

terrorists who viciously attacked our Nation on September 11, 2001. These operations have been successful in seriously degrading al-Qaida's training capability and virtually eliminating the Taliban's ability to brutalize the Afghan people and to harbor and support terrorists. Pockets of Al-Qaida and Taliban forces, however, remain a threat to U.S. and Coalition forces and to the Afghan government and Afghan people. United States, Coalition, and Afghan forces are actively pursuing and engaging remnant Taliban and al-Qaida fighters.

The United States continues to detain several hundred al-Qaida and Taliban fighters who are believed to pose a continuing threat to the United States and its interests. The combat-equipped and combat-support forces deployed to Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in the U.S. Southern Command area of operations since January 2002, continue to conduct secure detention operations for the approximately 610 enemy combatants at Guantanamo Bay.

In furtherance of the U.S. worldwide efforts against terrorists who pose a continuing and imminent threat to the United States, our friends and allies, and our forces abroad, the United States continues to work with friends and allies in areas around the globe. For example, combat-equipped and combat-support forces deployed to Georgia to assist in training and equipping the Georgian government's forces will be completing their task in May 2004. United States combat-equipped and combat-support forces are also located in Djibouti. The U.S. forces headquarters element in Djibouti provides command and control support as necessary for military operations against al-Qaida and other international terrorists in the Horn of Africa region, including Yemen. These forces also assist in enhancing counterterrorism capabilities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Eritrea, and Djibouti. The United States is engaged in a continuous process of assessing options for working with other nations to assist them in this respect.

Additionally, the United States continues to conduct maritime interception operations on the high seas in the U.S. Central, European, and Pacific Command areas of responsibility. These maritime operations have recently expanded into the U.S. Southern and Northern Command areas of responsibility to stop the movement, arming, or financing of international terrorists.

It is not possible to know at this time either the duration of combat operations or the scope and duration of the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States. I will direct additional measures as necessary in the exercise of the U.S. right to self-defense and to protect U.S. citizens and interests. Such measures may include short-notice deployments of special operations and other forces for sensitive operations in various locations throughout the world.

NATO-LED KOSOVO FORCE (KFOR)

As noted in previous reports regarding U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo, most recently on November 14, 2003, the U.N. Security Council authorized member states to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999. The mission of KFOR is to provide an international security presence in order to deter renewed hostilities; verify, and, if necessary, enforce the terms of the Military Technical Agreement between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (which is now Serbia and Montenegro); enforce the terms of the Undertaking on Demilitarization and Transformation of the former Kosovo Liberation Army; provide day-to-day operational direction to the Kosovo Protec-

tion Corps; and maintain a safe and secure environment to facilitate the work of the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, there are 18 NATO nations contributing to KFOR in addition to the 18 non-NATO nations that provide forces. The U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is about 1,900 U.S. military personnel, or approximately 17,500 personnel. Additionally, U.S. military personnel occasionally operate from Macedonia, Albania, and Greece in support of KFOR operations. Eighteen non-NATO contributing countries also participate with NATO forces in providing military personnel and other support personnel to KFOR.

The U.S. forces have been assigned to a sector principally centered around Gnjilane in the eastern region of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. The KFOR operates under NATO command and control and rules of engagement. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels, provides a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside, and organizes checkpoints and patrols in key areas to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence. By the end of 2003, UNMIK had transferred all non-reserved competencies under the Constitutional Framework document to the Kosovar Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG). The PISG includes the President, Prime Minister, and Kosovo Assembly, and has been in place since March 2002.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal for KFOR. NATO has adopted the Joint Operations Area plan to regionalize and rationalize its force structure in the Balkans. The KFOR has transferred full responsibility for public safety and policing to the UNMIK international and local police forces throughout Kosovo except in the area of Mitrovica, where the responsibility is shared due to security concerns. The UNMIK international police and local police forces have also begun to assume responsibility for guarding patrimonial sites and established border-crossing checkpoints.

NATO-LED STABILIZATION FORCE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (SFOR)

As noted in previous reports regarding U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in the former Yugoslavia, most recently on January 22, 2004, the U.N. Security Council authorized member states to continue SFOR for a period of 12 months in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1491 of July 11, 2003. The mission of SFOR is to provide a focused military presence in order to deter hostilities, stabilize and consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contribute to a secure environment, and perform key supporting tasks including support to the international civil presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The U.S. force contribution to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina is about 1,100 personnel. United States personnel comprise approximately 9 percent of the approximately 12,000 personnel assigned to SFOR. NATO has agreed to reduce the size of the force to 7,000 personnel by June 2004. United States participation is expected to be reduced proportionately. Currently, 16 NATO nations and 11 others provide military personnel or other support to SFOR. Most U.S. forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina are assigned to Multinational Brigade, North, headquartered near the city of Tuzla. The U.S. forces continue to

support SFOR efforts to apprehend persons indicted for war crimes and to conduct counterterrorism operations.

MULTINATIONAL INTERIM FORCE IN HAITI

As I reported on February 25 and March 2, 2004, the United States deployed combat-equipped and combat-support personnel to Haiti in order to secure key facilities, facilitate the continued repatriation of Haitian migrants, help create conditions in the capital for the anticipated arrival of the Multinational Interim Force authorized by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1529, and for other purposes consistent with Resolution 1529. Additional U.S. forces have since been deployed to Haiti, bringing the total of U.S. combat-equipped and combat-support forces in Haiti to approximately 1,800. It is possible that additional U.S. forces will be deployed to Haiti in the future; however, it is anticipated that U.S. forces will redeploy when the Multinational Interim Force has transitioned to a follow-on United Nations Stabilization Force.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in all of these operations pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. Officials of my Administration and I communicate regularly with the leadership and other members of Congress with regard to these deployments, and we will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

GOVERNOR JOHN CARL WEST

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, yesterday South Carolina lost a valuable public servant and I lost a very dear friend. Some 66 years ago John Carl West and I came to the Citadel as freshmen. The attention of the freshmen in those days was responding to the howling orders of the upperclassmen. But it wasn't long before John came to my attention. We both had COL Carl Coleman in political science and Colonel Coleman loved those Time magazine articles on public events. He would spring them on the class with a test. I would barley know half of the answers, but John Carl would get 100 every time. I felt I ought to pay closer attention to the smartest in a class of 525. In those days, at different heights, we were in different companies and different barracks, but we got thrown together on the Roundtable in the International Relations Club. I learned quickly that John was not only the academician but long on common sense.

Along with the other members of our class, John and I both left for the war shortly after graduation, but we ended up in the same class at the University of South Carolina Law School after the war. I got home the day after Thanksgiving in 1945 and Dean Frierson allowed that I could audit the classes and take the exams in January and if I passed them then I could be considered a law school student. Many in the class furnished me their notes, most notably John West. By January the 17th I was through the first semester and by May already through the first year. John and I and others marched on the legislature so that we veterans could continue in the summer and by August the

following year I was through a 3-year course in less than 2 years. But I couldn't keep up with John. He was in a bigger rush, passing the bar exam before graduation, teaching at the university and forming a law partnership.

I used to kid him that I was catching up when in one election he was running for the State Senate and I was running for Lieutenant Governor. I carried Kershaw County by 1,200 votes and he became the Kershaw County Senator by three. John was more or less my lawyer when I was Governor. As a young Governor I needed help. My strong suit was that I knew the general assembly intimately, having been the presiding officer in both houses, so I had a three-man committee in the house with Floyd Spence, Rex Carter and Bob McNair, and a three-man committee on the senate side with Billy Goldberg, Marshall Parker and John West. West was astute and could immediately point the conflicts in a different way to get things done. This house-senate group would, off the record, vet all of my initiatives. Working together, most all of them got done and not a single veto was overridden in that 4-year period.

When West ran for Governor, South Carolina faced its toughest and most heated political choice. The school discrimination decision had hit with full force and so had racial politics. The school busses were being overturned. I had already been elected twice to the U.S. Senate and so I could give my schoolhood friend some help. South Carolina was lucky that John West became the Governor. He didn't mind using his political capital to get things done. John moved immediately to set a course for racial harmony in South Carolina with the appointment of James Clyburn as the head of the Human Relations Committee. The Clyburn decisions on the most sensitive situations had the full force and support of Governor West. A new day and a new direction for the State was set. The same was true with labor. A flood of industry had commenced by 1971 and the resistance of national labor was hitting the work force and communities of the State. Again, Governor West responded with the appointment of Ed McGowan, backing him up 100 percent. In the field of mental health, Governor West again set the tone and direction of mental illness treatment in South Carolina. Working with his brilliant wife, Lois, the cottage system in mental health clinics was launched, which today still makes South Carolina a forerunner in mental illness treatment.

But I guess it was John's appointment as Ambassador to Saudi Arabia that brought out the unique combination of personality and brilliance. I know the Arabs I—invaded Algeria and Tunisia in World War II and the tribal way of life was next to impossible. To form national policy and protect the United States interests with one of these countries isn't easy. The King-

dom felt that not only was John West close to President Carter, but he was almost family. He handled the knottiest problems with the greatest of ease. I used to kid him on several occasions, as he handled difficult problems, that that was the Arab blood in him.

At the end of all these important political offices John didn't retire. He maintained a vital interest in everything effecting the State of South Carolina. Like me, many would continue to call on him to see what John thought about a situation and he readily gave of his time and leadership. He had instituted a Chair in International Studies at the Citadel, continued to instruct political science at the University of South Carolina and on national problems was always conversant and wise. Many at home didn't realize the events of Washington, but John was my best read friend as well as my best friend. The truth is, he is the best friend that South Carolina ever had.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CLINT D. FERRIN, U.S. ARMY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, some ask what is the hardest duty that a Senator faces. This is that task. Today, I rise with heavy heart to pay tribute to another son of Utah who has made the ultimate sacrifice so that others may be free. This patriot's name was SSG Clint Ferrin, he was a member of the elite, the 82nd Airborne Division. To all that knew him he exceeded, in every way, his division's motto: He was truly an "All American."

We, the citizens of the State of Utah, had the privilege of knowing Sergeant Ferrin as he grew up in Garland and Ogden. His commitment to service started at a young age when he became an Eagle Scout. That commitment to service, to helping others and truly making a difference was reflected in his choice to become a soldier. But he was not just a soldier, he was a paratrooper, knowing full well that when a challenge faced our Nation he would be one of the first to be called. This was reflected in where he served: Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, Africa, and finally Iraq.

These will be trying times for his wife, his son, age 7, and his daughter, age 3. But they should know this: though we can do little to alleviate your loss, we will always honor Sergeant Ferrin, he was a true "All-American" and a hero when his Nation needed them most.

And so, another name has been added to Utah's List of Honor: SSG Clint D. Ferrin of the Army's 82 Airborne Division. His name and the service he performed is something that I shall never forget. I shall always honor him and his family.

RICHARD BRIAN WILSON

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a departing staff

member who has worked with me in my Washington office for the last 5 years. Richard Brian Wilson, who has served as my legislative assistant, is departing my staff this week to return home to Mississippi. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedicated serve and to wish him the very best as he pursues new career opportunities.

Those who know Brian know of his keen interest in State and local politics. A native of Macon, MS, he has been involved in politics since high school. In fact, his fellow staff members have jokingly referred to him as a "walking encyclopedia of Mississippi politics." I have no doubt this expertise will serve him well as he returns home to Mississippi.

Brian graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History. Throughout his tenure at Ole Miss he was involved in numerous extracurricular activities where his leadership abilities became apparent. For instance, he served as Vice President of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, Student Body Vice President, and Student Body Senator. In recognition of his contributions to the university, I understand Brian was once named Student Body Senator of the Year. He also spent a great deal of time during his college years volunteering on political campaigns throughout the State.

During the fall of 1998, Brian served as an intern in the district office of Congressman Chip Pickering. Immediately following his internship, in January 1999, Brian came to work for me in my Washington office. Throughout his service on my staff, Brian has grown in his ability to help me service my constituents and address a wide variety of needs and issues for Mississippians. He has handled issues ranging from appropriations to homeland defense, as well as environment and public works, agriculture, natural resources and interior, small business, rural development, and Indian affairs. Through his work on appropriations bills, such as Energy and Water Development, Agriculture, Interior, and VA-HUD, Brian has helped me steer millions of dollars in Federal funding to large and small communities all across Mississippi. In the process, we have improved infrastructure, created hope and opportunity in communities where none existed before, and provided a better quality of life for Mississippians throughout the State.

For example, Brian has helped me secure Federal funds to improve water and wastewater systems in areas of Mississippi, such as DeSoto County, Jackson County, Fayette County, the city of Gulfport, Hancock County, and Madison County. He has worked to improve the infrastructure at our State's ports including the Port of Pascagoula and the State port at Gulfport. He was instrumental in helping me secure the initial funding for an environmental