

to teach others. Bill has been instrumental in the training and development of firefighters all over Colorado. He was never too busy to help a firefighter who wanted to learn and his passion and determination brought out the best in everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before this Congress and this nation to pay tribute to Chief Bill Harding. Bill's diligence, hard work, and positive attitude have helped develop a group of well-trained, hard-working individuals who protect our cities, homes, and families. Thank you, Bill, for your years of outstanding service.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TRIP
REPORT ON VISIT TO IRAQ

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I recently shared with our colleagues observations following my recent two-day trip to southern Iraq. I was there Sunday, May 25, and Monday, May 26. I also spent a day, Tuesday, May 27, in Kuwait, where I met with Kuwaiti government officials, members of the U.S. military, State Department officials and staff from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Today I want to share with our colleagues a number of recommendations concerning the reconstruction of Iraq.

Recommendations: these recommendations are based on my observations and conversations with the people I met during the course of my visit. Some were discussed in greater detail in the observations section of my trip report.

Security: security is priority one. While the coalition forces have made great strides in trying to improve security in recent weeks, there is still a long way to go. Security is the linchpin to winning the peace in Iraq. That means security for coalition forces. Security for the NGOs. Security for the contractors. And security for the Iraqi people so they can go about their life. The gun turn-back program recently announced by Ambassador Bremer is a positive step but many are concerned that people may turn in only one gun and keep two. In addition to concerns about personal safety, looting remains a problem. I was told that looters continue to target electrical substations in southern Iraq, stealing the copper wire to sell on the black market. These substations provide much of the power for Baghdad. Coalition forces should provide security until it can be provided by the Iraqis.

Justice System: re-establishing a fair and just judicial system in a timely fashion is critical. Figuring out what to do with locals who break the law, such as looters, but are not a threat to U.S. security must be addressed as soon as possible. The laws need to be clear and must be enforced.

'Play to Win': "Play to Win," the final report of the bipartisan Commission on Post-Conflict Reconstruction, should be used as the blueprint for rebuilding Iraq.

The report, released in January, was produced jointly by the Association of the United States Army and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Its 17 recommendations

provide an excellent model to follow. The commission is made up of 27 distinguished individuals with extensive experience in government, the military, non-governmental organizations and international aid groups. It met throughout 2002 to "consider recommendations that surfaced over two years of research, expert working groups, and vetting with current policymakers and practitioners." The report can be found on the Internet at <http://www.pcrproject.org>

Commission Visits: a select group of the Commission on Post Conflict Reconstruction should travel to Iraq.

The panel's co-chairmen, Dr. John Hamre, former deputy secretary of defense, and Gen. Gordon Sullivan, former chief of staff of the U.S. Army, should appoint a select number of commissioners to travel to Iraq to assess how the reconstruction efforts are going. Their assessment, a second opinion, if you will, would be impartial and could prove to be invaluable. They should travel in a small group with a military escort to ensure their safety.

Congressional Oversight: small groups of members of Congress should make the trip to Iraq. They should go without publicity to ensure their safety and the safety of those who would be providing protection. Their visit to learn more about what is happening in the country and what it is going to take to rebuild the country would be helpful in their oversight responsibility in Congress. The chairmen and ranking Members—or their designees—of the House and Senate Armed Services committees, Appropriations committees and International Relations/Foreign Relations committees should consider going.

In addition to meeting with military commanders, the members should meet with Ambassador Bremer and other officials in the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA), USAID officials, representatives from the NGO community and other international organizations, and Iraqi citizens.

Partnering with Iraqi People: every effort must be made to involve the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country, from governance to security to repairing the country's infrastructure. The Iraqi people must be an equal partner in the process.

"Play to Win" is instructive on this point: ". . . every effort must be taken to build (or rebuild) indigenous capacity and governance structures as soon as possible. Leadership roles in the reconstruction effort must be given to host country nationals at the earliest possible stage of the process. Even if capacity is limited, host country representatives should chair or co-chair pledging conferences, priority-setting meetings, joint assessment of needs, and all other relevant processes."

American companies awarded contracts to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure should hire locals whenever possible. There are many skilled and educated people in Iraq and they should be tapped to help rebuild their country.

Reconstruction Support: the sooner the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, now called the Coalition Provisional Authority, is completely operational the better. Every effort should be made to ensure that Ambassador Bremer and his staff have the necessary tools and resources to successfully complete the job.

Provincial Officers: the military's Civil Affairs detachments in Iraq have worked diligently to help restore order and are making more and

more progress every day. Consideration should be given to providing the officer in charge of each of the 18 provinces in Iraq with access to a ready cash account—perhaps up to \$500,000—so they can more quickly hire translators, laborers and other locals to assist in their efforts in putting together a government without having to get every expenditure signed off by headquarters or Washington.

The money also could be used to purchase goods and services in-country, such as generators, pumps or even a trash truck, on a more timely basis rather than waiting for it to be brought in by coalition forces.

Government on any level needs money to operate. Clearly, this money must be accounted for, but it would greatly assist in the efforts to rebuild the country.

Civilian Expertise: consideration also should be given to helping augment the work of the Civil Affairs detachments by bringing in U.S. civilians with expertise in local government, such as county administrators and city managers, as well as experts in agriculture and public works. In each of the 18 provinces, the head of each military Civil Affairs detachment acts like a governor. They need experts—much like a cabinet—at their disposal who can advise them on issues like banking, education, public works and health care.

For example, the National Association of County Administrators could assist in rotating in civilian administrators to work with the military and local Iraqis in setting up and running local governments. There could be one for each of the 18 provinces. Some of the leading agriculture companies in the country could lend their expertise on irrigation and production. The head of the public works department in any large county or city in the country would bring an inordinate amount of experience to the table. There also is a great deal of expertise in the Federal Government which can be tapped. Again, these individuals would work hand-in-hand with the military and the locals.

Post-Combat Skills: the U.S. military has to begin thinking about training more of its soldiers for a postcombat environment to help fill any void until the necessary Civil Affairs and Military Police units can be put in place. I realize this is asking our war fighters to take on a new mission, but in this new world environment, I believe this skill is necessary.

Communications Systems: communications and communication systems remain a problem for both the military and the aid organizations working in Iraq. I was told that not all of the Civil Affairs detachments are readily able to communicate with each other or with the Humanitarian Assistance Center in Kuwait, which is coordinating all the civil affairs and humanitarian assistance in Iraq. Contacting U.S. officials in Baghdad also is problematic. I was told part of the problem is that most Civil Affairs detachments are made up of reserve units which do not always have compatible communications equipment. This needs to be addressed. It is imperative that all 18 provinces be linked with each other and headquarters. Congress should provide DOD with the necessary funding to ensure that these detachments have radios, computers and other communications equipment that are interoperable.

Aid organizations also are encountering problems communicating with their staff in southern Iraq because telephone and other

data transmission lines have yet to be repaired. This presents a problem, especially for sharing data and supplying information.

Iraq's banking system: the issue of Iraqi currency must be dealt with immediately. Many people in Iraq will not accept payment with the old regime's currency. The World Bank should provide its expertise in helping get Iraq's banking system back up and running.

The Story of Democracy: the State Department working with the National Endowment for Democracy and other groups with similar expertise should develop a program on democracy and how a democratic government works.

I was told that Iraqis watch a great deal of television. Perhaps whatever program is developed should be put on videotapes and tailored to specific age groups so that all Iraqis can understand the democratic process. This program must be made available to the Civil Affairs units in each of the 18 provinces. I understand money already has been appropriated and some contracts have been let. This program must be put into place as soon as possible.

A pro-democracy newspaper also should begin to be published on a daily basis in Iraq.

Ordnance Removal: finding and removing unexploded ordnance needs to be a priority. Sadly, many Iraqi children have been seriously hurt by exploding weapons while playing outdoors. When I visited the General Hospital in Nasiriyah, a young boy had just been brought into the emergency room after either a mine or unexploded ordnance blew up near him. He was severely burned and there was a piece of shrapnel in his right eye. Clearing this ordnance will be a long and laborious process.

Health Care: while great progress has been made to improve health care in southern Iraq since the war ended, there is still a long way to go. While the major hospitals in southern Iraq used to bear Saddam Hussein's name—and are all identically constructed—there was little or no medicine and the conditions inside are deplorable. One NGO that is providing invaluable assistance is the International Medical Corps (IMC). Their doctors, nurses, nutritionists and other health care professionals are making great strides in assessing the health care needs of Iraq. They are also helping provide care. I was told that IMC has helped distribute more than two tons of donated medicine to hospitals and clinics in southern Iraq. There is concern, however, that diseases like malaria and visceral leishmaniasis—also called Dum Dum Fever or Black Fever—could ravage the region this summer because no spraying was done this spring to kill the mosquito larvae or sand flea larvae. Bites from sand fleas are the cause of visceral leishmaniasis, which attacks internal organs. This disease has an 80 percent fatality rate for young children unless treated with a 21-day shot routine. Cholera is another concern. Area hospitals and American drug companies should work with medical NGOs in Iraq to ensure they have an adequate drug supply and the necessary equipment to provide medical services. Any assistance must be coordinated with NGOs on the ground so there is not any duplication of efforts or unnecessary equipment donated.

Women's Health: improving health services for women will be particularly important as the reconstruction of Iraq moves forward. More focus is needed on pre- and post-natal care. The surgical capabilities in the country are se-

riously lacking. Special instruments for delivering babies and performing cesarean sections are needed. So are the proper medications for delivery. More nurses also need to be trained.

Religious Freedom: as a new government is established in Iraq, care must be given to protect the rights of religious minorities. I urge the Bush Administration to develop a strategy and governance structure within the new Iraqi government to ensure that the hard won freedoms of the Iraqi people also will include the right and protection of religious liberties.

Quality of Life for Troops: the troops serving in the Gulf region are outstanding. The ones I spoke with were highly skilled, highly motivated and extremely professional. They all have made great sacrifices to serve their country. In turn, we should do everything possible to make sure their morale remains high. Hearing from home is a big part of that. Congress should provide DOD with the necessary resources to ensure these service men and women serving in the Gulf, and around the globe for that matter, are able to get messages from home, whether by phone, e-mail or regular mail.

Commendation for Kuwait: Congress should approve a resolution thanking the government and people of Kuwait for their assistance in helping to provide humanitarian relief to Iraq. The Kuwaiti government has provided millions of dollars in assistance, both in-kind and in material goods. The United States' Humanitarian Operations Center is run out of a former government facility in Kuwait City.

NGOs Valuable Role: the NGOs on the ground in the region also have done a tremendous job responding to the needs of the Iraqi people. From helping provide food to medical care to caring for orphans, their experience and expertise has proven invaluable. I was told some of the NGOs in the region are concerned that the humanitarian assistance is being coordinated by the U.S. military. Some of their misgivings may be justified. As the ORHA/CPA gets up and running, however, I suspect many of their concerns will be alleviated. Care must be given though to ensure that ORHA/CPA does not duplicate efforts that are already underway.

Conclusion: in closing, I want to thank all those who helped make my trip possible. For security reasons I cannot mention people by name, but I am forever grateful for their assistance.

I also want to thank all the NGOs who are providing humanitarian assistance in Iraq. The people who work and volunteer for these organizations are extremely dedicated. They work long hours and give up the many comforts of home to serve others, often in very dangerous places around the globe, like Iraq and Afghanistan. They are a special breed and deserve our thanks and praise.

Finally, I want to thank several members of my staff for their help in putting together this report. Dan Scandling, my chief of staff, accompanied me on the trip and served as photographer. Janet Shaffron, my legislative director, edited the report and Colin Samples did the layout and design.

IN HONOR OF DR. ALFRED O. HEATH

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a true renaissance man of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Dr. Alfred O. Heath. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Heath is being honored this weekend in St. Thomas with the Alexander A. Farrelly Public Service Award, given by Virgin Islanders for Responsible Government, an honor of which he is more than deserving.

A fellow physician, Dr. Heath is also renowned in the territory as a businessman, educator, health care administrator, musician and licensed pilot. Dr. Heath is most recognized for performing one of the territory's earliest heart surgeries, and for restoring the operable use of a patient's severed arm. In addition to the many "medical miracles" that he performed, Dr. Heath served as the Attending Senior Surgeon at the Roy Schneider Hospital and as a General Surgeon at the U.S. Army Hospital in Heidelberg, Germany.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Heath has also served as the Medical Director of Sea View Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility, as Commissioner of Health of the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Professor of Surgery at American University of the Caribbean in St. Maarten, West Indies.

His business pursuits include the founding of the Seaview facility, Heath Health Enterprises, the Medical Arts Complex of St. Thomas, Medical Arts Slender You Salon, and St. Thomas Health Care Management, Inc.

An all around gentleman, Dr. Heath's voice can be heard in local chorales and choirs, and entertaining a spellbound audience with his violin. He is also an adept pilot, and an avid boater.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Heath has been toasted by the Rotary International as the Man of the Year, the Paul Harris Fellow, and the Costas Coulianos Fellow. The Business and Professional Women, the Virgin Islands Toastmasters, the National Guard, the Virgin Islands Medical Society and the American Cancer Society have all at various times noted his talents and his willingness to share them with his community.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Alfred O. Heath was born and raised in St. Thomas to Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Heath. Upon graduation from Charlotte Amalie High School in 1947, he attended the University of Puerto Rico's School of Pharmacy for two years from 1947 to 1949. He later graduated from Temple University's School of Pharmacy with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1953. He received a Medical Degree from Jefferson Medical College followed by a surgical residency, which focused on general, thoracic and cardiovascular surgery between 1953 and 1960. He also attended the University of Heidelberg from 1962 to 1963.

Married to Geraldine Cheatham, they are the parents of one son, Alfred, Jr., and two daughters, Anita and Judy.

Dr. Heath's military career culminated with 50 years of service to the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army National Guard at the rank of Brigadier General.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of serving under this outstanding individual in