ships into their forces. China has been known to use the force of its navy to resolve disputes, in opposition to U.N. treatises and internationally accepted norms.

Increased Chinese aggression is also evident in the Yellow Sea. In the wake of a March 26, 2010, North Korean sinking of a South Korean ship, killing 46 sailors, the U.S. and South Korea announced, on July 6, 2010, plans to hold war games. In a July 8, 2010, press report, China came out against any foreign warships or planes participating in military activities in the Yellow Sea or adjacent areas and ultimately hosted its own war games on the same day that the U.S. and South Korea did. The Chinese military conducted a drill of unmanned drone aircraft in coastal areas to test radar and electromagnetic interference. The Yellow Sea is international waters—all nations should have access.

Another contentious issue is the manufacturing of counterfeit products. In 2009, China was the source of 79 percent of the total value of all counterfeit products seized by U.S. Customs,

totaling over $260 million. Chinese products also accounted for over 90 percent of all intellectual property rights-related seizures. The Business Software Alliance, an information technology industry group, has projected that 80 percent of software used in China has been pirated in violation of international copyright infringement laws, an improvement from 90 percent in 2004. As a growing power, China should make a greater effort to abide by international conventions and respect intellectual property rights. In fact, China stands to greatly benefit from fostering a business environment that protects innovation. A 10-percent drop in pirated software since 2004 corresponded to the addition of 220,000 jobs in China's legitimate information technology sector. Additionally, companies such as Apple, could be more willing to introduce new ventures to Chinese markets with assurances that their products would be protected. Because Chinese companies preemptively registered both the iPad trademark and design patent, Apple has delayed market entry of the iPad in China.

We departed the Embassy for a meeting with the Governor of the People's Bank of China, Zhou Xiaochuan. Many of the economic issues in the relationship between the U.S. and China have persisted for years. Although Chinese officials have met with Secretary Geithner and former Secretaries of the Treasury, the U.S. should continue to develop a frank dialogue with the Chinese. The U.S. Embassy counts 49 formal dialogues with the Chinese regarding financial and economic cooperation, although the Chinese count 60. At the meeting, I pressed the issue of China's currency manipulation. Governor Zhou mentioned that the Chinese economy is transitioning, noting that workers' wages have increased by 20 percent and that China is allowing for increased private sector growth. Although the Chinese economy grew at 7.7 percent in 2009, Governor Zhou expected China's export growth rate to slow over the next 3 to 5 years. I objected that 5 years would be too long to wait as the U.S. is losing jobs, especially in industries such as steel and rubber. I argued that Congress is contemplating legislating on the currency issue to rectify imbalances. Governor Zhou discussed how economic uncertainty has made the Chinese government more careful about economic policy changes and that China has economic challenges of its own, including a 10-percent unemployment rate. I retorted that the U.S. unemployment rate is currently at 9.6 percent.

I informed Governor Zhou about how Chinese subsidies and dumping are unfairly harming the steel and tire industries. According to the most recent data issued by the Foreign Trade Division of the U.S. Census, the annual trade deficit with China stands at $93.3 million as of May 2010. Employment in American manufacturing has plummeted at the same time that Chinese imports and U.S. trade deficits have set records. The trade deficit with China is the largest imbalance ever recorded between two countries, in part because of China's deliberate undervaluing of its currency. I brought up two cases I recently argued before the International Trade Commission, ITC, for which the ITC found that Chinese tire imports had disrupted the U.S. tire industry. In December of 2009, I urged the ITC to charge China with dumping of tubular steel and to impose sanctions. I argued that the lost jobs, reduced hours, and plant shutdowns constituted a ''severe and intolerable harm.'' By the spring of 2009, 6 of 11 high grade tubular steel plants in the country, including mills in Koppel and Ambridge, PA, were idle as a result of Chinese imports. While the Koppel and Ambridge plants are back operating at minimum capacity, overall industry operating capacity dropped from 68.5 percent in 2006 to 17.6 percent in 2009. During the same period, China's market share of high grade tubular steel rose from 15 to 37 percent. The ITC determined that the steel industry was materially injured or threatened with material injury, and the Commerce Department issued an AD duty order on imports ranging from 29.94 to 99.14 percent.

I emphasized to Governor Zhou that it is unacceptable for China to continue to dump goods on the American economy. He mentioned that China understands the pressure on the Pennsylvania industries. He said that certain shifts are inevitable and suggested that the U.S. seek settlement from the World Trade Organization, WTO. The U.S. has filed eight cases at the WTO for trade violations. We settled four cases and won four of them. I pressed that the WTO takes too long and that the damage from unfair trade practices is done before there is time for a resolution.

Following our meeting with the People's Bank of China, we departed for a meeting with Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Chao. We discussed the benefit of enhancing the U.S.-China relationship by targeting areas of mutual interest. I argued that the current trade relationship between the U.S. and China has an unfair impact on the U.S. steel and rubber industries. I also pressed the issue of ITC violations and Chinese subsidizing and dumping goods. The U.S. is the largest export destination of China, and China is the third largest export destination for the U.S. There are 58,000 U.S. companies present in China. I told the Minister that both China and the U.S. should review subsidies in a manner where everything is placed on the table.

Our last meeting in Beijing was at Tsinghua University, host of the Temple University Rule of Law Program in China. On this visit, I met with Wang Zhenmin, dean of the Law School and John Smagula, director of Asian Programs at Temple University Beasley School of Law. Since 1999, Temple has educated 1,024 legal professionals. Seventy-nine percent of these participants have been from the public sector, including 370 judges, 151 prosecutors, 88 government officials, 152 law professors, and 47 Non-Governmental Organization legal staff.

On this visit, I addressed students in the master's in law program. The students included: Judges Jiang Minsong, Su Tuan, Wang Didi, Wang Xiaoqin, Wei Xigui, Xie Aimei, Yang Lingping, and Zhou Junsheng; Prosecutors Feng Guanhua, Lin Bowen, Lu Xiaomei, Tang Shengjia, and Yang Li; Chinese Officials Li Sheng, Ma Ning, Pang Lei, Xiang Hang, and Yang Kefei; Law Professors Abulimiti Ameina, Lu Yao, and Zheng Yanpu; and from the private sector, Dimitrova Deniza, Fan Ping, Guo Qiushi, Kuang Lu, Lang Zhuo, Tan Jiacai, Wang Hong, Wang Xin, Xu Changrong, Zhang Hairong, Zhang Xianzhong, Zhang Yitong, and Zhu Wenting. The group asked me numerous questions on topics ranging from Justice Kagan, my battles with cancer, my legislation that would televise Supreme Court deliberations, and health care reform. The students were eager to discuss the benefits of the Temple University Program in China and how the school continues to play an important role in bridging U.S.-Chinese relations and cultivating the development of law.

This trip to China was especially meaningful for me because my last visit in August 2006 was on a CODEL led by my friend, the late Senator Ted Stevens. The Nation has lost an icon of statesmanship and a stalwart public servant. Senator Stevens was an exemplary leader in the U.S. Senate, a champion for military and defense issues, a proud veteran, and friend of mine. His work on behalf of all Alaskans was unparalleled in the U.S. Senate, and his passion for this country will be forever remembered. Joan and I are deeply saddened by this news and offer our most sincere condolences to Catherine and the Stevens family.

I want to note that Senator Stevens was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for flying support missions for the 14th Air Force, also known as the Flying Tigers, during World War II. The Flying Tigers, the First American Volunteer Group of the Chinese Air Force, were organized before the U.S. officially entered World War II, designed to fight against Japanese forces. In 1942, the division was officially inducted into the U.S. Air Force.

On Tuesday, August 10, we departed Beijing on Vietnam Airlines for Hanoi, Vietnam. This was my second visit to Vietnam. We were met at the airport by Ambassador Michael Michalak and Control Officer Michael Goldman.

On Wednesday, August 11, we departed for the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi to receive a country team briefing. This briefing, led by Ambassador Michalak, was staffed by Mike Goldman, Acting Political Counselor, Patrick Reardon, Defense Attaché, Justin Taylor, from the Foreign Agricultural Service, Michael Foster, Acting USAID Country Director, Eric Frater, the Environment, Science, Technology, and Health Officer, Yashue Pai, from the

Foreign Commercial Service, Vivian Chao, PEPFAR Country Director, Lloyd Neighbors, Public Affairs Officer, Bruce Struminger, Center for Disease Control Country Director, Jessica Webster, Economic Counselor, and Robert Frazier, Management Counselor and Acting Deputy Chief of Mission. I also appreciate the efforts of Nicole Johnson, Michael Orona, Tim Liston, and Matt Mathews.

At the briefing, we discussed the need to promote education in Vietnam, address climate change in a global way, and deepen trust between the U.S. and Vietnam. Military exchanges could assist the latter aim. The U.S. Embassy is actively involved in locating and returning the remains of U.S. soldiers who were missing in action during the Vietnam war, as well as managing funding appropriated by Congress to clean up Agent Orange. The continued presence of Agent Orange in Vietnam continues to present grave health threats to the Vietnamese. The Vietnamese government requested that the U.S. focus its remediation efforts on Da Nang Airport. USAID has estimated that at least $24 million is needed to complete this remediation project. I have supported U.S. funding for remediation of dioxin contaminants, one of the harmful components of Agent Orange, including $15 million in fiscal year 2010 funding. The fiscal year 2010 amount was $3 million higher than the fiscal year 2009 amount.

The U.S. currently contributes over $154 million a year in total aid to Vietnam, with $102 million allocated to the health sector—largely for the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, and avian influenza. HIV/AIDS continues to pose a serious threat to the Vietnamese. In the 111th Congress, I voted to appropriate $48 billion for international HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs through fiscal year 2013, including $30 billion for PEPFAR. In my fiscal year 2011 appropriations request letter to the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I asked for $1.75 billion for the global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria worldwide.

Another issue in Vietnam is the continued presence of unexploded ordinance. Since the end of the Vietnam war in 1974, more than 40,000 Vietnamese have been killed from contact with unexploded ordinance and another 64,000 people have been injured. According to Vietnam's Ministry of Defense, over 16 million acres of Vietnam are still contaminated by 350,000 to 800,000 tons of unexploded ordinance, with over 3 million landmines in addition to unexploded bombs. From 2000 to 2009, Vietnam has received more than $37 million in U.S. assistance for de-mining, mine risk education, survivors' assistance, and landmine impact studies. At the current pace of clearance, it will take 300 years and more than $10 billion to clear Vietnam of leftover unexploded ordinance.

This year, the U.S. and Vietnam celebrate the 15th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Fifteen years ago, bilateral trade was $451 million annually, an amount dwarfed by the $15.4 billion traded in 2009. The U.S. and Vietnam have come very far in overcoming historical animosities, exemplified through joint military exercises held on August 11, 2010. Vietnam currently holds the rotating Chair of ASEAN and the ASEAN Regional Forum, increasing its leadership role in the region. Since adopting a series of economic reforms in 1986, Vietnam has been steadily liberalizing its economy. Vietnam was admitted to the World Trade Organization in 2007. This economic transition has led to a steep decline in the poverty rate, which dropped from 58 percent of the population in 1993 to below 30 percent in 2003. The partnership between Vietnam and the U.S. continues to grow. In 2009 the U.S. imported $12.2 billion from Vietnam and exported $3 billion.

With regard to territorial disputes in the South China Sea, in recent months, China has escalated its rhetoric, harassed Vietnamese fishing boats, and objected to potential cooperation between Western energy companies and the Vietnamese government to harness resources. Using the guidelines for EEZs, Vietnam claims sovereignty over all of the Spratly and Paracel Islands. In 2002, Vietnam, along with other ASEAN countries, signed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. The parties of this declaration agreed to settle the territorial disputes in the South China Sea through negotiation and the development of peaceful solutions rather than military force. Accordingly, Vietnam resolved a dispute with Cambodia over the Gulf of Thailand through a 2006 resource-sharing pact. In 1992, Vietnam and Malaysia signed a Joint Development Areas agreement. In 1997, Vietnam and Thailand signed an agreement delineating their respective sea boundaries. Despite all of these agreements, China has not been willing to pursue peaceful arrangements, instead relying on coercion and bullying. Supported by the leadership of Secretary Clinton, a coalition of Southeast Asian nations, at the recent ASEAN Regional Security Forum, publicly challenged Chinese sovereignty over many areas of the South China Sea, seeking a regional solution as opposed to a series of bilateral agreements.

On August 11, we participated in a working lunch hosted by the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ngo Quan Xuan. We discussed the importance of the U.S.-Vietnam economic relationship, Agent Orange remediation, as well as the prospect of Chinese regional hegemony. The Chairman also mentioned that there are 13,000 Vietnamese students studying in the U.S.—this student exchange is particularly important given the need for trained doctors and lawyers in Vietnam and for fostering ties between the U.S. and Vietnam among the next generation of leaders. I explained to him how a lack of progress on human rights threatens progress of many areas of the U.S.-Vietnam relationship, including arms sales.

The next day, we met with Duong Trung Quoc, a member of the Vietnamese Assembly. He is one of the few non-Communist members in the Assembly and shared his views on prospects for liberalizing Vietnam and the future of the Vietnamese political and economic systems. He is a historian and journalist by trade. We spoke at great length about the history of Vietnam and how historical interactions have shaped current regional tensions and security concerns.

On Friday, August 13, we departed Hanoi for Taipei, Taiwan on China Airways. This was my fourth visit to Taiwan, with the most recent one taking place in 2001.

After being received at the airport by officials from the Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the American Institute in Taiwan, we were escorted to a meeting with President Ma Ying-jeou. President Ma was born in Hong Kong and received his undergraduate education from the National Taiwan University. He then received graduate degrees from New York University and Harvard University. President Ma served as mayor of Taipei before being elected President in 2008.

The U.S. and the Republic of China enjoy close ties. President Ma offered his views on North Korean aggression and China's role in the region. I pressed him on the steel industry, tariffs in both our countries, importing American beef to Taiwan, and ways of enhancing the bilateral economic relationship. The U.S. exported over $18.5 billion to Taiwan, while it imported $28.4 billion. Taiwan is currently the 11th largest export market for U.S. goods and the U.S. is currently Taiwan's third largest trade partner. The bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, TIFA, a process designed to enhance economic cooperation and resolve disputes, guides U.S.-Taiwan trade relations.

We spoke about the recent Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, ECFA, between Taiwan and China, signed on June 29, 2010. The EFCA was preceded by the first direct flight between Taipei and Shanghai, which departed on June 14, 2010, increasing the ease of travel between China and Taiwan. The ECFA will remove tariffs on 539 Taiwanese products and 267 Chinese goods over the next 3 years. This deal permits Taiwan to seek free trade agreements with other nations in the region, and talks with Singapore are currently underway. Because Taiwan would struggle economically without the Chinese market, some are wary that Taiwan is becoming too dependent on the Chinese.

We discussed U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. The Taiwanese Relations Act, TRA, of 1979 calls for the U.S. to supply

Taiwan with capabilities for self-defense and creates unofficial representation in Taiwan through the American Institute in Taiwan. The TRA names U.S. policy as being oriented towards resisting coercion of the unofficial U.S.-Taiwan relations. Although the U.S. must provide for the sale of arms to Taiwan, the TRA does not specify the types of armaments, requiring only that Taiwan should be able to maintain ''sufficient'' defensive capabilities. Under the purview of the TRA, the U.S., on August 25, 2008, announced its intent to sell 60 Harpoon missiles, worth approximately $89.8 million, to Taiwan. On October 3, 2008, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of the possible foreign military sale of six different types of defense articles and equipment, which could have totaled a maximum of approximately $6.4 billion. After increasingly tense relations between the U.S. and China, President Obama decided to defer the arms deal until 2011. Taiwan will still be able to purchase minor parts and upgrades.

We discussed the Taiwanese request, submitted in November 2009, to upgrade F–16A/D fighters which were initially sold to Taiwan in 1992. The Taiwanese request noted that the upgrades would render the fleet parallel to the new F–16C/D fighters, reducing the need for a substitute fleet. American contractors have estimated that this retrofit would take approximately 6 years to complete.

On August 15, we attended a working lunch hosted by Dr. Lyushun Shen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was attended by Benny T. Hu, Chairman of CDIB BioScience Venture Management, Maj. Gen. Mike Tsai-Mai Tien of the Republic of China Air Force Academy, Mrs. Tien, Lawrence S. Liu, Senior Vice President of China Development Financial Holdings, Johnson S. Chiang, Section Chief of the Department of North American Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Grace Ya-hung Lin, Assistant to Deputy Minister Shen, Eric Madison, Deputy Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, Ms. Judy Kuo, Deputy Chief from the Economic Section at the American Institute in Taiwan, and Ms. Astrid Ai-yun Chen, Officer, Department of North American Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On Monday, August 16, we met with Wang Jin-pyng, president of the Legislative Yuan, before departing for Taipei International Airport. We flew on Eva Airlines from Taipei to Newark, NJ, for 16 hours leaving on August 16 and arriving on August 16 crossing the international date line.

I would like to recognize Major Lance Burnett and Dan Eisenberg of my staff for their support of this CODEL.

NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the significant threat prostate cancer poses to the male population in the United States.

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 217,000 American men will learn that they have prostate cancer in 2010, and 32,000 American men will lose their lives to the disease this year, making prostate cancer the second most common cause of cancer death among men.

One out of every six American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and an estimated one in 36 men will die from this disease.

African-American men experience a significantly higher incidence rate of prostate cancer than White males, and more than double the mortality rate.

This disease is also affecting young Americans. Thirty percent of those battling prostate cancer are under the age of 65, prime years of productivity for families and for this Nation.

Doctors across our country agree: early detection presents the best chance for a cure. However, this motto is more than good public policy for me.

As a 10 year prostate cancer survivor myself, I know the value of early detection and surgery, and it is painful for me to know that many good people in this great country are not being diagnosed early and are therefore greatly increasing their risk. The simple PSA blood test can be the key to detection. Millions have taken advantage of it, but unfortunately millions do not. We must do better.

Approximately 98 percent of men diagnosed with early stage prostate cancer are still alive after 10 years, but only 18 percent of those diagnosed with advanced stage prostate cancer survive 10 years.

Increasing awareness of prostate cancer is particularly important to my home State of Alabama. Although we have world class medical research facilities at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and excellent doctors across the State, 3,300 men in Alabama will develop prostate cancer in 2010, and 600 deaths in our State will be attributed to prostate cancer this year.

In May 2006, Alabama was one of 5 States to receive a failing grade in regards to its ''prostate cancer awareness'' by the National Prostate Cancer Coalition. A 2006 CDC study found that 38 out of 100,000 Alabama men die from prostate cancer, ranking Alabama 47th in the US.

Every year since 2002, I have introduced a resolution to increase awareness about prostate cancer and to encourage men to talk with their doctors about this disease.

I am pleased to partner with ZERO: The Project to End Prostate Cancer in promoting this year's resolution and other activities throughout the month of September to increase public knowledge about prostate cancer including risk factors, prevention, and treatment options.

Last night the Senate passed S. Res. 597, a resolution to designate September 2010 as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. The purpose of this resolution is to bring attention to prostate cancer and encourage Americans to take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of prostate cancer on individuals and their families.

I am honored to be joined on this resolution with 28 cosponsors, including Senators BAYH, BENNETT, BOXER, BURR, BURRIS, CARDIN, CASEY, CHAMBLISS, COCHRAN, CRAPO, DODD, DORGAN, FEINGOLD, FEINSTEIN, HATCH, INHOFE, INOUYE, ISAKSON, JOHANNS, JOHNSON, KERRY, LANDRIEU, LUGAR, SCHUMER, SHELBY, SPECTER, TESTER, and VITTER.

I thank my Senate colleagues that have worked to increase prostate cancer awareness through this resolution, and I applaud the work of countless Americans who give up their time and energy to raise awareness of this disease and fight prostate cancer's impact on families and our Nation.

AMERICA'S CUP INDUCTION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this Saturday I will attend the 17th annual America's Cup Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Newport, RI. Today, I would like to congratulate this year's inductees: Simon Daubney, Warwick Fleury, Murray Jones, Dean Phipps, Mike Drummond, and Halsey Herreshoff. I would also like to say a few words about Rhode Island's connection with sailing and with the America's Cup.

I should call special attention to the Rhode Islander being honored, Halsey Herreshoff. Halsey has made numerous contributions to the sailing world. His four defenses of the America's Cup and his legendary naval designs continue the long and proud history of the Herreshoff family. His grandfather, Nat ''the wizard of Bristol'' Herreshoff, designed 27 years of defenders of the America's Cup, and that tradition was passed down through his father to Halsey. Halsey Herreshoff is the editor of the classic ''The Sailor's Handbook'' and has served his community as the Bristol town administrator for 8 years. He continues his service as president of the Herreshoff Marine Museum and as a member of the Bristol Town Council. He is a friend, a public servant, and a great sailor, and I congratulate him on this honor.

In 1930, Newport hosted its first America's Cup race. For many decades, Newport and the America's Cup were so closely identified as to be virtually indistinguishable. Our excellent sailing waters and winds, our beautiful venue, our legendary hospitality, and a long string of successful defenses kept this link firmly forged.

It is thus no coincidence that this ceremony is held in Newport or that the America's Cup Hall of Fame resides in Rhode Island. People across the country closely associate our great Ocean State with our sailing culture. And nothing is more responsible for that association than our long connection with the America's Cup. Newport