

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AUSA LUNCHEON SPEECH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on October 17, 1995, the new Army Chief of Staff addressed the annual AUSA luncheon here in Washington. Gen. Dennis Reimer stressed the need to have quality and sufficient numbers in the U.S. Army. This speech is set forth herein:

AUSA LUNCHEON SPEECH

(By General Reimer)

Thank you very much, Mr. Paul, for that kind introduction. I must say that I have been on the dais for this luncheon for the last 5 years but not in this particular spot. I also want to say that it's a great view from up here.

This vantage point gives me the opportunity to recognize America's Army—Active, United States Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and DA Civilians—and what a great group they are—what a wonderful group and I'm honored to be part of such an organization.

It also gives me the opportunity to tell our Allies who are here today in great numbers that your presence is important to us. Most of all, we appreciate your support and willingness to carry your share of the load.

To our supporters from Capitol Hill, the Members of Congress, the Professional Staff Members, let me say how much we appreciate all you've done. I know that your choices are not easy but you need to know that all of us are inspired by your willingness to stand up and be counted and your example of dedicated service to our Nation.

To corporate America, thanks for being here. You've been here with us through the good times and the bad and I would just simply say that we need you more now than ever.

To AUSA, 45 years old this year, I must also say thanks for being such a great friend. And thanks most of all for your efforts to improve the quality of life for our soldiers. You have helped us recruit and retain the best soldiers in the world.

And, finally, to all our friends—friends of the United States Army, let me say that your friendship means everything to us.

This is my first opportunity as Chief to address such a large and important audience and I want to share with you some thoughts on Today's Army and where we are headed in the future. As this audience certainly knows, the primary mission of the Army is to be trained and ready to defend the Nation's security and freedom. Clearly, the fundamental responsibility of any Chief of Staff is to ensure that the Army is ready to execute this mission.

Recently I participated in two events which highlighted for me the importance of maintaining a Trained and Ready Army. I was in Hawaii in early September for ceremonies celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the end of the War in the Pacific. I was also fortunate to participate in a ceremony dedicating the Korean War Memorial in late July. The contrast between these two events, separated by less than 5 years in history, was striking. I could not help but reflect on the

differences the 5 years between the end of World War II and the outbreak of the Korean War had made on our Army. In August 1945, the American Army was the largest and most powerful Army in the world. Its 89 divisions had been instrumental in destroying the military might of the Axis powers—a tribute to the millions of brave men and women who served and the tremendous capabilities of corporate America. However by June 1950, America's Army had been reduced to a shell of its former self. We had rapidly gone from 89 divisions and 12 million soldiers to 10 divisions and less than 600,000 soldiers.

As a consequence, at 0730 on 5 July 1950, a hastily assembled, ill-trained, and poorly equipped group of brave American soldiers waited in the cold rain—just north of Osan, Korea—as 33 North Korean tanks advanced toward their position. Behind these 33 tanks on the highway, in trucks and on foot, was a long snaking column stretching for over 6 miles. Due to poor weather the American soldiers had no air support. Due to the rapid drawdown they were poorly trained and under-manned. They were called Task Force Smith because we had to take soldiers from other battalions to make a battalion-sized organization. Their equipment reflected the lack of maintenance which is inevitable when readiness is not the top priority.

In the next few hours of fighting—these conditions were starkly played out on the battlefield. Our weapons could not stop their tanks—but they tried. One young lieutenant fired 22 rockets—from as close as 15 yards, scored direct hits on the tanks—but could not destroy them. Courage alone could not stop those tanks. Rifles and bayonets were no match for tanks and the wave of infantry behind them. In this short engagement, 185 courageous young Americans were killed, wounded, and captured; and the history of Task Force Smith was burned into the institutional memory of our Army forever.

In the summer of 1950 we were not prepared. We sent poorly equipped and untrained soldiers into battle to buy time for the Army to get ready. It certainly wasn't the fault of these soldiers or their leaders that they weren't ready—the system had let them down. Once again we were surprised and once again we paid a very steep price for our unpreparedness. As General Abrams said to this same gathering in 1973, "We paid dearly for our unpreparedness during those early days in Korea with our most precious currency—the lives of our young men. The monuments we raise to their heroism and sacrifice are really surrogates for the monuments we owe ourselves for our blindness to reality, for our indifference to real threats to our security, and our determination to deal in intentions and perceptions, for our unsubstantiated wishful thinking about how war could not come."

In the harsh crucible of combat we relearned the lessons of tough training, good organization, and proper equipment. We must never again learn these lessons on the battlefield. As I shook hands with those veterans—at the dedication of the Korean War Memorial—I was reminded that the monument is not the only tribute to their courage, selfless service, and dedication. The real legacy can be seen in America's Army today. Our quality soldiers—Active, Reserve, and Guard—have the best equipment that the Nation can provide; and our tough, realistic

training program has resulted in our status as the world's best Army—trained and ready for victory. No one with a lick of common sense really disputes this. As a footnote to this chapter, let me cite a personal experience. In 1987 when I was serving in Korea, General Brad Smith, that brave battalion commander whose courageous soldiers fought so well in 1950, came over and conducted a battlefield tour of where his task force fought. When he returned he sent me the handwritten training guidance that he had given to the battalion after the Korean War. That guidance talked about tough, realistic training and lots of live-fire. Today, the Gimlets—his old battalion—have that guidance—and more importantly they execute it. That's the real legacy of Task Force Smith.

However, there are similarities between 1950 and the situation we face today. In 1950: We lived in an uncertain world; the US was the world's greatest economic power; the US was the world's greatest super power; the US had a virtual nuclear monopoly; the US had the world's best Air Force and the most powerful Navy; the next war was expected to be a push button war with new weapons and machines taking over from men; and because of that we felt we could greatly reduce the size of our ground forces—and we did so very rapidly.

Today: We continue to live in an uncertain world; again, the US is the world's greatest economic power and the greatest super power; the US has the largest Navy in the world, capable of sweeping any conceivable adversary off the seas in a matter of days, assuring us access to all the world's oceans; the Nation also has the most powerful Air Force in the world, capable of sweeping any adversary from the sky in a matter of hours. It is right, and proper, and necessary for the US as a world super power and leader to have these naval and air capabilities. I wouldn't want it any other way.

However, today the active Army is the eighth largest in the world. Size by itself is not the most important thing, and America can still take pride in having the world's best Army because what we lack in quantity we more than make up in quality. Our world-class young men and women—who receive tough, realistic training and are equipped with the best equipment and weapons systems in the world—thanks in large part to what many of you here have done and continue to do—are the envy of every nation. But no amount of training or abundance of sophisticated equipment will suffice if we do not have enough quality soldiers to carry out the Nation's bidding. Numbers matter.

To accomplish our missions many of our soldiers have had back-to-back deployments and extended separations from their family. The average American soldier assigned to a troop unit now spends 138 days a year away from home—and many special units such as MP's, air defense and transportation have been carrying a heavier load. To accomplish the requirements of our national security strategy, we must be a credible and effective ground fighting force. Peace is the harvest of preparedness. We must, however, temper our desire for peace with the realities of history. In 1950 we learned that deterrence is in the eye of the beholder. Stalin and Kim Il Soong looked at South Korea and were not deterred by the 10 under strength and ill equipped American divisions. We must always have an

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Army of sufficient quality and size to deter potential adversaries and meet our international obligations. While the quality of today's force is unquestioned, I must tell you in all candor that I am concerned that we have reached the limit on how small our Army can be and still credibly accomplish the tasks currently assigned to us.

Today we do not have the luxury of time—nor will we in the future. We must be ready to deal with the world as it is now, not as wish it to be. We have paid the price—in blood—too often—to relearn that lesson. With your help—we will not have to pay that price again.

The best example that the lessons of history are sinking in is that during the past 6 years—under the leadership of Generals Vuono's and Sullivan—we have reshaped ourselves and still remain trained and ready. It's been over 5 years since Operation DESERT STORM and in many ways it is tempting to pat ourselves on the back and rest on our laurels. But we cannot afford to do that. We must build the Army of tomorrow, the Army that will be required to meet the needs of a vastly different world.

Let me share with you our vision of that Army. A vision that is a direct legacy of the bloody lessons learned on the battlefield. A vision that is rooted in the tradition of 221 years of selfless service and mission accomplishment—it is a vision which will ensure our ability to meet the Nation's needs of the 21st century.

In our vision we see the world's best Army—trained and ready for victory—a total force of quality soldiers and civilians: A values based organization; an integral part of the joint team; equipped with the most modern weapons and equipment the country can provide; able to respond to our Nation's needs.

Changing to meet the challenges of today, tomorrow, and the 21st Century.

It's not just the words but the meaning behind these words. Let me explain. The world's best Army. A bumper sticker that has been earned by our soldiers. Trained and ready for victory. The most important job for any army, a job in which we must not fail. A total force of quality soldiers and civilians. We tend to take for granted, I think, the dedication, selfless service and sacrifice of our great citizens soldiers in the National Guard and Reserves. We are also fortunate to have a quality civilian force that embodies the best of this great Nation. This recognizes that as General Abrams said, the Army is not made up of people, the Army is people. A values based organization. Values are important to us; selfless service, dedication, sacrifice, duty, honor, country are not just words but a code by which we live.

An integral part of the joint team. We recognize the tremendous contributions of our sister Services and are happy to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them as we keep this great Nation free. Equipped with the most modern weapons and equipment the country can provide reflects our realization that we must invest in a modernization program for the 21st Century. Able to respond to our Nation's needs. We must be relevant to the needs of our country. And changing to meet the challenges of today, tomorrow, and the 21st Century simply reflects that the only constant in the world today seems to be change. We are dealing with it, we are growing more comfortable with it every day, and we will continue to have to deal with it in the 21st Century.

Our vision is set against the world as we see it. It reflects an environment in which missions are expanding both in terms of quantity and diversity. It reflects decreased resources, a loss of 34 percent of our buying power since '89. It recognizes, as President

Clinton said, a world in which the line between domestic and foreign policy has become increasingly blurred. We live in a Global Village. It recognizes a modernization program that is currently at the irreducible minimum and badly in need of more resources. Today the Army allocation of the DOD Modernization dollars is only 13 percent. We have the smallest piece of a small pie.

Our vision recognizes that we must not repeat the Task Force Smith scenario. We must realistically face the challenges of today. Sacrificing our youth is not the solution. We will build no new monuments to our blindness to reality. We are trained and ready today, but our ability to dominate land warfare is eroding. And our modernization plan does not forecast filling the gap fast enough.

We have a plan to make this vision a reality—Force XXI. Simply stated Force XXI projects our quality people into the 21st Century and provide them the right organization, the most realistic training, an adequate and predictable sustainment package during both peace and war, and the best equipment and weapons systems our Nation can provide given the resources available. We intend to leverage technology in order to arm our soldiers with the finest most lethal weapons systems in the world. The power of information will allow the ultimate weapon—the individual soldier—to successfully meet the challenges of the 21st century and achieve decisive victory. Force XXI provides the framework for the decisions we must make today so that tomorrow's force will remain as trained and ready as we are right now.

That vision is very clear in my mind—however, achieving our vision is not preordained. We face a number of resource challenges as I have alluded to already. The basic challenge is to balance near term readiness, quality of life, and future modernization. Internally we will do our share to ensure the most effective use of our limited resources. We will continue to improve our operational and institutional efficiency in order to ensure we devote a many dollars as possible to modernization. In this regard, we intend not to be bound by traditional approaches. We are willing to make profound changes in the way we do business as long as they increase our efficiency and do not degrade our core competencies. Efficiencies such as velocity management, total asset visibility, integrated sustainment maintenance, and improved force management are all keys to becoming more effective.

Most people talk about the four tenets of the revolution of military affairs. I believe the Army, in order to be successful in this revolution, must embrace a fifth tenet; efficiencies. We must get the most bang out of every buck. We owe that to the taxpayer—but, more importantly, we owe it to our soldiers.

The key to achieving this vision—as it has been since 1775—is high quality soldiers. We must never forget that quality soldiers are the essence of our Army—always have been and always will be. For the past two decades we have demonstrated that an All Volunteer Army can be the world's premier fighting force. Quality soldiers attracted by a profession that allows them to be all they can be deserve adequate pay and compensation. They deserve to have their entitlements and benefits safeguarded from erosion. They deserve a quality of life equal to that of the society they have pledged their lives to defend. We must never allow our commitment to quality soldiers to diminish.

As I travel around the world I am continually impressed by the sacrifice and dedication of our soldiers. The state of readiness of the Army is more than its weapons, equip-

ment, and doctrine. A key but intangible part is the spirit of our soldiers. General Patton said "It is the cold glitter in the attacker's eye not the point of the questing bayonet that breaks the line. It is the fierce determination of the drive to close with the enemy not the mechanical perfection of the tank that conquers the trench." Today nothing has changed. When I met the survivors of the Bataan Death March in Hawaii they still had that glint in their eye and you could feel the indomitable spirit that allowed them to fight on against overwhelming odds. In Germany, Korea, Hawaii, at the NTC, JRTC, and CMTC I see the same thing in our soldiers today.

When I see those soldiers doing their job so magnificently I'm reminded of a story from the 8th Division in World War II. In September of 1944 on the Crozon Peninsula the German General Herman Ramcke asked to discuss surrender terms with the American Army. General Ramcke was in his bunker when his staff brought in the 8th Infantry Division's Assistant Division Commander, Brigadier General Charles Canham. Ramcke addressed Canham through an interpreter and said "I am to surrender to you. Let me see your credentials." Pointing to the American infantrymen crowding the dugout entrance, Canham replied "These are my credentials."

This is as true today as it was then. Soldiers are still our credentials. Yesterday we honored some of these magnificent soldiers and we are fortunate to have some of them with us today. I would like for you to have a good look at the heart and soul of America's Army.

Sergeant First Class Anita Jordan, the Active Duty Drill Sergeant of the Year from Fort Jackson, South Carolina. SFC Jordan said that the reason she entered the Army was "I knew I wanted to do something and be somebody." As a drill sergeant, she coaches, teaches, and develops soldiers—one at a time—24-hours-a-day. She is somebody.

Sergeant First Class Bruce Clark, the Reserve Drill Sergeant of the year from the 100th Division, at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He is a real estate developer and a law student. Successful in two careers, he is indeed twice the citizen.

Sergeant First Class Cory Olsen, the Active Duty Recruiter of the Year from the Denver, Colorado Recruiting Battalion. An infantryman, he was deployed to Panama, Honduras, Scotland, and the Sinai. He understands selfless service.

Sergeant First Class Alan Fritz, the Reserve Recruiter of the Year from the Syracuse, New York Recruiting Battalion. An MP, he served on active duty in both Germany and Korea before he joined the Reserves. He illustrates the seamless blend we seek for America's Army.

Specialist Hellema Webb, the Soldier of the Year from Eighth Army in Korea. A mortuary affairs specialist, she deployed in 192 to Mogadishu and now serves with the distinction across the world. She received a max score of 200 on the promotion board and is presently on the Sergeants Promotion Standing list. A model NCO who will help lead soldiers into the 21st century.

Specialist Troy Duncan, the Soldier of the Year at USAREUR. An MP, he has already served his 6-month tour of duty in Macedonia, is married with a 3-month-old daughter, and voluntarily teaches bicycle safety classes and assists young children in learning the sport of bowling. He understands the true meaning of commitment to the nation and service to the community.

Specialist Anthony Costides the FORSCOM Soldier of the Year. Born in Greece, he is a graduate of the Combat Life Saving Course, PLDC, and has 2 years of college. He is a

Tracked Vehicle Mechanic in the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas. He found an environment where he could be all he could be.

Sergeant Christopher Uhrich, the Virginia National Guard Soldier of the Year. A Fuel Handler who served in the United States Air Force prior to transferring to the National Guard in Virginia. He has over 7 years of service to his Nation. He embodies the sacrifice, dedication and commitment to our citizen soldiers.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these soldiers represent the best of America's Army. They are indeed special. They ask for so little. We owe them a great deal and I couldn't be more proud to say to you—these are our credentials.

ST. PAUL, MN SAYS GOODBYE TO REV. WALTER BATTLE

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a fellow Minnesotan, and a friend, who devoted his life to the children of the Twin Cities and the world, Rev. Walter L. Battle. Reverend Battle was the head of a proud family, most of whom I have come to know personally because of their positive activities in our St. Paul community, especially Bob Battle, who is a friend and civic activist. Reverend Battle's interest and commitment to family extended to the greater neighborhood and community of St. Paul.

Reverend Battle was an advocate for children and active in many efforts to assist disadvantaged youth. Recognizing that every child has the potential to succeed, Reverend Battle worked tirelessly to give children opportunities to achieve success. During his 46 years of service as pastor of St. Paul's Gospel Mission Church, he led several efforts to help children. Among these efforts was the establishment of the Institute of Learning. The institute helps guide teenagers away from involvement with crime and drugs and find positive alternatives and goals for their lives. He also enabled countless numbers of inner-city youth to participate in summer camps, an activity that the children's families could not have afforded otherwise. Reverend Battle pursued this interest with a real passion, establishing a site and staffing it with volunteers.

Efforts were not confined to the Twin Cities community; they extended to children around the world. In the 1950's, Reverend Battle traveled to Haiti to help build schools and teach Haitian students to read. Just last year, demonstrating his long-term commitment to the children he helps, he collected over 1,000 pounds of food and medicine to send to Haiti.

Reverend Battle passed away last week, and the Twin Cities community is mourning the loss of our most beloved and devoted citizens. By making investments in the lives of our children, Reverend Battle has given our community a legacy that will live on in the successes of future generations that were influenced by his efforts.

Investing in our children is a fundamental ingredient for America's continued success and prosperity. Unfortunately, here in Washington, Congress is embroiled in a budget debate that is set to shift the priorities of our Nation away

from this type of investment. The new Republican majority's budget package drastically cuts funding for initiatives that aid children in need, including education programs, welfare assistance, health care coverage and low-income tax credits. Dedicated advocates like Reverend Battle deserve better. As we lose soldiers like Walter Battle, who devoted their lives to children and the material and spiritual well-being of our communities, we honor them and must support their mission by providing reasonable programs and realistic funding at the federal level to support their efforts.

The funding reductions being advanced today will hit our Nation's most vulnerable citizens on all sides, reducing Federal support for many aspects of their livelihoods. At the same time, the funds being cut from these programs are being funneled into tax breaks for our Nation's wealthier citizens and corporations. If these funding reductions are enacted into law, efforts such as those begun by Walter Battle will run into expanded challenges in trying to create a better future for our children, especially the increasing population of children in poverty.

Reverend Battle's advocacy for our Nation's most precious resource, our children, and the positive influence he had on so many lives should be remembered, and it will be missed. His activities should not only be praised, but should be supported by a strong commitment from Washington to maintain the safety net our nation has built to safeguard our Nation's citizens.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Dec. 19, 1995]

ACTIVIST WALTER BATTLE WORKED FOR KIDS

My children are going to have some food," the Rev. Walter L. Battle once told a reporter.

That particular time, he wasn't talking about this own kids or those of his St. Paul congregation, but the children of Haiti for whom he collected over 1,000 pounds of food and medicine last year.

Still, that attitude, strength of purpose and sense of mission permeated everything Battle did to keep kids on the right track. During a remarkable 46-year run as pastor of St. Paul's Gospel Mission church, community activist and youth advocate, he performed near miracles—all to give young people better lives.

His death last week, at age 74, of cancer deprived the community of one of its best champions of youth.

Among his many efforts for children were building schools and teaching youngsters to read in Haiti in the 1950s; taking inner-city kids to summer camps for many years; founding the Institute of Learning to give teens an alternative to drugs and street life, and fasting for 40 days to raise money for the Institute's programs.

Battle believed all kids were "his children." And so must we.

The best tribute to him would be to keep his legacy of service to children alive. So as not to lose more children to poverty, crime, illness, ignorance and inattention, we must all—like the Rev. Walter L. Battle—become advocates for children.

ONCE AGAIN REPUBLICANS SHUT- DOWN THE FEDERAL GOVERN- MENT

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republicans "shutdown" of the Federal Government. It is absolutely essential for the American people to know "Why we are"—"where we are." Let's be perfectly clear in telling the American people what is going on.

It is not the Republicans' budget that caused the Government to close. The Republican budget is an issue that should be taken up, and negotiated on—separate from the continuing resolution. The problem with the Republican budget is that it is so devastating to the American people's quality of life that it cannot stand on its own merit.

The primary reason why the Federal Government was forced to shutdown is that more than 2½ months into the fiscal year, the Republicans have failed to complete action on the fiscal year 1996 appropriations bills. Measures which provide agency operating funds.

Mr. Speaker, the legislative schedule provides sufficient time to pass each of the 13 appropriations bills which are needed to keep the Government fully operational. However, the Republicans put action on the appropriations measures on the back burner, while they gave priority—prime legislative time to their "Contract With America."

Mr. Speaker, that is "Why we are"—"where we are" today. There is no excuse for the situation the Republicans have placed the country in today. Just as there is no excuse for the pain and suffering that the Republicans will inflict on children, the disabled, seniors, veterans, and families just to give a tax break to the wealthy. This escalating situation—of Republican displaced priorities—is "Why we are"—"where we are" today.

All that is needed right now to open the Government, and to return an estimated 260,000 Federal employees to work is a clean continuing resolution. The Republicans are afraid to put forth a clean "CR," or to allow the Democrats to pass a clean "CR," because the GOP would no longer have the American people to use as their pawn in the negotiations on the GOP life-threatening budget.

The GOP must not be allowed to continue to hold the American people, and the country hostage. It is time for the Republicans to stop playing games. No amount of smoke and mirrors can hide the pain and suffering that is in the Republicans' budget. Stop the game play—pass a clean "CR"—return Federal employees to work, return critical services to the American people, and let real budget negotiations begin.

CONGRESS' MULTIBILLION DOLLAR DRAFTING ERROR

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the following editorial appeared in the Washington Post regarding the