

(iv) medical and emergency relief services;
(B) identify community-based law enforcement, fire and rescue, and medical and emergency relief services needs;

(C) recommend new or expanded grant programs to improve community-based law enforcement, fire and rescue, and medical and emergency relief services;

(D) identify ways to streamline the process through which Federal agencies support community-based law enforcement, fire and rescue, and medical and emergency relief services; and

(E) assist in priority setting based on discovered needs.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Interagency Committee shall be composed of—

(A) a representative of the Office for State and Local Government Coordination;

(B) a representative of the Health Resources and Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(C) a representative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(D) a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the Department;

(E) a representative of the United States Coast Guard of the Department;

(F) a representative of the Department of Defense;

(G) a representative of the Office of Domestic Preparedness of the Department;

(H) a representative of the Directorate of Immigration Affairs of the Department;

(I) a representative of the Transportation Security Agency of the Department;

(J) a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice; and

(K) representatives of any other Federal agency identified by the President as having a significant role in the purposes of the Interagency Committee.

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Department shall provide administrative support to the Interagency Committee and the Advisory Council, which shall include—

(A) scheduling meetings;

(B) preparing agenda;

(C) maintaining minutes and records;

(D) producing reports; and

(E) reimbursing Advisory Council members.

(4) LEADERSHIP.—The members of the Interagency Committee shall select annually a chairperson.

(5) MEETINGS.—The Interagency Committee shall meet—

(A) at the call of the Secretary; or

(B) not less frequently than once every 3 months.

(e) ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an Advisory Council for the Interagency Committee (in this section referred to as the "Advisory Council").

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall be composed of not more than 13 members, selected by the Interagency Committee.

(B) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall—

(i) develop a plan to disseminate information on first response best practices;

(ii) identify and educate the Secretary on the latest technological advances in the field of first response;

(iii) identify probable emerging threats to first responders;

(iv) identify needed improvements to first response techniques and training;

(v) identify efficient means of communication and coordination between first responders and Federal, State, and local officials;

(vi) identify areas in which the Department can assist first responders; and

(vii) evaluate the adequacy and timeliness of resources being made available to local first responders.

(C) REPRESENTATION.—The Interagency Committee shall ensure that the membership of the Advisory Council represents—

(i) the law enforcement community;

(ii) fire and rescue organizations;

(iii) medical and emergency relief services; and

(iv) both urban and rural communities.

(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Advisory Council shall select annually a chairperson from among its members.

(4) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—The members of the Advisory Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be eligible for reimbursement of necessary expenses connected with their service to the Advisory Council.

(5) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Council shall meet with the Interagency Committee not less frequently than once every 3 months.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would say to all those within the sound of my voice, this action has been cleared by both Senators THOMPSON and LIEBERMAN, the two managers of this bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent we proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 10 minutes each.

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

U.S. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IN EUROPE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, as chair of the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee, I have the opportunity and responsibility to take a close look at our military's construction needs throughout the world.

During our August recess, I chose to take a closer look at an initiative recently implemented by the Army in Europe called "Efficient Basing". This initiative is a two part process that will streamline the Army's infrastructure needs in Germany and in Italy.

The plan will direct much needed funds to consolidate U.S. bases throughout Germany, and better position an airborne battalion south of the Alps in Vicenza, Italy to more quickly respond to the possibility of crisis in the Transcaucasus, the Balkans, the Middle East and Africa.

Although the costs for this initiative could total nearly \$1 billion when complete, there is little doubt that it will both dramatically reduce the long term costs of basing our forces in Western Europe and provide better strategic positioning for regional conflicts and the global war on terrorism.

This aptly named "Efficient Basing" initiative is being guided by the U.S. Army's European Commander in Chief, Gen. Montgomery Meigs. General Meigs invited me to Europe to take a closer look at the work in progress and allow him the opportunity to justify

the costs associated with the program. As a result, I went to Camp Ederle, in Vicenza, Italy, and was able to see first hand the real efficiency of this tremendously large task and recognize the actual savings to be gained.

I would like to take a few minutes to recognize the degree of dedication and service to our country that is often overlooked.

Whether fighting a war, or carrying out the daily administrative tasks necessary to provide protection for America at home and abroad, our military commanders and the soldiers within their command display a level of dedication, efficiency, and selflessness that is awe inspiring.

We ask a lot of our soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen. And, without question, they are up to the task, whatever it might be.

Let me give just a couple of examples: In his nearly 35 years of military service, General Meigs and his wife, Mary-Ann have moved their family 24 times. That's not just soldier dedication, that's family dedication—all for the sake of our freedom. This sacrifice is recognized throughout the world, not only by Americans, but by our allies and partners as well.

In the wake of September 11, a strangely surprising and caring act took place on the part of our Italian allies. In less than 24 hours, the Carabinieri—Italian police—in a show of force protection, came out in large numbers to surround our Vicenza base, Camp Ederle.

The base didn't solicit their presence. It was given voluntarily.

Acts like this do not just happen—they take time and the creation of a rapport built on admiration and years of interaction with our commanders and soldiers. The actions of the Carabinieri was, in part, a response to a lasting friendship—a friendship forged by men like MG Robert Wagner, the Southern European Task Force, SETAF, Commander.

General Wagner, a shining example for all to follow, is one hundred percent engaged with the leaders of the community—the mayor, the director of the Carabinieri, and businesses leaders throughout northern Italy.

The relationships and mutual admiration did not just happen by virtue of his position. It was developed over time, by him and by his predecessors, who hosted dinners and got to know these leaders and their needs, as well as expressing his concerns for our soldiers and the community in which they live and work.

The relationship between General Wagner and the community is priceless, but the care and concern he expresses for his soldiers is even more evident.

I was pleasantly amazed by the spontaneously unsolicited comments by persons like the local base librarian, who takes pride in his facilities and the services that he is able to provide to

some 750 daily visitors. The same type of pride was exhibited by the director of the commissary, who manages a clean, well stocked facility and therefore plays a critical role in the morale and welfare of those who defend us.

A long time concern of mine has been the high operational tempo, or more simply put, the rate at which our service members are deployed away from their home base, whether for training, or deployed in reaction to a crisis.

In Vicenza, Italy, I met an impressive young man—a Californian—1SG Noel Fernando. First Sergeant Fernando, a native of Salinas, California, talked to me about his highly trained Airborne unit's operational tempo.

Sergeant Fernando, a hard worker who achieved his very high enlisted rank at an early age, assured me that more organized planning and early notification to family members regarding deployment schedules has reduced the trauma experienced by younger soldiers and their loved ones. They are now better able to anticipate deployments and plan accordingly.

Another distinguished member of our military forces is Gen. Joe Ralston. General Ralston is the Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command and the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

As Commander in Chief of U.S. European Command, he is the senior U.S. military officer and commander of a unified combatant command with an area of responsibility that includes 89 nations in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. General Ralston will be retiring soon, and just like many service members before, he and his family have sacrificed much of their lives for our freedom.

I was pleased to have been escorted by General Ralston to the sites of several upcoming military construction projects in the Mons, Belgium area.

The first is a barracks complex that will accommodate soldiers at the "one-plus-one" housing standard. Another project will add a classroom to the SHAPE, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, elementary school.

While there, I had an opportunity to visit this site and visit with the students and teachers. I am pleased to report that the administrators of this and other military schools in Europe have been able to reduce the student to teacher ratio significantly, thus offering a quality education for our military dependents.

In summary, I would like to emphasize the important role that our officers, enlisted members, and their families play in creating good will around the world for the people of America.

As I have mentioned previously, all of these people dedicate their lives, and to a certain degree their personal freedom, to ensure our nation's remains free. These military service members and their families deserve quality facilities wherever they might be stationed.

This is why, I feel honored to sit as chair of the Appropriations Military

Construction Subcommittee, because it allows me to make a difference in the living and working conditions for our troops who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice on our nation's behalf. I am dedicated to providing first class facilities for them both at home and abroad.

Lastly, it is with great pride that I commend those service members like General Ralston, General Meigs, General Wagner and First Sergeant Fernando, who have for decades sought to ensure a better quality of life for our fighting force.

U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr President, this year marks an historic turning point for U.S. international trade policy. For the first time in over eight years the Congress renewed the President's authority to negotiate new trade agreements. This authority, called Trade Promotion Authority, reestablishes the traditional partnership on trade between the Congress and the Executive branch. It allows us to work together to open new markets for American exports, set fair rules of conduct for U.S. investors overseas, and help raise the standard of living for millions of people around the world.

The negotiating objectives and procedures laid out in the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act represent a very careful substantive and political balance on some very complex and difficult issues such as investment, labor and the environment, and the relationship between Congress and the Executive branch during international trade negotiations.

Because this balance is so delicate, I was somewhat dismayed to learn recently that some groups and Members of Congress are trying to push for interpretations of certain provisions of the TPA bill that do not comport with the negotiating objectives laid out in the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act. For example, an article in the September 18, 2002 edition of National Journal's CongressDaily noted that "a group of labor officials who were active in the fight against, TPA, are meeting in the offices of the AFL-CIO. At the top of their agenda: mapping a plan to ensure future trade agreements include strong provisions on labor rights and the environment. Labor officials plan to hold future agreements to standards set in an earlier free-trade agreement reached with Jordan, which they consider a model of backing up labor and environmental provisions with enforceable sanctions." Some Members of Congress are even arguing that future agreements must follow the "Jordan Standard" on labor and environment in order to meet the objectives laid out in the TPA bill. Perhaps even more ominous were the public remarks of the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee who urged the administration to follow the model

of the Jordan Free Trade Agreement "exactly" in implementing the labor and environment provisions of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act.

On this issue, I respectfully disagree with my colleague from Montana. In fact, I think this would be a serious mistake. The negotiating objectives in the TPA bill set the parameters for future trade negotiations, not some past agreement like the Jordan FTA that was negotiated during the Clinton Administration. To follow the provisions of this past agreement "exactly" would ignore the clear will of Congress as set forth in the TPA bill. Even more disconcerting is that such a stark litmus test ignores that basic premise that the most appropriate mechanisms to improve labor and environment standards abroad differ from country to country and agreement to agreement. In short, one size does not fit all.

Trying to solve complex environmental and labor issues with rigid constructs will do nothing to actually improve environmental or labor standards abroad. At the same time, demanding that our trading partners accept specific language laid out in past agreements during trade negotiations will come at a heavy price for our farmers and workers, as our trading partners can demand significant concessions on other issues, such as agriculture, in exchange for our rigid insistence that they accept specific language from our trade negotiators. The Administration and Members of Congress need to remember that the underlying premise of the TPA Act is to provide the President and our trade negotiators with flexibility so they can negotiate the best trade agreements for the American people. It is not intended, nor should it be used, to try to tie the President's hands on any particular issue.

It is also troubling that some advocacy groups are pushing to ensure that future free trade agreements adhere to their version of so-called "Jordan Standard." I think it bears repeating that it is the negotiating objectives laid out in the Trade Promotion Authority bill that should guide the Administration in future trade negotiations, not a single free trade agreement that was concluded long before TPA became law.

I also believe it would be a political miscalculation to insist that new trade agreements must follow the "Jordan Standard" to gain support in Congress. First, no one really knows what the "Jordan Standard" is. In fact, when we held a hearing on the Jordan Free Trade Agreement on March 20, 2001 in the Senate Finance Committee, one of the most controversial issues raised was what the labor and environmental provisions of the Jordan Free Trade Agreement actually mean. For example, former United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky testified that the labor and environment provisions in the Jordan FTA "while