

over 100 helicopters since 9/11. Many of those lost helicopters have not been replaced. It took 4 years to replace the first helicopter that was lost in 2001. The Army has lost over 100 tanks and armored vehicles and over 1,000 vehicles since the start of the war.

Readiness trends for active units are falling, and nondeployed units are severely degraded.

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Nearly all of the nondeployed Army units are suffering degraded readiness, with unprecedented numbers of units reporting at the lowest levels of mission capability. Units preparing to deploy for Iraq are being issued equipment. In many cases this equipment arrives right before deployment. This limits the training opportunities for units returning to combat.

Regarding their pre-positioned equipment, let us speak about that. Much of it is no longer pre-positioned. Pre-positioned equipment stocks have been seriously depleted to support the war in Iraq.

Nearly 40 percent of the Marine Corps positioned to afloat ships have been downloaded. The Army plans to download one of the two afloat brigades to supply more equipment to Iraq. These afloat brigades are used to rapidly provide heavy combat equipment to contingency missions. Afloat brigades reduce deployment time from months to days. This plan is accepting significant strategic risk that will affect force protection capability.

Let us speak about the National Guard equipment. The National Guard only has about 34 percent of its equipment on hand, down from 75 percent of its requirement in 2001. The missing equipment that has been left in Iraq is transferred to units deploying to Iraq. According to the National Guard, reserve equipment for fiscal year 2007, the Army National Guard has been directed to transfer more than 75,000 pieces of equipment valued at \$1.7 billion to the Army to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

There is no plan to replace these items. This lack of equipment at home hinders the Guard's ability to train and adversely affects their ability to be comparable with active component units. Examples of shortages, the North Carolina 30th Brigade Combat Team returned from Iraq in 2005. The unit had left 229 HUMVEES or 73 percent of its predeployment inventory of those vehicles in Iraq.

Regarding repairing all of this damage, it is costly. The Army has at least a \$36 billion bill to repair and replace equipment. In fiscal year 2006, the Army will spend \$13.5 billion this year to repair and replace battle damage and losses from Iraq.

This isn't a full accounting of all losses, because some items such as helicopters, cannot be replaced because they are no longer in production.

The Army estimates that \$17 billion will be required for 2007. If the war in

Iraq ended today, the Army would require 2 years of supplemental appropriations for somewhere between \$24 and \$36 billion. Unfortunately, it will take much more than 2 years to repair or replace that equipment. The Army will not be made whole again for many years.

General Hagee of the Marine Corps reported that it has taken 2 years to produce replacement light armored vehicles from placement of the order until delivery. Army modernization and transformation has slowed due to funding pressures of the war in Iraq. Depots are not operating at full capacity. They are capable of producing 57 million hours of direct labor but are currently estimated at providing about 19 million hours of labor.

According to the Army's Tank and Automotive Command, the Army cannot afford to do full overhauls on its ground equipment and has made a decision to perform reduced scope repairs.

By the way, the Marine Corps has incurred a bill of some \$12 billion to date to reset its equipment.

In 2006, 19 brigade combat teams will return from Iraq. Their equipment is some 600 combat vehicles, 30,000 wheeled vehicles and 615 aircraft, and they will require 24 million hours of direct labor or repair. This will be quite a challenge for the Army, considering that the Army has still not repaired all of the vehicles deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom, which returned home in 2004.

By the way, the Marine Corps has determined that equipment deployed to air has suffered such significant damage and wear and tear and that 80 percent of it will need to be replaced.

Regarding the budget pressures affecting everything in the Department of Defense, it goes to make up for budget shortfalls.

The Army reduced its base operation support budget. Some of the cuts, such as cuts to childcare facilities, directly affect military quality of life and make it more difficult for already stressed military families to get by.

The Navy only partially funded its deployed steaming days in the President's budget. The budget included a request for only 36 of the 51 required steaming days for Navy ships, a shortfall of \$120 billion.

The Navy ship program was underfunded. The shipping program was underfunded by the President's budget request by \$119 million this year, bringing the total deferred maintenance bill for Navy ships to \$240 million.

Army modernization is being slowed. The Air Force's fleet of aircraft is aging, and we are not replacing them fast enough. The average age for Air Force aircraft is over 23 years. Some aircraft are over 50 years old. Would one feel safe to be in a 50-year-old commercial airplane? Do we feel we want to have a 50-year-old plane defending our Nation?

Regarding readiness ratings, they continued to fall. Very few non-

deployed units here in the continental United States are rated fully mission capable. Readiness in Iraq remains high, but it is coming on the back of the reset of the Army and Marine Corps. Units in the continental United States are short of equipment having to get additional parts and are sending additional equipment into the fight.

Units are training for Iraq without all of their required equipment. They are getting well only upon arrival in Iraq.

Readiness within the force services is poor across the board, and it continues to trend down. Mostly, this is due to the equipment as well as personnel issues.

When asked if he was comfortable with the readiness of the Army outside of Iraq and Afghanistan, General Schoomaker, the Chief of Staff of the Army, replied no.

Why do I make these comments? Because, under the Constitution of the United States, it is up to us to raise and maintain the military, the wonderful military of the United States. I spoke mostly, of course, this evening about the Army, the United States Army, that magnificent institution whose history is that of protecting freedom; and so much glory is due to those that wore the uniform from the days of our Revolution down to today, and I am so proud of them.

But we in Congress need to take heed of the personnel challenges. We need to take heed of the equipment challenges. We need to do so, and I bring this to the attention of this body, because it is the right thing to do for our country and for the wonderful military and those who wear the uniform of our country.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GERLACH (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of inspecting flood damage in his district.

Mr. MANZULLO (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today until noon on account of family illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.
 Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
 Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. CONYERS, and to include therein extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost \$2,642.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S.J. Res. 40. Joint resolution authorizing the printing and binding of a supplement to, and revised edition of, Senate Procedure; to the Committee on House Administration.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 889. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2006, to make technical corrections to various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4912. An act to amend section 242 of the National Housing Act to extend the exemption for critical access hospitals under the FHA program for mortgage insurance for hospitals.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 440, 109th Congress, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 440, 109th Congress, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2006.

Thereupon (at 10 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 440, the House adjourned until Monday, July 10, 2006, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8333. A letter from the Senior Program Specialist, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Stamp Program; Employment and Training Program

Provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (RIN: 0584-AD32) received June 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8334. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Appeal Procedures (RIN: 0560-AG88) received June 9, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8335. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs (RIN: 0560-AH45) received June 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8336. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Grains and Similarly Handled Commodities-Marketing Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Payments for the 2006 Through 2007 Crop Years; Cotton (RIN: 0560-AH38) received June 13, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8337. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Emergency Conservation Program (RIN: 0560-AH43) received June 13, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8338. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Conservation Reserve Program—Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (RIN: 0560-AH44) received June 13, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8339. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pine Shoot Beetle; Additions to Quarantined Areas; Wisconsin [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0039] received June 2, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8340. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—States Approved to Receive Stallions and Mares from CEM-Affected Regions; Indiana [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0020] received June 20, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8341. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Fruits and Vegetables; Untreated Citrus from Mexico [Docket No. 03-048-3] received June 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8342. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Citrus Canker; Compensation for Certified Citrus Nursery Stock [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0033] (RIN: 0579-AC05) received June 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8343. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—National Organic Program—Revisions to Livestock Standards Based on Court Order (Harvey v. Johanns) and 2005 Amendment to the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) [Docket Number: TM-06-06-FR] (RIN: 0581-AC60) received June 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8344. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Melons Grown in South Texas; Termination of Marketing Order 979 [Docket No. FV06-979-1 FR] received June 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8345. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan; Redistricting [Doc. No. FV-05-704-IFR] received June 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8346. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Revision of Reporting and Assessment Requirements [Docket No. FV06-955-1 IFR] received June 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8347. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for a FY 2006 fully offset proposal to provide additional funds for the Information Technology Systems account within the Department of Veterans Affairs; (H. Doc. No. 109-120); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

8348. A letter from the Chief, Policy & Program Development Branch, CND, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Disregard of Overpayments in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program (RIN: 0584-AD68) received June 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8349. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program—Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs); Funding Priorities—received June 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8350. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Lakeview PM10 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request [EPA-R10-OAR-2006-0010; FRL-8179-5] received June 15, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8351. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; La Grande PM10 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request [EPA-R10-OAR-2006-0050; FRL-8179-6] received June 15, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8352. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Medford-Ashland PM10 Attainment Plan, Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request [EPA-R10-OAR-2006-0316; FRL-8175-7] received June 15, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

8353. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Outer Continental Shelf Air