

RECOGNIZING THE TOPOFF
EXERCISE IN GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to underline the importance of territories in Homeland Security operations. I commend the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recognizing the importance of United States territories to the defense of the homeland and including Guam as the first U.S. territory to actively partake in the Top Officials or TOPOFF exercise being held this year in Arizona, Oregon, and Guam from October 15th to the 24th.

The 106th Congress directed that TOPOFF exercises be conducted biennially. Originally the TOPOFF exercise was to be conducted by the Department of Justice but was transferred to the DHS on March 1, 2003 along with the Office for Domestic Preparedness. These operations are designed to improve the Nation's capacity to manage complex and extreme terrorist events.

TOPOFF exercises began in 2000 and took place in Denver, Colorado and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In focused on two different attacks one in each operational area including a bioterrorist attack and a chemical attack. TOPOFF 2 and 3 each incorporated lessons learned from the previous exercises and simulated different manmade and natural disaster events. Most recently, during TOPOFF 3 local, Federal and private sector organizations began to interface with international actors—a facet that is once again included in TOPOFF 4. Moreover, DHS has refined each subsequent exercise to reflect a more realistic scenario for local and Federal first responders.

TOPOFF 4 which begins today, October 15th, will be a 10-day exercise and will focus on five objective areas: prevention, intelligence and investigation, incident management, public information, and evaluation. The simulation will involve a series of radiological detonation devices, better known as “dirty bombs”, being simultaneously detonated in the participating regions and will involve the interaction of Federal, State, and Territorial officials along with international regional partners and private sector participants. The scenario though plausible is entirely fictional and is based on no specific military or government intelligence and has been tailored to ensure participants' specific training objectives are met.

I am encouraged that Guam will be included in TOPOFF 4 exercises. The inclusion of Guam in TOPOFF 4 adds a new layer of difficulty for national disaster planning and cooperation because it involves dealing with a massive event not in the continental United States. It also shows an underlying commitment by the U.S. government to the territories and their importance to maintain security for the entire Nation. Guam's participation in TOPOFF 4 exercises continues to demonstrate its strategic importance to overall U.S. security posture.

TOPOFF 4 will highlight the ability of Guam's local first responders to respond to a lethal radiological attack on Guam. I know that Guam's emergency first responders have been working closely with the Guam National Guard's 94th Civil Support Team in preparing

how to handle radiological release from a “dirty bomb”. It is this type of coordination at the local level that makes this exercise important and useful. The delayed Federal response following Hurricane Katrina reminds us that our local first responders must be ready and capable of responding to a variety of dangerous scenarios. The TOPOFF exercise is critical to helping our local first responders be prepared for events that are similar if not larger in scale to what happened during Hurricane Katrina so that we may be able to avoid the mistakes of the past and be more successful, as a nation and region, to responding to such catastrophes.

I commend the Department of Homeland Security in its choice to include Guam in the TOPOFF 4 exercise. The knowledge and experience gained from this experience will ultimately strengthen our national security. I also commend the Government of Guam and Federal officials on Guam who have worked very hard over the past several months in preparing for these exercises.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOULDER
CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce. The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce has been dedicated to serving the community of Boulder City since its founding in 1932. The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce meets the specific needs of its community members in acting as a tourism bureau, a convention bureau and a business promoter.

The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce is the voice of small business for the Boulder City establishments. The Chamber consists of 408 dues paying members. The logistical operations of the Chamber are run by only two employees and a vast team of active volunteers and ambassadors who contribute their time and energy to serve their community. The Chamber is governed by a Board of Directors who work in and with the community in order to better anticipate its needs.

The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce has always provided extensive services to its members as well as the entire city of Boulder City. They act as the voice of the community on both a statewide and national level. The Chamber also hosts several significant annual events which include Spring Jam and Hometown Christmas. These events are looked forward to yearly and happen because of the tireless and dependable efforts of the members of the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce. I would personally like to thank Jill Lagan and Goldie Begley for taking time out of their lives in order to come to Washington, D.C. Meeting with members of Congress and participating in the “Las Vegas Chamber Goes to Washington” event strengthens their status as pillars of the community. The dedication and service of the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce should set an example for all businesses and members of the community alike.

I applaud all their efforts and look forward to watching their future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BERNARD SLIGER

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Bernard F. Sliger, Ph.D., who served as Florida State University's President from 1977 to 1991.

Dr. Sliger will be remembered for his outstanding academic service to the university, as well as for his commitment to FSU's students. During his tenure, student enrollment at Florida State increased by nearly one-third. Dr. Sliger was especially proud to establish the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering and to initiate the Panama City Campus.

Dr. Sliger also led the university to its prominent rise in intercollegiate athletics. Under his leadership, Florida State University decided to join the Atlantic Coast Conference. As a 1990 graduate and former student-athlete at Florida State, I am proud and thankful for these achievements.

His colleagues remember Dr. Sliger for his easygoing nature and love for his school and his students. I will always remember the annual ice cream socials at his residence that brought together students, faculty, and administrators. It was considered one of the highlights of the year among students.

Dr. Sliger is survived by his wife, Greta, and four children, and I want to commend Dr. Sliger in their honor for his noble service to Florida State University.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL
TERRY S. ROBINSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Terry S. Robinson and congratulate him upon his retirement. Colonel Robinson has committed his life to serving others. He served over 26 years in the Air Force and has held numerous positions at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Program in Las Vegas over the past 12 years.

Colonel Terry Robinson was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He remained in Ohio to continue his formal education and received his Bachelor's and Masters Degrees in Psychology. Upon graduation from college, Mr. Robinson joined the U.S. Air Force to fulfill his military obligation. Determined and dedicated to achievement while serving his country, he stayed in until he earned the rank of full colonel. Upon retirement from the United States Air Force, Colonel Robinson began working at the Nevada Power Company supervising their security forces as the Chief of Security and acting as a consultant to ensure a safe working environment for all employees and customers.

Colonel Robinson began serving specialized needs of the citizens of Nevada when he began with the Salvation Army Rehabilitation

Program as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor. He advanced to Clinical Supervisor and he worked his way up to his current position of Clinical Program Director from which he is retiring.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Colonel Terry S. Robinson who has served the citizens of the State of Nevada diligently. His commitment to his work in facilitating and supervising the assistance of the people in Nevada is valued and should be applauded by all. I would like to thank him for his military and civilian service and wish him well upon his retirement.

MEJA EXPANSION AND
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JANIS D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Virginia has offered a motion to recommit H.R. 2740, the MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act, to the Judiciary Committee and to modify the legislation with regard to intelligence activities. I will support this motion to recommit, but wish to clearly state my understanding of the motion.

The motion to recommit would amend H.R. 2740 with a rule of construction, stating, "nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect in-

telligence activities that are otherwise permissible prior to the enactment of this Act." This amendment does not change the force of the legislation, does not limit the scope of the MEJA jurisdiction, and does not grant immunity to anyone, including contractor employees of the intelligence community. I am voting in support of this motion because it simply restates existing law.

Mr. Price's legislation would place contractor employees of non-defense related agencies under the extraterritorial jurisdiction of United States federal law, granting the Department of Justice authority to prosecute felony offenses committed by non-defense contractors. The motion to recommit restates what the underlying bill requires—that intelligence activities are subject to the requirements of MEJA. Nothing in this motion to recommit or the legislation should ever be construed to authorize, condone or legitimize the abuse of prisoners during detention or interrogations. It is with this understanding alone that I support this motion to recommit.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROB WIGTON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rob Wigton, the incoming President of the Nevada Association of REALTORS.

Mr. Wigton's career as a realtor started in 1995 when he began working at CENTURY 21 Clark Properties. In his first three years, he became one of the company's top producing agents. Then in 1998, he was offered an opportunity to purchase an interest with the company. In 2000, he joined Patty Clark and Shele Pandl and built an 18,000 square foot "Real Estate Mall" which housed many necessary services in real estate such as sales and property management, mortgage brokerage, and homeowner's insurance. This innovative idea has become a model in the real estate industry and remains one of the most ground-breaking ideas in Nevada real estate today.

Mr. Wigton has been actively involved in his local realtor board, serving as the chair of multiple committees and as the president of the board. He has also been actively involved in the Sierra Nevada Association of REALTORS and the Nevada Association of REALTORS.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Rob Wigton. His hard work and dedication to the Nevada REALTORS Association is to be admired, and I wish him well in his upcoming term as President.