

from the NATO-led peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. His future National Security Advisor Dr. Rice echoed this misguided notion in a newspaper interview. The following spring, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, flying in the face of all objective evidence, declared that the problem of Bosnia had been settled three or four years earlier. Even in this body resolutions for withdrawal of U.S. forces were periodically submitted, but, I am happy to say, rejected.

Now we are waging war, attempting to quell resistance movements in Afghanistan and Iraq. We all know that our armed forces are stretched perilously thin, and obviously some troop adjustments have had to be made. U.S. forces in Bosnia have been reduced to little more than one thousand, or about 5 percent of their initial strength. Later this year NATO will turn over command of SFOR to the European Union, although some American troops will remain at our base in Tuzla, at the request of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Let me repeat that for my colleagues: the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the representatives of all three major groups—the Bosnian Muslims, Serbs, and Croats—concurring, requested that American troops stay on in Bosnia after the EU takes command of the peacekeeping force. The fact is that the United States has stature unequalled in that part of the world perhaps even higher in Kosovo than in Bosnia.

As in SFOR, we have drastically reduced our troop strength in KFOR. Given the events of the past few weeks, we dare not reduce it further. KFOR troops played a key role in quelling the Kosovo violence. I am told that of the various national contingents, American KFOR troops especially distinguished themselves.

Further proof of the Bush administration's downgrading the importance of the region was its abolishing the position of Special Coordinator for the Balkans. This position should be reinstated and filled by a senior career diplomat with extensive experience in Balkan affairs.

This new Special Coordinator should immediately engage the political leadership in Pristina and Belgrade in serious dialogue. I do not want to prejudge what the final international legal status of Kosovo will be, although I cannot imagine that Kosovo will ever revert to direct control from Belgrade. Whatever the end result, direct negotiations between Pristina and Belgrade must be an integral part of the process. No other path would stand the test of time.

The United States was Serbia's ally in two world wars in the first half of the twentieth century. The United States is revered by Kosovar Albanians as their savior from the recent tyranny of Slobodan Milosevic. We have earned a credibility that no other country, or group of countries, possesses.

This administration should utilize this unique position, in coordination with other members of the contact group, to jumpstart the process of creating a safe, prosperous, democratic, multi-ethnic Kosovo.

#### GREY BERETS RISKED ALL IN IRAQ WAR

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, we have all heard the expression that "knowledge is power." At no time is this more true than when we are at war. Our military uses satellites, reconnaissance aircraft, remote sensing devices, and long-range patrols to learn where the enemy is, what he is doing, and how we can kill him.

But there is another type of knowledge which is just as essential if we are to be successful in combat. The side which knows and understands the weather the best has a large advantage.

Now, I know some may reply that we do not need to be concerned about the weather. We have smart bombs, stealth fighters and guided missiles. We have sensing devices which let us see in the darkness. But despite this high technology, we still have to give Mother Nature her due. Rain, clouds and low visibility can still ground aircraft or hamper operations. High temperatures affect men and equipment. Dust storms can rapidly render sophisticated machines and electronics unusable.

Our troops faced many weather extremes as we prepared for the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom a year ago. Extreme heat, thunderstorms, and dust storms all threatened operations. To learn more about Iraq's weather and to gather the data necessary to predict, if possible, weather patterns in that country, a group of brave meteorologists dropped behind enemy lines. They fed their information to the Air Force's 28th Operational Weather Squadron, known as "The Hub."

As detailed in a special being carried by the Weather Channel, the United States Air Force dropped its Special Operations Forces Weathermen, known as the "Grey Berets," behind enemy lines weeks before the beginning of armed conflict. The Grey Berets took exceptional risks to gather the data necessary for our Army, Navy and Air Force to conduct operations. For example, 5 days before the land invasion started, Grey Beret Sgt Charles Rushing waded ashore to gather information on fog, surf, and currents to enable a helicopter assault team to successfully seize key Iraqi refineries on the Al-Faw peninsula before Iraqi troops blew them up.

After the war began, the Hub reported on the biggest dust storm to hit the region in 30 years. The storm, covering over 300 miles, shredded tents and clogged engines and lungs. To the north, the storm created other problems, by dumping snow and sleet on Bashur Airport, the target of the most ambitious combat paratroop assault since World War II. The 173d Airborne

brigade was flying toward a mountainous drop zone while Cpt John Roberts, chief Grey Beret weather forecaster, had to make a call on whether the weather would lift long enough for 1,000 paratroopers to safely make their jump.

The actions and decisions of these two men are just two examples where our Grey Berets helped ensure the success of our troops. There are many, many more.

Mr. President, I commend the Grey Berets for their heroism and professionalism and their contributions to our armed services. I also thank the Weather Channel for bringing their achievements to wider public notice.

#### S. 275, THE PROFESSIONAL BOXING AMENDMENTS ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has agreed by unanimous consent to pass S. 275, the Professional Boxing Amendments Act of 2004 (Act). I would like to thank the bill's cosponsors, Senators STEVENS, DORGAN, and REID for their commitment to professional boxing and the warriors who sustain the sport.

This amendment is designed to strengthen existing Federal boxing laws by making uniform certain health and safety standards, establishing a centralized medical registry to be used by local commissions to protect boxers, reducing arbitrary practices of sanctioning organizations, and providing uniformity in ranking criteria and contractual guidelines. It also would establish a Federal entity, the United States Boxing Commission—USBC—to promulgate minimum uniform standards for professional boxing and enforce Federal boxing laws.

Over the past 7 years, the Commerce Committee has taken action to address the problems that plague the sport of professional boxing. The committee has already developed two Federal boxing laws that have been enacted, the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, and the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act of 2000. These laws established minimum uniform standards to improve the health and safety of boxers, and to better protect them from the often coercive, exploitative, and unethical business practices of promoters, managers, and sanctioning organizations. While these laws have had a positive impact on professional boxing, the sport remains beset by a variety of problems, some beyond the scope of local regulation.

Promoters continue to steal fighters from each other, sanctioning organizations make unmerited ratings changes without offering adequate explanations, promoters refuse to pay fighters who have put their lives on the line, local boxing commissions fail to ensure the protection of boxers' health and safety, boxers are contractually and financially exploited, and the list continues. Most recently, we have learned of a federal law enforcement

investigation that reportedly may yield a dozen or more indictments for charges of fight fixing.

All too often my office receives a call from a parent whose child was killed in a match asking why proper medical or safety precautions were not taken by the local commission with jurisdiction, or from a boxer who has worked tirelessly to escape poverty, only to find themselves subject to the exploitation of the unscrupulous few who control the sport.

Professional boxing is the only major sport in the United States that does not have a strong, centralized association or league to establish and enforce uniform rules and practices. There is no widely established union of boxers, no collective body of promoters or managers, and no consistent level of regulation among state and tribal commissions. Due to the lack of uniform business practices or ethical standards, the sport of boxing has suffered from the physical and financial exploitation of its athletes.

The General Accounting Office confirmed in a July 2003 report on professional boxing regulation that, because professional boxing is regulated predominantly on a state-by-state basis, there is a varying degree of oversight depending on the resources and priorities of each state or tribal commission. The report also indicates that the lack of consistency in compliance with Federal boxing law among state and tribal commissions "does not provide adequate assurance that professional boxers are receiving the minimum protections established in Federal law."

The consequences of this vacuum of effective public or private oversight has led to decades of scandals, controversies, unethical practices, and far too many unnecessary deaths in professional boxing. Yet another tragic, but precise example, of poor local regulation occurred just last year in Utah where a 35-year-old boxer collapsed and died in a boxing ring. The young man should never have been allowed to participate in the bout given that he had suffered 25 consecutive losses over a three-year period leading up to the fight, including a loss only one month earlier to the same opponent against whom he was fighting when he died. While tragic in its own right, this is merely one in a seemingly endless series of incidents that continue to occur as a direct result of inadequate state regulation.

This measure would improve existing boxing law, and also establish the USBC. The primary functions of the commission would be to protect the health, safety, and general interests of boxers. More specifically, the USBC would, among other things: administer Federal boxing laws and coordinate with other federal agencies to ensure that these laws are enforced; oversee all professional boxing matches in the United States; and work with the boxing industry and local commissions to improve the status and standards of

the sport. The USBC also would maintain a centralized database of medical and statistical information pertaining to boxers in the United States that would be used confidentially by local commissions in making licensing decisions.

There has been quite a bit of confusion among local boxing commissions regarding the effect that this bill would have on them. Let me be clear. The purpose of the USBC would not be intended to micro-manage boxing by interfering with the daily operations of local boxing commissions. Instead, the USBC would work in consultation with local commissions, and only exercise its authority should reasonable grounds exist for intervention.

The problems that plague the sport of professional boxing compromise the safety of boxers and undermine the credibility of the sport in the public's view. This bill is urgently needed to provide a realistic approach to curbing such problems.

Mr. DORGAN. I am pleased to support with my colleague, Senator MCCAIN, the Professional Boxing Amendments Act of 2003.

This is an issue that we have now been examining for some time, and I am pleased that the Senate is moving this legislation forward.

The Senate Commerce Committee had the opportunity over the past years to spend time with figures such as Roy Jones Junior, Muhammad Ali, Bert Sugar, Lou Dibella, and Bernard Hopkins, and we heard some things that caused great concern.

I grew up as a boxing fan who wants to see the sport succeed, but I have worried about how the sport is doing, and I believe this legislation will take an important step.

Professional boxing is the only major sport in the United States that does not have a strong, centralized association or league to establish and enforce uniform rules and practices for its participants. There is no union, no organization that polices promoters or managers, and unfortunately no consistent level of state regulation among the state athletic commissions.

Part of the problem is the alphabet soup of 29 sanctioning bodies—all with different titles and rankings—and another part is a lack of faith that anyone, not the state commissions, managers or promoters are on the up and up.

I believe that a system based on state commissions alone just takes us to the lowest common denominator. We are in desperate need of some basic national standards and uniform enforcement.

There continue to be stories about how some people are exploiting the patchwork of federal and state boxing regulations to the detriment of boxers and their fans.

This manipulation is often tolerated, or tacitly permitted by the state boxing commissions, and too often current laws are rarely enforced by the state attorneys general, or the U.S. Attor-

ney's office who are too busy or just not interested.

This bill will create a United States Boxing Commission to oversee the sport. The federal Commission would have the responsibility to license promoters, managers, and sanctioning organizations. The Commission would be able to keep things in line by revoking or suspending licenses as situations warrant.

It is imperative that we establish this federal mechanism in order to protect not only the boxers, but also the overall integrity of the sport.

#### QUESTIONS ABOUT IRAQ AID REQUEST

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to discuss an issue concerning U.S. efforts to rebuild Iraq. Before I begin, however, I want to again recognize the bravery and sacrifices that are being made every day by Americans and Iraqis, and especially those who have been killed or wounded. There have been, almost daily, horrific, cowardly acts of terrorism, increasingly aimed at citizens. The appalling attacks this week, where the bodies of Americans were dragged through the streets, disgust and deeply sadden us all. My deepest condolences go out to the families and friends of those who have died.

Yesterday, the Inspector General of the Coalition Provisional Authority, CPA-IG, issued his first report on the reconstruction efforts in Iraq. I want to remind people that it was Senator FEINGOLD, and later in the process, Senator STEVENS, not the Bush administration, who worked hard to establish the CPA-IG office during the debate on the Iraq supplemental. I had the privilege of working with Senator FEINGOLD to help draft some of the provisions of his amendment, and he, along with Senators STEVENS, are to be commended for their leadership on this issue.

Page 33 of the CPA-IG's report contains a table, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

(See exhibit 1).

Mr. LEAHY. The information it contains concerns me, as it should every Senator. It shows that, as of February 29, 2004, nearly 4 months after President Bush signed the Iraq supplemental into law, only \$900 million of the \$18.4 billion appropriated for reconstruction programs has been obligated, less than 5 percent.

At a time when security is the most critical issue in Iraq, sadly demonstrated by this week's tragic attacks in which nine Americans were killed, the administration has obligated only \$292 million of the \$3.24 billion for "security and law enforcement," less than 10 percent of the total appropriated. This is money that is supposed to go for training a new Iraqi army and police force to reduce the risks to American soldiers and civilians working in