

I ask my colleagues to try to imagine this village we see in this picture completely submerged in water, completely covered in fetid, disease-ridden floodwater. Father Tom said you can no longer see the houses above the water. All you can see is part of a cistern from the water project we visited that day.

Clearly, the people of Haiti need our help, now more than ever. This bill today is taking a number of steps that will aid the Haitian people. I congratulate Senator MCCONNELL and Senator LEAHY, the chairman and ranking member, for their great work.

With this recent disaster, the needs of the people of Haiti—food, water, and medicine—will even be greater.

I thank all my colleagues who have been so supportive of the efforts to help bring Haiti back to its feet. I ask them today for their continued support. I ask everyone for their prayers as well. This is a very difficult situation that the people of Haiti face today. The situation Father Tom described is clearly one that necessitates the United States and the international community to become even more involved, to get food in there, to get good water in there, and then be involved in helping to rebuild, in helping these people put their lives back together.

OHIO FLOODING

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I want to also add that while there is a great deal of misery and suffering going on in Haiti right now because of the flooding, my home State of Ohio is also hurting. Several large regions of our State—the southern part, the eastern part—have also been very hard hit.

At least seven people we know of have died as a result of flooding since August. The hurricane has hit Ohio and has caused quite a toll. I will be traveling in some of that region in Ohio tomorrow to take a look myself. My representative Karen Sloan has been on the scene. She represents me out of my Marietta office, but she has been traveling throughout that region for a number of days and has been reporting back to me daily.

The people on the ground have been doing a great job, a courageous job. I congratulate them. It is going to take a lot of time to get things back up and running in a number of communities that have been hardest hit. I commend Governor Taft. I commend the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. I commend the men and women of the Ohio National Guard. I also commend the local officials who have worked so tirelessly, but also the countless volunteers and organizations who have worked to try to help the people who have been put out of their homes, people who have lost property, and people who have lost their loved ones. I congratulate them and thank them for the great work they have done. A lot of work still remains to be done in Ohio, as I know there does in many other States as well.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY STAFF SERGEANT PAUL MARDIS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I have come to the floor this afternoon to pay tribute to a man who gave his life in service to our Nation fighting to protect his family, his fellow soldiers, and the Iraqi people. He was a brave young man who was mature certainly beyond his years.

Army SSG Paul Mardis served in the Army's 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group based out of Fort Campbell, KY. He was seriously injured in May when he was in northern Iraq and a bomb exploded next to his Humvee. Paul was transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to recuperate. Although he fought valiantly to regain his strength, he came down with pneumonia and, tragically, his body was too weak to fight back. He passed away on July 15, 2004. He was only 25 years old.

Since his death, I have learned a lot about Paul Mardis. Perhaps most inspiring is that in his all too brief 25 years on this Earth, Paul lived life to the fullest. He accomplished many things of which people twice his age could only dream.

Paul was not someone who had things handed to him, either. His life was not always easy. He faced adversity early in his life, and even as a child he learned to cope better than most adults ever could. Paul's parents died when he was growing up. He was 10 when he lost his father and 14 when he lost his mother. If dealt that hand, many people might have become withdrawn and bitter, perhaps, but certainly not Paul. He continued to work hard at school, excel as a football player, and developed a level of maturity uncommon at any age.

Following the death of his parents, Paul went to live with his sister Sherri and her husband Tollison. Paul left the life he knew in Coshocton, OH, and moved to Florida. He finished high school there, graduating from Palmetto High in 1997. Though initially he did not want to make the move to Florida—I guess that is understandable with someone his age—Paul made the best of the situation and kept in touch with his friends in Coshocton, especially a young woman named Kacey, whom he would eventually marry in October of 2002.

After graduation, Paul attended Manatee Community College for a time. He knew he needed to earn more money to complete his college degree, so he decided to join the Army. Paul enlisted in September 1998 as an indirect fire infantryman, but he aspired to join the Special Operations Forces. He reached this goal when he became a Green Beret in 2001. SFC Don Kabrich, who served with Paul, once said that "Special Forces put our group through an assessment selection process. It's 3 weeks of circumstances and situations that take the cover off an individual, and you see who's inside. They found the best of the best in Paul."

One of the most impressive things about Paul was that if anyone had a

right to boast about his skills and accomplishments, it was certainly Paul Mardis. But he never did. He did not brag. He did not boast. He quietly went about his job—and doing it well, I might add.

Unbeknownst to his family, Paul had earned several awards in the short time he had been in the Army. He was awarded two Bronze Stars for Valor in Combat, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, a Purple Heart, and had successfully completed all the schools of the elite forces, including graduating with honors from basic airborne school. Despite the accolades, Paul remained modest. When a nurse called him a hero as he lay recovering in the hospital, Paul insisted that he was nothing special, that he was just doing his job. But, Mr. President, we know better.

Paul touched the lives of all those with whom he came in contact, including Iraqis whom he barely knew. When Baghdad fell, Paul was part of a Special Forces liaison to the emerging political parties. At age 24—24—he was actively working to restructure a foreign government, an amazing accomplishment for anyone, but particularly someone his age.

Although he had many professional successes, Paul cultivated personal relationships in the Army that were very dear to him. Paul's Army buddies fondly remember him. They liked to joke that he was an "organizational fanatic." After finding old receipts tucked away in a filing cabinet, Paul took it upon himself to reinvent his unit's filing system. SSG Mark Conant, Paul's comrade, commented:

I believe Paul has entered the pearly Gates of Heaven and relieved St. Peter of his duties to get people through the gates more efficiently.

Conant and others also described Paul as an asset to the team and as a great friend.

I had the privilege of meeting Paul's family and some of his friends. His sister Sherri remembered that Paul never did anything halfway. He always went above and beyond what was expected. This is undeniable. Paul answered our Nation's call to serve and did whatever was needed.

It is impossible to honor Paul the way he deserves. The nature of his sacrifice will not allow it. I know that my words must fall short and my words must be inadequate. With that in mind, though, I would like to conclude with the words of Paul's wife Kacey. She said this about her beloved husband:

Paul was a brave individual who put his life on the line so that we could be free. He loved his country, fellow soldiers, and believed in what he was doing. We can go to sleep at night knowing that the world is a safer place because of people like Paul who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country. He was a true American hero.

Though Paul Mardis never wanted to call himself a hero, he could not be more deserving of the title.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, this is the fourth floor statement I have made on the subject of intelligence reform. I have spoken previously about the history of our intelligence community, how did we get to where we are today. I have talked about the failures of the intelligence community to adapt after the end of the Cold War. And I have talked about the unfortunate lethargy with which both the current administration and, I must say, the Congress, have responded to the needs for much-needed reform of our intelligence agencies.

I must also express my gratitude for the excellent work of the independent 9/11 Commission. This Commission has built upon other sets of recommendations going back to the mid-1990s for the overhauling of our intelligence structure.

Today, I would like to spend a few minutes discussing the shape that I believe the organizational reform should take, and I would like to begin by briefly recalling the history of our modern Department of Defense.

The Defense Department evolution can be divided into three historic phases: first, pre-1947; second, 1947 through 1986; and, finally, 1986 until today.

In the first phase, the pre-1947 phase, practically going back to the birth of our Nation, we had independent services which had little coordination one with the other. The Navy had its own Cabinet level Secretary. The Army had its own Cabinet level Secretary.

The Army Air Corps, which was a product largely of the Second World War, was about to be spun off from the Army and almost certainly would have had its own bureaucratic structure. What avoided that from occurring was that Congress, at the insistence of President Harry Truman, stepped in, in 1947, with the National Security Act. This act created, among other things, the Department of Defense with a single civilian at the top and service chiefs reporting to that single Secretary at the top. That action did not end all rivalries and competition for budget dollars and prestige, but it helped.

However, there were dramatic instances of operational failures, includ-

ing the botched attempt to rescue hostages in Iran and the bombing of the Marine barracks in Lebanon and the problems which plagued the invasion of Grenada. All of these in their own way pointed to weaknesses in the structure that existed in the period from 1947 to 1986.

By 1986, Congress moved to address these concerns, the concerns that the services were not communicating well together or coordinating their activities toward common missions.

The Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 decentralized the military establishment and created joint operation commands based upon geography. The Joint Chiefs of Staff were given responsibility for planning and advising the civilian command structure on strategy. The joint commands have become very familiar to us all, and I might say, I am proud to say that three of these are based in my home State of Florida: the Southern Command in Miami, the Central Command, and the Special Operations Command in Tampa.

Goldwater-Nichols gave our Nation a much more effective mission-oriented warfighting machine. It is well recognized that this could not have happened had it been conducted under the centralized form of 1947.

The challenge today is, it took 39 years for the military to evolve from the centralized system of 1947 to the decentralized system of 1986. Using this analogy of our military command structure, I would suggest that our current intelligence community, the community of 2004, is in the pre-1947 state. I would further suggest that if this is the year to be "the 1947 for intelligence," we cannot wait 39 years to get it right with our intelligence community, that we cannot centralize the leadership of intelligence agencies under a new director of national intelligence and then wait for decades until we enact the equivalent of Goldwater-Nichols legislation for the decentralization of intelligence.

Given the threats we face around the world, it is urgent that in the same act that brings the intelligence agencies together—which are defined around functions—under a new director of national intelligence, that in that same legislation we need to lay out the plan for the most effective management of intelligence and collection and analysis in order to achieve the missions responding to the threats we have today.

At the very least, we should plant the seeds for the next necessary step—decentralization, jointness of effort among our intelligence agencies and personnel, and a mission-based orientation.

I would propose, as has the 9/11 Commission, that we empower the director of national intelligence to establish centers which are built not around regions of the world, as are our military commands, but around the threats to which our intelligence community must better understand and equip us to respond.

The 9/11 Commission recommended one such center, a center on counterterrorism. In the legislation that is currently being considered by the relevant committees in the Senate, there is a statutorily directed counterterrorism center. I am pleased that President Bush has now begun to provide, belatedly as it is, the creation of such a center by statute.

Other centers which should be authorized in this legislation but not specifically identified are those that focus on other challenges, challenges that we face today, challenges that we may face in the future.

For instance, I do not believe anyone in this Chamber would question the fact that we need to have a national intelligence center which focuses on how we are going to counter and combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We will probably also find that we need to have a center which focuses on financing, the financing of rogue states, the financing of terrorist organizations.

It is entirely possible that we will need to create centers to respond to threats that are defined by national boundaries or regions, such as the specific dangers posed by regimes in North Korea and Iran.

But most of the threats we now face do not lend themselves to geographic definitions. Just look at how al-Qaida has rejuvenated itself into so many decentralized parts of the world with such a flexible, nimble organizational structure, that we failed to wipe it out in Afghanistan, diverted our attention to Iraq, and have now allowed the enemy to become much more violent and effective.

The analogy that I have used is to that of a puddle of mercury. If you slam your fist into the mercury, it does not disappear. It becomes a thousand tiny blobs scattered over the tabletop. That is essentially what we have done to al-Qaida. We have slammed our fist into the puddle of mercury and now we are faced with literally hundreds of droplets around the world.

The key to this mission-based decentralization of intelligence, in my opinion, is that we must give the director of national intelligence the statutory authority to manage the community with flexibility and nimbleness so he or she can quickly establish new centers or modify existing centers as future threats emerge, just as Goldwater-Nichols has given that authority to the Secretary of Defense.

Again, there is an analogy in the Defense Department since Goldwater-Nichols. Originally, the countries of Syria and Lebanon were assigned to European Command because they were thought to be more relevant to European defense issues than the Middle East.

Recently, there has been a reorganization for those two countries, recognizing the fact of the threat they pose through such things as providing sanctuary to some of the major international terrorist groups, that it would