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Sen. Jim Webb - No unilateral action in Libya, do not arm rebels, proceed responsibly

Virginia Sen. Jim Webb continues to warn against the United States wading into the internal conflict in Libya and helping rebel forces overthrow Gadhafi.

... “We all know that military commitments, however small, are easily begun and, in this region particularly, very difficult to end. History shows that this is a region full of surprises. I am of the opinion that it is not a good idea to give weapons and military support to people who you do not know. When it comes to the opposition in Libya, we do not know them. Secretary Clinton was clear on that last week in her testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. So it is very important to proceed responsibly and carefully.”

Following the hearing, Senator Webb told MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell he supported the approach of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and others in the Department of Defense:

“We have a lot of tools at our disposal. My impression is that we are using them. But overt military action in this situation should not be done unilaterally and, if done at all, it should be done knowing who we are helping.

“No one that I know wants to see Gadhafi remain in power, but you do not want to instigate the empowerment of groups who may not be aligned with us if they do take power.”