

The WMD Civil Support Teams were established to deploy rapidly to assist a local incident commander in determining the nature and extent of an attack or incident; provide expert technical advice on WMD response operations; and help identify and support the arrival of follow-on state and federal military response assets. Each team consists of 22 highly-skilled, full-time members of the Army and Air National Guard.

The first 10 teams have completed their individual and unit collective training and are in the process of receiving highly sophisticated equipment. Each team has two large pieces of equipment: a mobile analytical laboratory for field analysis of chemical or biological agents and a unified command suite that has the ability to provide communications interoperability among the various responders who may be on scene. The first 10 teams will be certified as fully mission-capable later this spring, with the remaining 17 expected to come on line in early 2001.

The first 10 teams are based in Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, California, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington. The remaining 17 teams, announced in January, will be based in Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Virginia.

Surprisingly, our Nation's capital does not currently have a National Guard civil support team. The closest team is in rural Virginia or the center of Pennsylvania. These locations are too far away to provide comfort that my state, Maryland, will have adequate protection and civil support in the event a terrorist uses poison gas or germs in the Washington, DC or Maryland area.

Having a team available to deploy rapidly, assess the situation, and coordinate assistance with local first-responders is extremely important.

The WMD Civil Support Teams are unique because of their federal-state relationship. They are federally resourced, federally trained and federally evaluated, and they operate under federal doctrine. But they will perform their mission primarily under the command and control of the governors of the states in which they are located.

They will be, first and foremost, state assets.

Operationally, they fall under the command and control of the adjutant generals of those states. As a result, they will be available to respond to an incident as part of a state response, well before federal response assets would be called upon to provide assistance.

If the situation were to evolve into an event that overwhelmed state and local response assets, the governor could request the president to issue a declaration of national disaster and to provide federal assistance. At that point, the team would continue to support local officials in their state status, but would also assist in channeling additional military and other federal assets in support of the local commander.

It is essential to note that these teams are in no way connected with counter-terrorism activities. They are involved exclusively in consequence management activities. The civil support teams will link with the consequence managers in their jurisdictions. The WMD-CST will have robust planning and command and control capabilities and the ability to mobi-

lize a military task force quickly in support of FEMA requests. It will also have rapid access to military forces and quick reach-back capability to subject matter experts, labs and medical support.

If terrorists release bacteria, chemicals or viruses to harm Americans, we must have the ability to identify the pathogens or substances with speed and certainty. The technology to accomplish that is still evolving, and current technology is very expensive, technically challenging to maintain, and largely unaffordable to most states and localities.

In this regard, my goal is to support America's fire, police and emergency medical personnel as rapidly as possible with capabilities and tools that complement and enhance their response, not duplicate it.

It is better to have these teams be funded, fielded and idle than to have no team at all. Every Governor should, and must, have the flexibility to call on a WMD-CST Team if the situation warrants.

My amendment to this year's defense bill will increase the number of WMD-CSTs to 32, providing greater coverage to the American population.

I support the efforts Congress and the Defense Department have made to establish state-controlled WMD Civil Support Teams, which leverage the best military technology and expertise available, to achieve that goal.

I thank you for the opportunity.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is very simple. I offer it to ensure that Section 3157 of the National Defense Authorization Act of FY'98 is consistent with Section 1211 of that same Act. In 1998, the Congress adopted to its defense authorization legislation provisions to establish export control thresholds for computer technology to tier III countries. We established those provisions in two places of the '98 legislation, Section 1211 and Section 3157. Since then, Congress has revisited Sec. 1211 and updated the threshold level to better reflect technological advancements. In modernizing the law, however, a slight oversight has been made.

While Congress made adjustments to Section 1211 to raise export control thresholds, it did not make the same necessary adjustments to Section 3157. My amendment ensures the MTOP level (millions of theoretical operations per second) included in Section 1211 is consistent with the levels included in Section 3157.

By no means do I intend to reopen the debate on MTOP levels and verification requirements. In fact, the gentlemen from California, the Chairman of the Rules Committee has ably engaged that very policy debate in this chamber today. Instead, I only wish to correct an inconsistency in our legislation that calls for two different standards.

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Chairman, as many of my colleagues may recall, the FY98-99 Defense Authorization bill included my provision establishing a life without parole sentencing option in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

What prompted me to push for a life without parole sentence involved the case of Sgt. Michael Teeter. Sgt. Teeter was sentenced to life in prison on June 10, 1980, by a military court for the brutal rape and murder of Eva Hicks-Ransom. The murder occurred in my district in Clarksville, Tennessee. After serving only 15 years of his life sentence, Teeter was granted parole.

Because the only alternative to a life sentence was the death penalty, I felt a new, life without parole sentence would provide a jury with a broader range of options depending on the severity of the crime. In cases where the death penalty was too harsh, but the possibility of an offender eventually re-entering society was unconscionable, life without parole would give the jury a reasonable alternative.

Since the creation of the life without parole sentence, however, the Department of Defense has issued an Instruction which states that a person sentenced to life without parole will still be eligible for clemency. Under clemency, a prisoner sentenced to life without parole can see his sentence reduced for good behavior and/or successful treatment after only 10 years. In theory, a person sentenced to life without parole could be released after serving just 15 years.

Mr. Chairman, Section 544 of H.R. 4205 does attempt to address my concerns about clemency by increasing the time before clemency can be considered from 10 to 20 years. While I appreciate the lengths to which full committee Chairman SPENCE and subcommittee Chairman BUYER have gone to address this issue, it was always my intent that a person sentenced to life without parole would spend the rest of their life in prison unless they were pardoned by the President. Clemency was not meant to apply. I strongly believe that the Defense Department misinterpreted the language establishing a life without parole sentence, and my amendment would replace the language in Section 544 with language which would clarify and reaffirm the intent of Congress that life without parole means life and that clemency does not apply.

I urge my colleagues to support this clarifying amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The question is on the amendments en bloc, as modified, offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE).

The amendments en bloc, as modified, were agreed to.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HAYES) having assumed the chair, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4205) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERIODIC REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SUDAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-237)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT) laid before the House the following message from the President

of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 410(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 17, 2000.

RESPONDING TO CHALLENGE ISSUED IN OTHER BODY

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to respond to a challenge issued in the other body, the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of debate, the Democrat Senator from Iowa issued a challenge to Republican lawmakers. The Senator challenged any takers to a contest in trap shooting.

He said, and I quote, I take a back seat to no one in being a legitimate hunter. I hunt every year. I've hunted since I've been a kid. I'll take on anyone over there in trap shooting.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress and the Senate gathered on Monday to have a shoot-off. We had great competition. Conservation was the beneficiary.

I gladly accept the senior Senator from Iowa's challenge and will be glad to meet him for a charity shoot-off event. I look forward to coordinating this with him.

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING SPECIAL ORDER REGARDING PNTR FOR CHINA

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues that after we get through the wonderful 5-minute special orders that people are going to be delivering here, I am going to take an hour or a good part of that 1-hour to talk about the single most important vote that will be casting this year, and that is whether or not we are going to pry open the markets with 1.3 billion consumers in the People's Republic of China so that our workers can export goods and services and other great things, including American values, into that very repressive society in the People's Republic of China.

We have got a lot of very, very interesting things, so I want to encourage my colleagues who are here in the Chamber to stay because it is going to be a very, very enlightening special order that I plan to deliver.

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE PATRICIA A. HEMANN

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special constituent and friend of mine, the Honorable Patricia A. Hemann, magistrate judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio on the occasion of her receipt of the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction. The award is the OWBA's highest award for professional excellence.

Pat Hemann was the first woman magistrate judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Previously she was in private practice for 11 years, litigating complex cases and becoming a member of the board of directors of Hahn, Loeser & Parks, LLP in Cleveland.

At the same time she actively mentored women and minorities, taking on issues that were vital to their inclusion in the legal community. In 1991, she along with Justice Alice Robie Resnick and another attorney, Pam Hultin, founded the Ohio Women's Bar Association.

It gives me great pleasure to rise today and join with the OWBA in congratulating Judge Hemann and wishing her continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special constituent and friend of mine, The Honorable Patricia A. Hemann, magistrate judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, on the occasion of her receipt of the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction. This award is the OWBA's highest award for professional excellence and is bestowed annually on a deserving attorney who exhibits leadership in the areas of advancing the status and interests of women and in improving the legal profession in the state of Ohio. It gives me great pleasure to wish Judge Hemann my warmest congratulations on this truly special occasion.

Patricia Hemann was the first woman magistrate judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Previously, she was in private practice for 11 years, litigating complex cases and becoming a member of the Board of Directors of Hahn, Loeser & Parks LLP in Cleveland.

At the same time, Judge Hemann actively mentored women and minorities, taking on issues that were vital to their inclusion in the legal community. In December 1991, Judge Hemann, along with The Honorable Alice Robie Resnick and Cleveland attorney Pamela Hultin, founded the Ohio Women's Bar Association. The OWBA is the only statewide bar association within Ohio solely dedicated toward advancing the interests of women attorneys while encouraging networking and the creation of statewide mentor program for women attorneys.

Judge Hemann volunteers at the Cleveland Public Schools and is also active in the Cleveland Bar Association as a trustee and as chair of the Justice for All Initiative.

Today, May 17, 2000, OWBA President Jami Oliver will be presenting Judge Hemann with the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction at its annual meeting in Toledo, Ohio.

It gives me great pleasure to rise today, Mr. Speaker, and join the OWBA in congratulating Judge Hemann and wishing her continued success.

AGAINST PNTR FOR CHINA

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I have in front of me a letter from the Reserve Officers Association of the United States to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF). I would like to refer to excerpts from it and then enter it into the RECORD.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Just within the past few weeks, China has made military threats against Taiwan and threatened military action against the United States if we defend Taiwan. Just 4 years ago, China fired several live missiles in the Taiwan Strait, necessitating deployment of two American carrier groups to the area.

A report issued last month by the CIA and the FBI indicates that Beijing has increased its military spying against the United States. Less than a year ago, the Cox Committee reported that China stole classified information regarding advanced American thermonuclear weapons.

Additionally, Beijing has exported weapons of mass destruction to Iran and North Korea, in violation of treaty commitments. Finally, China's record of human rights abuses is well documented.

A recent Harris Poll revealed that 79 percent of the American people oppose giving China permanent access to U.S. markets.

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, April 27, 2000.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: The Reserve Officers Association ("ROA"), representing 80,000 officers in all seven Uniformed Services, is concerned about the proposal to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations ("PNTR") to China.

ROA acknowledges the importance of our relationship with China, including our growing economic ties to China. Nevertheless, ROA believes that it would be a mistake to grant PNTR to China at this time. The annual process of reviewing trade relations with China provides Congress with leverage over Chinese behavior on national security and human rights matters. Granting PNTR would deprive Congress of the opportunity to influence China to improve its human rights record and behave as a more responsible actor on the national security stage.

Just within the past few weeks, China has made military threats against Taiwan and threatened military action against the United States if we defend Taiwan. Just four years ago, China fired several live missiles in the Taiwan Strait, necessitating a deployment of two American carrier battle groups to the area.

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