

sadly, passed away, and our thoughts today are with his family.

But as we saw in Dallas, we don't have a lot of margin for error. If we don't follow protocols and procedures that are put in place, then we're putting folks in our communities at risk. So we have to follow the procedures and protocols that have been established based on the science.

I want to thank Mayor Rawlings and County Judge Clay Jenkins in Dallas for their cooperation with our team and their leadership on the ground. We're going to make sure that lessons learned in Dallas and clear procedures and protocols for health and safety officials are conveyed to all of you. Secretary Burwell and Dr. Frieden will talk to you about how we're working with hospitals across the country so that local partners are truly prepared should someone who has a history of travel to the affected countries in West Africa start showing symptoms.

At the Federal level, we are always reviewing and evaluating measures that we currently have in place. Today we announced additional screening measures that will be phased in over the coming days and weeks at select airports around the country. And these measures are really just belt-and-suspenders: It's an added layer of protection on top of the procedures already in place at several airports.

The new measures will include additional entry screening and questions for travelers arriving from the countries affected by Ebola. It will give us the ability to isolate, evaluate, and monitor travelers as needed. And we'll be able to collect any contact information that's neces-

sary. So you'll hear all of this from my team shortly.

But let me close by reminding everybody that America has got the best doctors in the world. We know how to deal with infectious disease. I'm confident that, so long as we work together and we're operating with an appropriate sense of urgency, that we will prevent an outbreak from happening here. And in fact, some of the work that we're doing together and the lessons learned from this experience will further strengthen our public health systems going into the future. Because there are going to be, unfortunately, other occasions where we know that there are infectious diseases out there, and in some cases, the transmission may be swifter, and we're going to have to be that much more ready.

So for the Governors and the mayors and the county officials on the line, I've instructed my teams to do whatever Federal assistance they can to make sure you're ready to respond should someone be diagnosed with Ebola in your State. We're going to have to be partners in this fight. Anybody who has any questions, information, or suggestions, that's why my team organized this call. They want to make sure that they're getting feedback from you in terms of what you think will be most helpful.

I want to thank you guys, not just for joining us on the call today, but, more importantly, for the critical work you do every day to keep us healthy and safe.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:24 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Thomas E. Duncan, who died of Ebola in Dallas, TX, on October 8; and Clay L. Jenkins, judge, Dallas County, TX.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With Department of Defense Leadership at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia *October 8, 2014*

Good afternoon, everybody. I want to thank Secretary Hagel, Deputy Secretary Work, Chairman Dempsey, Vice Chairman Winnefeld, and all the outstanding leaders who are here today. This is a periodic check-in that I

have with not only our service commanders, but also our COCOMs. And I thought, although usually, we do this over the White House, now was a good time for me to come over to the Pentagon and have an opportunity

to hear from our top military about the work that they're doing.

And I've said this before, and I want to repeat: We put enormous burdens and enormous strains on our men and women of the Armed Forces, and each and every time, the members of our Armed Services, our troops, perform in exemplary fashion. I think at a time when there's so much turbulence in the world, never during my Presidency has it become more apparent how good our military is, but also how they can tackle a wide range of problems and not just a narrow set of problems. It's not just the finest military in the history of the world, it's also just one of the best organizations we've ever seen at doing a whole bunch of different stuff.

And so I expressed my gratitude to the leadership, but also asked them to express to those under their command the thanks of the American people.

We had an opportunity to talk about ISIL and the campaign there. After this meeting, we'll have a National Security Council meeting in which General Lloyd Austin, who's leading Central Command, will further brief us on the progress that's been made by the coalition there.

Our strikes continue alongside our partners'. It remains a difficult mission. As I've indicated from the start, this is not something that is going to be solved overnight. The good news is, is that there is a broad-based consensus not just in the region, but among nations of the world that ISIL is a threat to world peace, security, and order, that their barbaric behavior has to be dealt with. And we're confident that we will be able to continue to make progress in partnership with the Iraqi Government, because ultimately, it's going to be important for them to be able to, with our help, secure their own country and to find the kind of political accommodations that are necessary for long-term prosperity in the region.

We had a chance to talk about the fight against Ebola, and I got a briefing from General Rodriguez. Our military is essentially building an infrastructure that does not exist in order to facilitate the transport of personnel and

equipment and supplies to deal with this deadly epidemic and disease. And we are doing it in a way that ensures our men and women in uniform are safe. That has been my top priority, and I've instructed folks, we're not going to compromise the health and safety of our Armed Services.

But what's true is, we have unique capabilities that nobody else has. And as a consequence of us getting in early and building that platform, we're now able to leverage resources from other countries and move with speed and effectiveness to curb that epidemic.

We had a discussion about global security generally, including the work that, with General Breedlove, we're doing at NATO to mobilize Europe around the increased threats posed by Russian aggression in Ukraine and against some of its neighbors. We had a very successful meeting in Wales that showed the commitment from all 28 NATO countries to redouble the reassurance they can provide to frontline states to invest further in the joint capabilities that are necessary. And I very much appreciate the leadership that General Breedlove has shown on that front.

And I got a chance to get a briefing from Admiral Locklear of the Pacific Command about the ongoing both challenges and opportunities in the Pacific. It's been noted that our alliances in that area have never been stronger. We are very much welcomed as a Pacific power in the region. And our ability to continue to maintain a presence that ensures freedom of navigation, that international law is observed, is going to be critically important. And we need to do that in a way that also reflects our interest in cooperation and effective communication with China, which obviously is a major player in the region.

But the anchor of our presence there, our treaties and alliances with key countries like South Korea and Japan, obviously remain critically important. And thanks to the work of some of the gentlemen sitting around this table and their staffs, those alliances have never been in better shape.

Finally, we had a chance to talk briefly about defense budget and reforms. We have done

some enormous work, and I want to thank everybody sitting around this table to continue to make our forces leaner, meaner, more effective, more tailored to the particular challenges that we're going to face in the 21st century.

But we also have to make sure that Congress is working with us to avoid, for example, some of the draconian cuts that are called for in sequestration and to make sure that, if we're asking this much of our Armed Forces, that they've got the equipment and the technology that's necessary for them to be able to succeed at their mission and that we're supporting their families at a time when, even after ending one war and winding down another, they continue to have enormous demands placed on them each and every day.

So I want to thank everybody around this table. A special thank you to General Austin for the enormous amount of work that's been done by CENTCOM in what is a very challenging situation. We very much appreciate him. I want to thank General Rodriguez for the great

work in standing up our operations in West Africa.

And finally, I want to say publicly a hearty thank you to Jim Amos, who somewhere between 8 to 10 days from now—[laughter]—will be retiring from his command. He is the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps, the first aviator to command our Marine Corps. I know that he could not be prouder of the men and women under his command. They continue to make us proud. They certainly make him proud. We want to thank him and Mrs. Amos and the entire family for the great service that they've rendered to our country.

So thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:20 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David M. Rodriguez, USA, commander, U.S. Africa Command; Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, USAF, Supreme Allied Commander Europe; and Bonnie Amos, wife of Gen. James F. Amos, USMC, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps. He also referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

## Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at a Town Hall Meeting at Cross Campus in Santa Monica, California October 9, 2014

*The President.* Thank you, everybody. Well, it's good to see all of you. And this is really interesting stuff. I want to spend more time tooling around on there and maybe buy an appliance. [Laughter] But we've got limited time. I want to be able to have a conversation with all of you.

This environment, I think, is reflective of what's best in America, because it shows the kind of energy and entrepreneurship, the dynamism, the creativity and innovation that's always been the hallmark of the American economy.

There are a couple of people here who I want to acknowledge because they are encouraging this kind of startup culture here in Los Angeles, which has really gotten going. We've got Mayor Eric Garcetti in the house. Where'd he go? There is he. We've got the mayor of

Santa Monica, which sounds like a really good job—Pam O'Connor is here. And I want to thank all the folks at Cross Campus who helped bring this together. So, Cross Campus folks, stand up. Where are you?

So both Pam and Eric and a lot of folks, I think, are working hard to make L.A. a model for innovation here in California, but also a model for what we need to see all across the country.

And just this week, I want to acknowledge, L.A. schools announced a plan to offer computer science classes to every K-through-12 student in the district, which is going to make a huge difference. It's the kind of drive and creativity, but also the investment of hard dollars in our future that is going to be so important and part of what brings me here today.