COMMEMORATING THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues may not be aware, but this week marks the 10th anniversary of the Special Operations Command, based at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

The 47,000 soldiers who make up the special operations command are the most elite forces that the U.S. military has to offer. This command coordinates special forces members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corp who currently operate in 140 countries worldwide. Despite their numbers, range of deployment and unique talents, the Special Operations Command makes up only 1 percent of DOD's budget and 1 percent of the U.S. military. Deployed to some of the most hostile environments in the world, these bold warriors are a constant presence for the United States.

Special forces have been an indispensable asset to the United States in armed conflicts since the American Revolutionary War. Today, the modern special forces operator is prepared to meet both humanitarian and military challenges wherever they are deployed. Teamwork and cooperation are essential for the survival of each member of the unconventional warfare community. In 1987, the special operations command was borne out this need to coordinate the complicated and dangerous missions assigned to special forces members.

In recognition of the anniversary of the Special Operations Command, Orval Jackson of the Tampa Tribune has written a very comprehensive history of the command which I commend to my colleagues attention.

Mr. Speaker I know I speak for all my colleagues in admiration of the sacrifices and service of the men and women who serve and have served in the special forces—many in virtual anonymity.

[From the Tampa Tribune, Apr. 14, 1997]

10 YEARS BOLD

(By Orval Jackson)

TAMPA.—It stands to reason Special Operations forces are on duty in many of the world's trouble spots, such as Bosnia and the Persian Gulf.

More surprising, however, is that Special Operations forces also are deployed to more than 140 nations, providing governments with a variety of military and humanitarian skills.

Most Americans don't know about these missions, because the command, based at MacDill Air Force Base, doesn't publicize them. And that's the whole point: They're special operations.

''Special Operations forces offer a unique, versatile and global joint service force, which continuously operates worldwide,'' said Army Gen. Hugh Shelton, commander in chief of the unified command.

The successes and wide-ranging tasks of the special forces will be recognized this week as the Special Operations Command commemorates it's 10th anniversary.

Many of the deployments, Shelton said, are in areas plagued by disease, starvation, poverty and civil strife—incubators for future insurgencies, humanitarian crises and ethnic conflict.

''U.S. Special Operations forces have become extremely skillful in practicing the art of peace, while still remaining prepared for and preserving the option of force,'' Shelton said.

Case in point: Somalia. A humanitarian program there in 1992 evolved into a military one the next year. In it, two Special Operations soldiers became the first Americans since Vietnam to receive the Medal of Honor.

In October 1993, Master Sgt. Gary I. Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Randall D. Shughart disregarded their own safety while trying to rescue crewmen from two downed helicopters. Gordon and Shughart held heavily armed crowds at bay until they ran out of ammunition and were killed. The lone survivor of the crash, who was wounded, was taken prisoner and later was released.

Gordon and Shughart were part of about 47,000 active, reserve and national guard forces of the Army, Navy and Air Force that make up the Special Operations Command. Despite its worldwide involvement, it represents only 1 percent of the nation's military and 1 percent of the Defense Department's budget.

Its anniversary week will be highlighted Wednesday when Secretary of Defense William Cohen is presented the Bull Simons Award, given annually to those who embody the spirit, values and skills of a legendary special operator.

Cohen, who was a Republican senator from Maine, and Sam Nunn, a Senate Democrat from Georgia at the time, wrote the legislation that created the Special Operations Command in 1987. Nunn, who is unable to attend the MacDill events, received his Bull Simon Award recently in Atlanta.

Nearing the end of his 34-year career, Simons led a Special Forces raid on the Son Tay prisoner-of-war camp in North Vietnam in 1970. The prisoners had been moved before the forces arrived, but the raid was credited with forcing the North Vietnamese to improve the care of POWs.

Another bold, but ultimately unsuccessful, mission spurred the creation of the Special Operations Command. In 1980, an attempt to rescue 53 American hostages in Iran led to the death of eight military personnel when two rescue aircraft collided in the Iranian desert.

As efforts were under way in the Department of Defense to reform the special forces operations, the process was spurred on by the 1983 terrorist bombing attack that killed 237 marines in Lebanon and the invasion of Grenada, which was successful despite operational problems within the military units.

Then-President Reagan approved establishment of the new command April 13, 1987, and three days later it was activated by the Department of Defense under the command of Army Gen. James Lindsay. It took over the facilities of the U.S. Readiness Command at MacDill, whose missions were transferred to other commands.

During its 10 years, the command has participated in five other major operations in addition to Somalia, including its first big test in December 1989, when more than 4,400 special operations forces participated in operation Just Cause in Panama. It led to the capture of dictator Manuel Noriega.

In 1990–91, more than 9,400 personnel were deployed to operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Last April, Special Operations helicopters flew through some of the worst conditions to reach a mountainside above Dubrovnik, Croatia, where Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and 34 others were killed when their plane crashed.

In addition to well-publicized military operations, Special Operations forces have a number of lesser-known missions.

They include combating terrorism; seizing or destroying weapons of mass destruction; assisting host countries in civil affairs; conducting rescue missions and antidrug activities; and providing humanitarian assistance.

''I think as you look at the situation we are facing today and in the foreseeable future, there are challenges Special Operation forces should be handling and I see a greater need for them than ever,'' said retired Army Gen. Carl W. Stiner, who followed Lindsay as commander in chief.

''One significant thing I think we did was keep the focus on readiness and modernization of our forces,'' Stiner said. ''Another was to work with the regional CINCs [commanders in chief], educating them on the utility of Special Operations forces and their capability of assisting in achieving reasonable objectives.''

''VISION OF THE FUTURE''—15-YEAR-OLD LEVI TILLEMANN-DICK DISCUSSES THE IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGY IN TWO GENERATIONS—ESSAY WINS NATIONAL CONTEST

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a young man who at the tender age of 15 has already established himself as a thoughtful analyst of the future. Levi Tillemann-Dick of Denver, CO, was winner of a recent essay competition, ''Vision of the Future'', sponsored by the Association of Computer Manufacturers [ACM] to examine how changes in computer technology will change our lives over the next 50 years.

The essay contest was held in order to highlight the Association's celebration of the next half-century of computing, and it was conducted with the assistance and cooperation of the magazine Popular Science. The purpose of the contest and the focus of the judges involved in evaluating the essays submitted was getting students to realize that whatever choices they make with computer science will have future implications for society, economy, and across all spectra of life.

The essays were judged on the basis of their creativity and sense of excitement about what future technologies will be like and how they will affect our daily lives. Levi was awarded a college scholarship of $2,500 for his winning essay—an important incentive for a student in this age when advanced education is essential for young people to reach their full potential in this information age.

Levi Tillemann-Dick, at the age of only 15, is currently studying at Regis College in Denver. Until January of this year he was schooled at home by his mother, Annette Tillemann-Dick, the daughter of our colleague from California, TOM LANTOS.

Levi Tillemann-Dick's winning essay, ''Gigatrends: Technology's Impacts Two Generations from Today'', reflects the kind of thoughtful education in technology that is essential for the future of our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this outstanding essay be placed in the RECORD, and I invite my colleagues to read it. It is important as we here in this body consider the effect that technology will have

upon the lives of our children and grand-children, and these are the kinds of problems on which we in this body should be focusing.

GIGATRENDS: TECHNOLOGY'S IMPACTS TWO
GENERATIONS FROM TODAY

(By Levi M. Tillemann-Dick, the Yale Academy, Denver, CO)

Fifty years ago, a Naval scientist labored for hours beside a computer the size of a small bus, calculating the trajectory of a single artillery shell. Today's notebook computer can perform the same operation in a fraction of a second. IBM and Hewlett-Packard have just announced the invention of the PAN—Personal Area Network—a set of devices that use the human as a conductor to relay detailed textual information from one person to another simply by touch. While it is very difficult to predict what the hardware will be like in fifty years, it is possible to make reasonable predictions of what the technology will be and how it will affect our lives.

Computers have demonstrated themselves to be especially well adapted to two types of activities: communications transactions, and information processing and storing. In key respects, computers have operated with much the same impact on society as did the printing press and the book, but accelerated a million times. Tom Sawyer on the printed page created a virtual reality device that led us toward the media of today and the shared experiences and artificial sensations of tomorrow.

The Internet's technology is the communications gateway to the near future. It will wholly transform people's lives. The Internet will, of course, be used for commerce, personal communications, entertainment, and research. It is a relatively small conceptual step, however, from the PAN processor that relays a written message through one's body by a shake of the hand, to a microcell sensory transmission system that relays ideas and sensations directly to and from the most powerful processor in the world, one's brain. Within a few decades, developments stemming from PAN-type research will transform the Internet into the LifeNet, a comprehensive sensory environment for human habitation. Our minds will be afforded wireless direct sensory interfacing with other people and various databases. A dramatically enhanced version of what we now call "virtual reality" will become as common as air conditioning. Telephones, TVs, PCs and other media conveyors will be replaced by wireless sensory feeds from, and to, communal microcells. The LifeNet will become infinitely more important to mankind than the telephone is today. It will become as essential to our lifestyles as electricity or running water is now.

What are the implications for our society? Strong arguments can be made that the place of technological advancement will be accelerated, and human interactions forever altered. Some have suggested that today's Internet is addictive. They have hit on a key point but used the wrong terminology. It is not addiction that causes these people to return to the Internet each day, but the fact that they can craft a new identity for themselves—any identity they choose. Or they can participate in experiences that are otherwise beyond their reach. If today's crude mess of wires and two-dimensional web sites so captivate people, consider the impact of a technology affording a lifestyle where you could go wherever you wanted to go, and be whoever you wanted to be whenever you chose. Every field of human endeavor would be affected, from business to entertainment to courtship and art. Over the course of not many years, the technology's impact upon society would be all-encompassing.

Fifty years ago, the average person in the workforce was a farmer or laborer. They were physically strong. They ate more, but weighted less. Today's office and service workers have diminished physical capabilities, but are better educated. The LifeNet will accelerate this trend. The amount of food needed to survive when spending weeks, months, or years on the 'Net would be drastically reduced from the amount needed to sustain a body that is undergoing today's activity. Like most changes, this is a two-edged sword. Resource depletion resulting from overpopulation will cease to be a major issue when we are subsisting on 600 calories a day in a sensory reality where we can eat all we want. Our mansions will be built in our minds, and our future Ferrari's will be driven along the roads of our collective imaginations. The physical body (over a period of time) would deteriorate to a state where the full recovery back to a state of good physical health would take months—if it was possible at all. Fifty years from now, our minds will be working and playing in ways now beyond our imagination, and paradoxically, the sensations we will feel will be just as real as those we experience today.

The time constraints relating to day and night will dissolve when we can communicate effortlessly anywhere in the world. It is likely that humans will require less sleep, since we will need only the time to file and store the information that our brains have collected and not to rest our physical bodies.

These technologies will not be expensive. On a per capita basis, participation in the LifeNet will consume far fewer resources than an automobile, and reduce our housing and other needs. This fact, along with a lack of prior investment in other infrastructures like highways and copper cabling, will prompt the rapid expansion of the LifeNet into third-world countries. The equipment required for the microcellular sensory transmission technology will be modular, redundant, and like that for the Internet, incrementally inexpensive. Countries that have problems with overcrowding and famine would quickly embrace the LifeNet. Their resources would be extended, and planners would likely program the system to minimize the population's reproductive drive.

People will still have jobs. There will be lots of work to do. People will want to consume the newest experiential sensations. Some food will need to be prepared, and equipment manufactured. Government would be divided into two categories: geographical-physical and communicative. The responsibilities of the geographic governments will be to defend landmasses and keep order in the physical world—much as they do today. However, there will likely be another type of government co-existing with today's political successors. The responsibilities of these communicative governments will be to administer, regulate, and defend cyberspace. The communicative government will also be responsible for the maintenance of the input-output microcells. The communicative governments already exist in the form of the various online services—and their monthly fees are the taxes. As they mature, these communicative governments will develop such things as better defense systems against the threats of cyberspace terrorism.

Religion has been, is and it is safe to assume always will be, a major part of society. Televangelism's success leads us to the conclusion that the LifeNet will support religions of many sorts. It is not clear whether people will completely forego interpersonal religious contact as the LifeNet becomes pervasive.

The darker side of religion and the LifeNet may the result of a large and potentially violent antitechnological cult movement that

could arise. These cults would likely be something parallel to today's right-wing extremists and Muslim fundamentalists, but vastly more diverse and considerably more dangerous. It is frightening to contemplate the destructive "holy wars" that they could embark upon and the grave consequences for LifeNet residents

Some people would have to remain physically active and strong, because of the nature of their labor. There will always be tools and equipment that will break down and will have to be repaired, and there will always be operations and experiments that must be carried out physically to know the outcome. Manufacturers, natural resource harvesters, and explorers of all sorts are likely to be visitors to the LifeNet, rather than residents.

The field of manufacturing would be dramatically reduced in size, considering that large cut of the world's population would no longer need much in the way of cars, clothing, physical tools and countless other physical objects. Natural resource harvesters will work in every field from farming to mining. Harvesters will be supported of new technologies and these activities would also decrease for the same reasons as manufacturing would—the virtual elimination of every physical non-necessity.

One of the few physical job categories that would likely grow is that of the explorers. An explorer is anyone from a cellular biochemist to an astronaut. This field is sure to expand in the years to come, as science expands and becomes more complex, and as space and deep-sea exploration become further reaching.

Another small category of physical beings would work for various medical and life-support companies. They would have the lives of every individual in the cyberworld in their hands. They would be paid to keep the devices that nourish and climatically maintain all the people who chose to enter into the cyberlife. They would have the solemn but necessary responsibility of—after the allotted amount of time—turning off the machines.

It is impossible to predict exactly what the technology will be in fifty years considering that when my Dad was fourteen there were no PCs, and when my Grandma was fourteen electricity was cutting-edge technology. But one thing is certain: There will be things that are wonderful, things that are beautiful, and some things that are deeply frightening that will all become realities in the next fifty years.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: DEFENDING THE POWERS THAT BE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to draw your attention to the following editorial from a major newspaper that serves the Capital District region of my home State of New York, the Times-Union. It deals with a subject with which I've been paying a great deal of attention, and that's the fundraising activities of the Democrat National Committee and the Clinton White House. It's no longer any secret that the open-ended dealings of the White House in attracting large sums of campaign cash may have led to violations of national security, breaches of classified information, changes in U.S. foreign policy, and economic espionage, not to mention the violation of a