

Our Nation's health care system is complex and people with all types of needs are greatly served by caring, qualified, and professional nurses. They are integral to our Nation's health care delivery system. Nurses are advocates and health educators for patients, families, and communities. Nurses are also experienced researchers, and their work encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research.

Despite the excellent care that nurses provide, unfortunately, there is a shortage of nurses in our country which must be addressed. Minnesota—like much of the United States—is on the verge of a serious shortage of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses that affects patients, health care facilities, businesses, and the entire community. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) projects that the current 10 percent vacancy rate in registered nurses will grow to 36 percent by 2020, representing more than one million unfilled jobs.

In addition, there are less than 20,000 full time faculty to train nurses in this country, and nearly 2,000 full time faculty members leave their positions each year. Thus, we need to address the shortage of nurse faculty to help nursing schools expand student capacity and increase the nursing workforce. I was also pleased to support the Nurse Reinvestment Act which established a Nursing Faculty Loan Program and Nurse Service Scholarship program.

An aging workforce, stagnant graduation trends, and greater employment demand have left our Nation's hospitals critically understaffed. I believe we need measures to help address workforce issues to help retain nurses in the profession and allow nurses to be the professionals that they are. Providing individuals interested in nursing with the training and tools they need must be a top priority, and I will continue to support those efforts.

Nurses provide outstanding health care services in our community, and I look forward to continuing to support the work of nurses who devote themselves to making such a difference in our lives. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill to recognize National Nurses Week.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, under Clause 9 of Rule XXI, I submit for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a list of earmarks which I have obtained in H.R. 5658, the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act.

(1) Project Name: UML UAV/UAS Test Facility.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: RDT&E, Defensewide, Line 193.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Oklahoma State University—University Multispectral Laboratories (OSU-UML).

Address of Requesting Entity: 1000 South Pine (Research East), P.O. Box 1902, Ponca City, OK 74602.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$8,000,000 to establish a National Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/System (UAV/S) Test Facility adjacent to restricted Fort Sill, Oklahoma airspace on behalf of the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Approximately \$4,400,000 (or 55%) is for material, engineering support, range equipment and renovations, along with \$3,600,000 (or 45%) is for the creation of new, high-technology jobs consisting of technicians, engineers and scientists. The USSOCOM Program Manager, Special Applications For Contingencies (SAFC), requires greater access to test ranges where less restrictive UAV/S test flights may occur. Established by the OSU University Multispectral Laboratories (UML), this facility provides unique opportunity to conduct UAV/S flight testing while remaining within restricted airspace where UAV flights are exempt from FAA regulations. A wide variety of UAV/S testing, fully coordinated with Army authorities, becomes possible for all government entities. This facility also supports the Army Fires Center of Excellence and fosters a positive economic impact on the surrounding areas.

(2) Project Name: Joint Fires & Effects Training System (JFETS).

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army, RDT&E, Line 38.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Institute for Creative Technologies.

Address of Requesting Entity: 13274 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292, USA.

Description of Request: Provides \$6.5 million for the Joint Fires and Effects Training System (JFETS). JFETS at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, a collaborative effort between the University of Southern California Institute for Creative Technologies and the United States Army Field Artillery School, has grown from a concept demonstration to three fully functional prototype training installations since its inception in 2003. Short of combat, JFETS creates a realistic, stressful, and demanding experience for soldiers undergoing training in the synchronization of fires and effects. To date, more 5,000 soldiers have been trained in the JFETS Urban Terrain Module, the Open Terrain Module, and the Close Air Support Module.

Joint Fires Observation skills are perishable. The capability to refresh these skills frequently, in a time and cost effective manner, and across the U.S. Army, USAF, and U.S. Navy, will make the U.S. military a more integrated and effective fighting force. The enhancement of the Joint Fires Effects Trainer System (JFETS) will provide this.

Budget and timeline for FY 09 JFETS request.

JFETS:

Salaries & Wages—\$2,478,361

Materials & Supplies—\$797,348

Travel—\$34,902

Subcontracts—\$2,879,865

Fees—\$309,524

Total Project Cost—\$6,500,000

This will be executed in FY 09.

(3) Project Name: Call for Fire Trainer II/ Joint Fires and Effects Trainer System.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Other Procurement, Army, Line 169.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "Techrizon, Inc."

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 SW "C" Avenue; Lawton, OK 73507.

Description of Request: This request is for the continued research, development, technological improvements, and day to day training operations of the JFETS portion of the US Army's Can for Fire Trainer (CFFT) II at Fort Sill, OK. With an earmark of \$4,000,000, approximately, \$1,600,000 [40%] is for operations and maintenance of existing modules; and \$2,400,000 [60%] is for the construction of additional modules to accommodate increased workload and student throughput in conjunction with BRAC-related expansion of Fort Sill. While JFETS/CFFT II is an Army approved program of record, funds for these essential functions are not addressed in the approved Capabilities Production Document (CPD). The requested funding will enable procurement of additional JFETS modules which will be placed in an authorized Simulations Center scheduled for construction in FY10.

(4) Project Name: Infrared Materials Laboratories.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Navy, RDT&E, Line 7.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "Ame-thyst Research Inc."

Address of Requesting Entity: 2610 Sam Noble Parkway, Ardmore, OK 73401USA.

Description of Request: I received an earmark of \$3,000,000 for advanced infrared systems development. Specifically, \$2,097,900 is for research, development, testing and evaluation: \$737,100 is for research equipment lease, and \$165,000 is for building lease. This project has the support of key officials within the Department of Defense and within the U.S. suppliers of key defense-related technologies to the U.S. Government. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the ONR, RDTE, N account. While not required to do so, the State of Oklahoma and the host community City of Ardmore have committed non-federal dollars toward this national priority.

(5) Project Name: Excalibur, Proj 155 MM Extended Range XM982.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Army, Ammunition Procurement, Line 017.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Raytheon Company.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1151 East Hermans Road, Tucson, AZ 85706.

Description of Request: Excalibur is a funded program of record and receives procurement funding from the U.S. Army and Marine Corps as well as through Foreign Military Sales. The Army has a stated requirement of 30,000 rounds, and the current program, through FY13, funds only 5720 rounds.

In March 2005, the Army approved Excalibur as the materiel solution to respond to an Urgent Needs Statement for precision cannon munitions in Iraq. The additional procurement funding will support wartime requirements, stabilize the production profile of the program, and continue efforts to reduce unit cost. Quantities to be procured are dependent upon final negotiations with the program office as well as the total amount of the contract, but will be

generally consistent with All Up Round costs in FY07 and FY08.

(6) Project Name: Realign Air Depot Street at Tinker Gate.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Air Force, Military Construction, Oklahoma.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Office of Congressman TOM COLE.

Receiving Entity: Tinker AFB.

Address of Requesting Entity: Tinker AFB, 7751 1st St, Tinker AFB, OK 73145.

Description of Request: This \$5,760,000 addition to the Air Force MilCon Account will accelerate from within the FYDP the realignment of Air Depot Street at Tinker Gate. This project is fully executable in the next fiscal year, is within the FYDP, supported by the base commander, is a base priority, and has a parametric cost estimate associated with it. The existing roadway alignment poses a safety issue and does not satisfy the Anti-Force/force protection requirements. It is not in compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices—extreme congestion during morning and afternoon peak traffic flows presents significant driver safety issues as exits are made from a major Interstate onto the entrance to Tinker AFB. The project also provides for a new Pass and Identification building consolidating all operations at the 24-hour gate.

#### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman LAMAR SMITH.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Department of Defense, Air Force RDT&E (R-1 Line #18).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Texas Research Institute.

Address of Requesting Entity: 9063 Bees Cave Road, Austin, Texas 78732.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,000,000 for the Air Force's "Improved Inspection Reliability for Optimized Maintenance Program." Regularly scheduled nondestructive inspection (NDI) and maintenance of Air Force aircraft requires that these key assets are removed from service for extended periods of time in addition to routine maintenance issues. This program will develop and validate model-based approaches to the measurement of inspection reliability, and data mining methods to assure continued performance over time in Air Force field and depot inspections. This will result in improved confidence in the reliability of NDI to assess damage without costly and time-consuming maintenance will increase availability and reduce maintenance costs over current practices. This one time program of \$2M will use \$1.7M for the development and testing of the systems and the remaining \$300K will be used for required reports. As the Air Force is scheduled to decrease in manpower over the FYDP it is critical that those in the Air Force will have the tools and equipment to do complete their jobs. This project

fully supports the 2008 Air Force Strategic Plan which calls for "Smart Operations across the total Air Force" and specifically calls for "Efficient processes free up resources for recapitalization and modernization, increase the availability of our aircraft by reducing the time they are in Depot"—This effort is termed Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO21).

#### RECOGNIZING THE FINE WORK OF U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR BUFFALO AND NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK (MAY 17-23, 2008)

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Safe Boating Week to recognize the fine work of the men and women in the United States Coast Guard and particularly the many contributions of those in USCG Sector Buffalo.

Commissioned on July 22, 2005 as a merger of the Group Buffalo, Marine Safety Office Buffalo and Marine Safety Office Cleveland commands, Sector Buffalo covers a large area of responsibility including Lake Erie from Lorain, Ohio to Buffalo, New York, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, the Erie Canal, and the St. Lawrence Seaway to Massena, New York.

Sector Buffalo provides many services to our region including: Search and rescue, homeland security, law enforcement, aids-to-navigation, recreational boating safety, marine environmental response, and Immigrations and Customs.

On Saturday, May 17, 2008, under the direction of Coast Guard Commander Captain Scott J. Ferguson, Sector Buffalo held their first annual East Great Lakes Water Safety Expo. According to national statistics, 700 people drown each year from recreational boating accidents—10 percent of these victims fail to wear a life jacket. Through Sector Buffalo's public outreach event, the Coast Guard spread the message about boating safety and the importance of life jackets to hundreds of Western New York residents.

The Coast Guard has been a presence in Western New York since 1818, beginning with the construction of the Buffalo Lighthouse.

Sector Buffalo currently occupies approximately 31 acres on the City of Buffalo's Outer Harbor. The Coast Guard has indicated that Sector Buffalo occupies a site that is too large for its needs and drew up a preliminary plan to upgrade facilities—some of which are over 70 years old—and consolidate them in a way that would meet its operational needs, allow for future growth and open up public access to the historic lighthouse and valuable waterfront land.

For the last 90 years the U.S. Coast Guard has honorably served our waterfront community. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize Sector Buffalo's efforts to raise public awareness this week, National Safe Boating Week, and their many contributions protecting people along our waterways and serving as a committed community partner each and every week for the last ten decades.

THE DAILY 45: FAR ROCKAWAY

#### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Last Saturday, May 17, Brandon Bethea, a 15-year-old Jamaica girl was fatally shot on a Far Rockaway, New York street corner. She was shot while standing with a crowd near the Redfern Housing Projects.

Then, 2 days later and a half-mile away, while police investigated Brandon's killing, 17-year-old Tyrese Jones was gunned down in front of a local restaurant.

Two more young people, gone before they could even graduate from high school. And on both of these days, 44 other people were shot. Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

#### RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CLUB

SPEECH OF

#### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Congressional Club on the occasion of their Founder's Day Celebration and their 100th anniversary. I am grateful to the Congressional Club for embracing my family since I was elected to the House in 1994. It has played such an important role in our lives that my wife, Vicki Holland Tiaht, served as president of the Club in 2005 and 2006, and remains very involved. This organization, founded in 1908 by a unanimous act of Congress, has provided a setting for bipartisan friendships for 100 years. The only club to be commissioned by an act of Congress, the bill was signed by Teddy Roosevelt, who knew the value of a loving wife. When his wife passed away, President Roosevelt lamented, "The light has gone out of my life."

It was so wise for Congress in 1908 to form the Congressional Club for wives. While never receiving any tax dollars or public money, and governed by a bipartisan board, the Congressional Club has remained a home away from home for spouses, a safe place for sharing the trials of public life, and for developing bipartisan friendships that encourage civility and good will in government. The membership and relationships extend to the administration of the White House and the Supreme Court.

A clubhouse was built in 1914 at 2001 New Hampshire Avenue, in Northeast (Washington). The land was donated by Mary Foote Henderson and chosen because the women could look south down 16th Street and see the White House. Immediately, embassies began building in that area in order to be close to the Congressional Club. The Club has been a good neighbor for nearly a century, staying when others left as the area suffered urban decay. The women paid their mortgage and