MS. They formed an organization, inspired, I think, by the wife of Congressman CHIP PICKERING. They started bringing in supplies. They got people organized from all different denominations. They sorted the gifts, they boxed them, they labeled them, and they sent out two 18-wheelers a day. Nobody told them where to go. They said: What do you need? And they sent it.

That story has been replicated over and over again. So there are heroes—individuals, first responders, military people who just showed up and went to work, church-related groups. If it were not for the volunteers, the church-related groups, Red Cross and Salvation Army, I don’t know where we would be.

Maybe that is the way it should be. This is still America. It is individual Americans who respond to every crisis and will do whatever needs to be done, will pay any price. I want the record to show there are a lot of people who have contributed personally. They have cried with us, they sweated with us, they bled with us, and they are doing it now on the ground in Pascagoula, MS, Biloxi, Gulfport, Pass Christian, Long Beach, Bay St. Louis and Waveland and towns in the hinterland throughout Louisiana.

I thank all those who have come to our aid. It is not over yet. Keep it coming.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. LOTT. I am happy to yield.

Mr. President, I am going to follow on with some greater detail about, as you say, the extraordinary participation of the men and women of the Armed Forces and, indeed, the Coast Guard, which is separate from my report that will be included with others today.

It is very important that you addressed the Senate this morning. If I may say, I have been privileged to serve with you nearly a quarter of a century in the best institution, I commend you for your personal courage. You have faced adversity such as few of us have ever experienced. Throughout this year, there has been personal tragedy—loss of your mother, loss of your house—yet we see the leadership you have provided, indeed, as has our President and this institution and others in the face of this hurricane.

The Armed Services Committee is starting this morning its second reports come from the Department of Defense to the Congress every day, giving a detailed analysis with regard to the deployment of our troops. I left the briefing to come speak to the Senate this morning. We will be changing the force structure to meet the needs. For example, in all probability, the carrier can now move out, if it has fulfilled its mission. Frankly, as distressing as it is, there are tremendous assets connected with mortuary responsibilities which are now being moved in by the Department.

I want to thank our colleagues. I know the Presiding Officer, the President pro tempore of the Senate, shares these feelings with every Member of this body. We salute you and your family.

Mr. LOTT. If the Senator will yield, I do appreciate his very kind remarks. I hope here to convey for me and the people of my State of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama, too, to the military officers with whom you will be speaking, how much we appreciate what they have done. I don’t know the numbers but it is thousands, maybe as many as 40,000 military guardsmen.

I flew in a Blackhawk helicopter a week or so ago—they were from New York; and I know they are there from Nebraska and Arkansas and all over America, literally. And of course the Active-Duty personnel. But the Coast Guard is a separate story. The Coast Guard, before, during, and after the hurricane, saved thousands of lives. When it was over, they didn’t quit. But there are so many other things they have done. One service is declined so we can get ships in. My hometown, it is navigable into our industrial site where we have a water refinery.

The USS Comfort is providing now for our medical needs and providing a bed to sleep in for responders working for people who haven’t had a good meal in quite some time. They came in early. I could go down the list.

Once again, we have learned that our military is not just about fighting, preserving peace, interests around the world. They are there in disasters, man made and natural, in a way that nobody else could be.

The attitude of our men and women and the professionalism of the officers I met with was so impressive. I flew into the command center at Gulfport, MS. The National Guard was in command there. A three-star General from Alabama was there. The Alabamians were there right after the Mississippi got there because it took 7 hours to get to the scene because you had to cut through the pine trees on Highway 49 to get there. It took them 7 hours to get less than 90 miles.

I could go on and on, but the record needs to reveal the tremendous job that has been done, how important they are, as they work with us as we transition into different needs.

I thank the Senator for his comments about my own personal situation. In life you get a lot of trials. It is very hard. But what is the hardest is to see how these people now are still suffering in heat and debris. There are so many needs, and we can’t get the help there fast enough. This is the time to try men’s souls, but will make you stronger and better in the end.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, our distinguished colleague has stood the test.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you.

Mr. WARNER. You and your fellow Senators from the three States most grievously affected. If you wait a minute, I will give you the following figures. Today, more than 72,000 members of the Armed Forces have been deployed to the Gulf Coast, including 22,439 Active-Duty and more than 45,871 members of the National Guard—of which over 400 come from my State, I say to the Senator. I went down Friday in my State to prepare one of the bases to try to help the very few single State in our Union, including the territories, has contributed their Guard in response to the needs of your community.

ARMED FORCES RESPONSE TO KATRINA

Mr. WARNER. Response to Katrina.

Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer. Mr. President, I would first like to say, as I mentioned, we receive a report every day in the Senate from the Department of Defense regarding specifically the Guard and Active-Duty. Then, in addition, we receive a report from the Corps of Engineers. Our committee is a repository of these reports, but I am happy to share them with any Senators who so desire. They need only contact the Armed Services Committee or me personally, and we will see they are provided with the reports. I join Senator LOTT and others in expressing our profound gratitude and pride to the men and women of the Armed Forces and indeed their families who are left at home for their sacrifice, responding with courage and untiring professionalism and compassion to our fellow citizens who fell victim to this tragic disaster.

As you know, our military has a supporting role in the effort. I underline “supporting role” because in no way do we mean to displace the valiant efforts of those on the scene, the first responders, such that were able to muster their forces and respond.

I wish to pay tribute to the magnificent response of all. I have stated the numbers a minute ago.

Furthermore, I wish to highlight that the National Guard forces are meeting the challenge, as well as the national commitments—Afghanistan and Iraq. Once again, our Guard is—I don’t like to use the word “stressed,” but they are challenged. I have spoken with General Blum, who is the Commander of the National Guard. He never once flinched when he said we are ready for the job and going to succeed. Our hats are off to the National Guard. The Navy deployed 20 ships, including the USS Harry S Truman—it is an aircraft carrier. I remember when that ship was named—the USS Whidbey Island and the USS Iwo Jima and the USNS Comfort, the hospital ship. More than 400 aircraft, including 373 helicopters and 93 airplanes, are in support of search and rescue, medical evacuation, and logistical supply missions.

The heroes of those who pilot those helicopters and the crews who go down and rescue the individuals—those chapters in our history will be recorded for
bears should we ever have the misfortune of another natural disaster or, indeed, a terrorist act of the magnitude that we witnessed.

When I was privileged to assume chairmanship of the Armed Services Committee last 9.11, I pointed out our committee established a subcommittee called Emerging Threats. The function of that subcommittee has, is, and will be to look into the future to determine how best to prepare, primarily in our case, for a terrorist attack against our Nation. But the preparations now are directed toward a natural disaster, should it occur. I am very proud of the accomplishments of that subcommittee in the years I have been privileged to be chairman. But I believe the time has come that we reflect on the Posse Comitatus Act and other statutes which have stood by and served this Nation quite well in years past.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD additional documentation.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DOD SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE—EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMAND AND CONTROL

U.S. Northern Command Commander is Admiral Keating in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Joint Task Force Katrina (Forward) is located at Camp Shelby, Mississippi—Lieutenant General Honore is on the USS Iwo Jima (LPH-25) and the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75). Joint Task Force Commander for the Louisiana National Guard is Major General Landreneau, at New Orleans.

Joint Task Force Commander for the Mississippi National Guard is Major General Cross, at Stennis Space Center, Mississippi.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

72,614 Active Duty and National Guard personnel are on the ground or aboard ships supporting relief operations.

22,439 Active Duty

1,866 Reserves (573 Marine Corps, 53 Army, 450 Air Force, 45,871 National Guard (2,409 outside area ready to assist))

19 U.S. Navy ships are in the area.

Total aviation support in area: 346 helicopters (Active Duty and National Guard), 68 airplanes (Active Duty and National Guard).

DOD has provided extensive search and rescue, evacuation, and medical support.

2,783 Active Duty sorties flown—123 in the past 24 hours.

9,290 National Guard sorties flown—136 in the past 24 hours.

Total DOD medical personnel in the area is 2,037 (1072 Active Duty and 965 National Guard). Lieutenant General Honore directed that no Federal military service member will perform or assist with any type of forced evacuation.

TF-Katrina is executing strategy that focuses on recovery while continuing to support disaster relief operations.

62nd Airborne Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Marine Division, 82nd Airborne Division.

Forces conducting humanitarian assistance, search and rescue, evacuation and security assessments.

Division soldiers will not recover remains of deceased persons; will only mark and record locations for mortuary teams.

FEMA requested DOD perform all aspects of the mortuary affairs mission until another contractor can be found. The Secretary of Defense approved the deployment of 9 active-duty forces from the 56th Quartermaster Company Ft. Lee, Virginia. He also directed that 9 additional teams from the 56th be placed in be prepared to deploy status.

Commander, U.S. Northern Command requested the deployment of two fire trucks to support airport operations at New Orleans International—both fire trucks in-place.

Despito spraying operations approved. Two sorties were flown by the 910th Air Wing. They sprayed 912,000 acres in St. Bernard and Jefferson Parish.

Seven installations providing support as transportation staging areas for ice, water, food and medical supplies.

21 million Meals Ready to Eat have been ordered by FEMA to support Hurricane Katrina response. 16.7 million have been delivered. 1 million have been diverted to Virginia and Georgia to support Hurricane Opheila response if required.

789 beds are available in field hospitals:

New Orleans International Airport (25 beds), USS Batan (360 beds), USS Iwo Jima (105 beds), USS Fort Story (100 beds) Combat Support Hospital (304 beds), and the USS Shreveport (60 beds).

Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas is the central collection point for supplies donated by foreign countries—119 nations and 12 international organizations have offered assistance, and more is needed.

Force Adjustments: USS Harry S Truman, USS Whidbey Island, Army Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Platoon, Army Aviation Assets, and the 229th Rescue Wing, 4th Expeditionary Medical Support, and 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit—USNS Comfort redeployment pending coordination and agreement between the Secretary of Defense, the Principal Federal Official, and State Officials that ship and unit are no longer required.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SUPPORT TO HURRICANE KATRINA

AUTHORITIES

USACE conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities:

The Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act (P.L. 94-98).

The Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-388).

COMMAND AND CONTROL

Commander, USACE is Lieutenant General Strick in Washington, D.C.

Commander, USACE Task Force Commander is Major General Don Riley in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Commander is Brigadier General Crear in Vicksburg, Mississippi. His area of operations covers the States of Louisiana and Mississippi.

South Atlantic Division Commander is Brigadier General Waish in Atlanta, Georgia. His area of operations covers the States of Alabama and Florida.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

1,765 USACE personnel are supporting relief operations. Current unwatering estimates:

Orleans (East Bank)—02 Oct, Orleans (West Bank)—OCT, Chalmette—08 Oct, Chalmette Extension—08 Oct, and 18 Oct for both Plaquemines basins. These dates are contingent on normal seasonal rainfall amounts.

TF Unwater is now pumping 19,056 CFS out of the parishes of New Orleans and Plaquemines.

Hydrogen plant continues to be our highest priority. Progress on draft plans for removal and closure of the channel near the RR Bridge to isolate the plant’s subbasin.
Water levels are falling at a rate of 18 inches per day.

Dutch team arrived in New Orleans and was briefed on situation. They will begin to assist in mission later today.

The German team began working at PS #19 last night and is scheduled to move on to PS #3.

Continuing to use booms to assist in containment of hazardous materials and working with EPA on this issue.

Actions for next 24 hours: We expect to add an additional 1,000 CFS at pump stations #3 and #7 in Orleans East Bank and 1,000 CFS in Plaquemines. We have identified a total of 27 levee breaches to date. Nineteen are attributable to natural disaster, eight are deliberate. Twelve interim repairs have been completed.

Water and Ice: 52,848,000 liters of water and 188,160,000 lbs of ice delivered to date:

Moving excess ice to prepare for Hurricane Ophelia.

Debris:

Total tonnage of debris removed and projected: 390,487 CY removed; 77.5M CY estimated.

Plaquemine Parish declined USACE assistance at Sept. 19th.

Roofing:

Total temp roofs projected and completed: 51,000 projected and 362 completed.

Committee collect “Rights of Entry” in both MS and LA.

Power: 30 Prime Power soldiers working in the area.

Last 24 hours: Continued working assessments and generator installs in Mississippi and Louisiana:

We are experiencing problems with local personal moving installed generators without coordination. This makes it difficult to properly maintain, refuel, and ultimately recover them.

Have completed 699 assessments and 159 generator installs to date.

Next 24 hours: Continue working to install power to permanent pumping stations, health facilities and to pumping stations around the hydrogen plant.

Navigation:

Mississippi River is completely opened all the way to Gulf to shallow and deep draft vessels less than 39’ (daylight only).

Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) remains restricted due to bridge closures and sunken barges. Contractor expects to remove barges and open bridges by mid-week.

Housing:

We have completed the design review mission for FEMA Housing Area Command and are ready to perform quality assurance (QA).

We have completed dredging slips in Galveston for two cruise ships to dock and begin receiving evacuees.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, as we face an uncertain future as it relates to terrorism and the use of weapons of mass destruction, I have some thoughts with regard to this law which was passed in 1878 which restricts in certain ways—and the predicate for putting this on law for reasons quite different than the threats and challenges that face this Nation today. But that statute also might be reviewed, along with the Posse Comitatus Act, to see whether other permanent pieces of law should be modified to meet the contingency of the nature we have experienced—indeed, whether it is a natural disaster or a military terrorist attack in the future. I wonder if our distinguished chairman has progressed in his thinking on this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER, (Mr. VITTER). The Senator from Maine is recognized.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, if I may respond to the Senator from Virginia, the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee, first, let me commend the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for his thoughtful approach to the issue of whether our laws and authorities are adequate to deal with a disaster of the magnitude of Katrina.

He has expressed an interest in taking a hard look at the Posse Comitatus law and also the Insurrection Act, both of which put certain restrictions on the ability of Active-Duty Forces to be used for law enforcement purposes and in other ways. I commend him for raising these very important issues.

It was evident from the briefing we had with FEMA and Coast Guard officials last week before the Homeland Security Committee that those on the front lines believe the current structures are inadequate to deal with a catastrophe of this magnitude. We talked directly to FEMA’s Director of Operations as well as to a Coast Guard admiral who has been in charge of the search-and-rescue operation. Each of them, in response to questions from both of us, indicated this catastrophe has overwhelmed the organizational structures and requires a new way of thinking. Both of them indicated interest in our taking a look, a close examination, at the two acts which the distinguished chairman has mentioned. I commend him for following up on this issue.

I think it is important that we look at that, as well as a host of other issues related to our preparedness and our response.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished chairman. I am privileged to serve on her committee.

As a consequence of the close relationship between the Department of Defense and the various departments and agencies—has over situations such as this—I might note for the RECORD the person from FEMA who appeared before your committee for the briefing was a career employee. I found him to be very qualified. He has some 30 years of experience. I think he shared with our committee some of his most profound thoughts based on some, I believe, 30 years of experience. Am I correct?

Ms. COLLINS. The Senator is correct. He is a career employee, a member of the Senior Executive Service, with extensive experience.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the distinguished chairman.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 10 minutes and that the allocated time be extended accordingly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The remarks of Ms. Collins pertaining to the introduction of S. 1690 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent Senator BYRD be recognized at 11 a.m. and Senator VITTER be recognized at 11:30 a.m. in order to address the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me ask that morning business be closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR SCIENCE, THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, AND COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2662, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2662) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for