The most important role of any government is to protect its citizens. Keeping the peace by maintaining a strong military is essential to deterring those who would wish to harm us. Adequate funding for maintaining a strong defense is critical but we must also do it in a smarter way that reduces the waste and delays in our current acquisition process. Nation building should not be used as a principle tool for achieving America's national security objectives. Instead, the United States should support factions within a given region that share our security objectives.