

to exact a recall and to freeze the assets of the companies that are attributable to that drywall that is manufactured in China. They have that authority.

If they are not going to act on that authority, then the Congress is going to have to act for them. That is the bill Senator LANDRIEU and Senator VITTER and I and others also who have joined have filed.

I thank the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. INHOFE, our dear friend. I did not even know this, but the Senator must have heard some of this problem in his State of Oklahoma. This is a problem of monumental proportions.

I will close by saying, because of that report yesterday from the staff of the commission to the staff of the Senate committees, there are a couple of news articles today: "Drywall Clamor Is Intensifying." Another headline cries out, "Agency Outlines Strategy To Deal With Chinese Drywall." Another headline cries out, "Efforts On Chinese Drywall Fix Too Slow."

I close with this: Put yourself in the place of the poor homeowner. They are there with their children. This is their dream home. They have put all of their assets into their home. They are current on their mortgage, and suddenly they start realizing the symptoms they and their children have had over the last several months, and in some cases years, is attributable to this. They now understand why they have replaced their air-conditioning unit three times. They now see why they cannot keep their silver polished. They now know why the refrigerator metal and the dishwasher metal is constantly corroding, and their pediatrician is telling them to get their child out of that house. As a result, they have vacated their dream home.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. So I close by saying my plea to the Senate is to insist, if we have to, through the passage of this legislation, to address this problem head on. It is a major problem facing the people of this country.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my understanding that I have 1 hour. I did not mind the Senator going over. I was enjoying the comments of my friend from Florida. But I want to make sure I still have that hour.

I ask unanimous consent that I do.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUANTANAMO BAY

Mr. INHOFE. Let me say this to my friend from Florida. Coincidentally, I was talking to my friend, Senator VITTER, who went over this with me. I have instructed my staff to add me to the Senator's bill as a cosponsor.

As the Senator from Florida will remember, he and I have agreed on a lot

of the problems we are having today with China; for one thing, the threat that is out there, both in terms of energy and military buildup. I have been very much concerned as I go through—and my friend from Florida and I are both very active in trying to get things done in Africa—as we go through Africa, individually or together, we notice one of the major things we see taking place there, particularly in the area of the Sea of Guinea and other places in Nigeria where they have huge oil reserves, is the Chinese are building all of these new and shiny bridges and all that, which is competing with us since we have the same problem they have in terms of a lack of energy.

So I would enjoy joining him in some of these problems we see that we are having with China.

I wanted some time this morning. I actually have four causes going on right now. I am not going to have time to address all four of these. But I will just briefly say what they are, then I will start with the one I think is the most critical right now. First of all, one of my causes is having to do with Guantanamo Bay.

The fact that people are talking about closing it, President Obama has stated—actually in his inaugural address he did not, but then later on said, yes, we are going to close it in spite of the problems that would come to us if we did close it.

I am anxious to have time on the floor to talk about the frequent visits I have made to GITMO. One of the few good deals the Government has today is Guantanamo Bay. It might be that the Presiding Officer is not aware of the fact. It is one of the good deals out there. We only pay \$4,000 a year, the same thing we paid in 1903, for the use of this great facility.

There has been no evidence of any kind of abuse of prisoners or detainees. They have a judicial center that is unlike anything in the United States. These are tribunals.

We cannot put these terrorists, these detainees, into our prison system. That is not going to work. If it does, I would like to know which Member of the Senate wants to have those detainees housed in their own State. I am sure the Presiding Officer is not excited about having them in Illinois. I am not excited about having them in Oklahoma.

What would happen is, anyplace where they would be detained in the United States would be a magnet to terrorist activity. But I hope I will have a chance to talk about that.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The next thing would be on some of the recent developments in what they used to call the global warming problem. Since we are in the fifth year of a cooling period, they are trying to change that to "climate change." But this is something a lot of people in this body are pursuing.

I would say this: There are not the votes for a major tax increase. A cap and trade on carbon would now constitute somewhere between \$350 and \$400 billion each year as a tax increase,

and it is something that would not accomplish anything.

In fact, if there are a few people still remaining out there who believe global warming is caused by carbon dioxide and we need to restrict it in some way, let's keep in mind, if we do something unilaterally in the United States of America, then what few manufacturing jobs we have left in this country are going to go to places where they can provide energy in places such as China and Mexico, where they have no restrictions on emissions on CO₂.

So I would only say I hope we have time to talk about that.

TARP

The last thing is TARP, the program that started here. I was critical of the Bush administration back in October when then the Secretary of the Treasury came along and talked about, well, we have to have \$700 billion to buy damaged assets. I looked at that thing and read it. There was nothing in there that compelled the Secretary of the Treasury or the President to use that \$700 billion for anything. There is no accountability to Congress. It is unprecedented.

So I was criticizing the Bush administration, only to find out it was Tim Geithner, who is now the Secretary of the Treasury, who was behind this whole thing. He started the Bear Stearns problem. So I no longer criticize the Bush administration and Hank Paulson.

But, nonetheless, if you stop and think, it is so hard for me and for other people to envision what \$1 trillion is or \$100 billion is. The \$700 billion, if you will do your math, you take the number of households who file tax returns and pay taxes and that is \$5,000 per household. That is shocking when you tell people.

A lot of people who voted for that in the first place, in fact, 75 of the Senators who voted for that monstrosity back in October now are regretting that they did. Their comments are, well, they lied to us. They said that was going to be used for damaged assets.

They did lie to us. They flat lied. They never had any intention of using that money to buy damaged assets. Now, after they have bailed out several banks and put billions of dollars in banks, now they are saying, well, we need to buy damaged assets. Well, where were they when the problem was there?

I do want to talk about that and will be talking about that in a lot of detail as time goes by.

MILITARY BUDGET

Last Monday, I did not have much time on the Senate floor to get into the problem that I see, and the problem was with the announcement that was made by Secretary Gates, the Secretary of Defense. It happens by coincidence that I was in Afghanistan when that happened. I was looking around

and I saw the Bradleys going back and forth and the helicopters and these kids getting ready to go on their patrols and I was thinking: Wait a minute. Why is the President of the United States gutting the military right at a time when we are at war? This has never happened before.

So I did a YouTube from there. I talked about the problems I had with the announcement made by Secretary Gates. I had to say, and I will repeat it over and over during the course of this discourse, it is not really Secretary Gates. He is in a position where he is given a number—I know he cannot say this, and he will probably deny it—he is given a number to say: You try to defend America within the confines of this number.

So what do we have? We have the F-22, the only fifth generation fighter that is being stopped. We have China and Russia, both of them, with vehicles that are fifth generation, but our kids are not going to have that if they are successful in making these cuts, and I do not think they are going to be successful in making these cuts.

The C-17—we all remember the C-17 is the best high-lift vehicle this country has ever seen or that the world has ever seen. We need many more of them, but they have stopped this. The national missile defense system—we will get into all of this, the future combat system, the fact that we are sending kids out there with equipment that is not as good as some of the prospective adversaries.

Nonetheless, I happened to be responding to the Gates statement from Afghanistan. This new thing—I don't understand all the technology, but I was using YouTube. They said: Just talk on this, and they will pick it up. And I mean, it hit the fan. I came back, and every liberal journalist in America was just outraged.

MSNBC's Ed Schultz featured my video as part of his regular beat, the so-called "Psycho Talk." He said: INHOFE is as wrong as he could be. Keith Olberman said I should do the math. And his guest, an unbiased guest, was Speaker PELOSI. And they said my criticism of Obama's defense budget was simply desperation, and on and on and on.

Not to be left out, Rachel Maddow used the same talking points and said, once again, the budget was actually going to increase. Then she brought on a guest, Eugene Robinson, associate editor and columnist, who is supposed to be some unbiased party, saying: INHOFE is making this stuff up. He is lying.

Rich Sanchez didn't want to be outdone. That is CNN. He came on and talked about: I am going to do a fact check and it is ridiculous.

It is interesting how hateful these extremists are. All you have to do is say: We need to put America in a position where we have the best of everything because we don't know what contingencies are coming, and they go crazy.

Fortunately, there are more responsible people around. I enjoyed the editorial, after getting all this criticism, in the Wall Street Journal where they are talking about how the Navy is left with a fleet of fewer than 300 ships. Is that adequate? I don't think it is. I can remember when it was 700. Now we see the piracy, all the problems. We know there is a need for more carriers, and yet this cut is being made.

They criticized the Gates decision for killing the stealthy F-22 fighter. That is true. Originally, we were going to have 750 F-22s. Now he wants to stop it at 187—totally inadequate—saying that the F-35 is going to be cheaper. That is technology down the road. The mission isn't the same. It certainly can't compete with the F-22.

They criticized the Gates budget priorities as giving no indication as to how the Pentagon is going to ensure military dominance and extend the battlefield to the future in outer space. Outer space is where the future battles are going to be fought, but not according to this report, \$1.4 billion cut. This is out of the Wall Street Journal editorial. I already have this in the RECORD. I put it in last Monday.

This is something we are talking about. Many of us were concerned over the ability, in some places such as Iran—could be Serbia, someplace else, Syria perhaps—of being able to hit Western Europe and then, with the longer range, hit the east coast of the United States. So we went to the Czech Republic, talked personally with the President Vaclav Klaus. He is one of the best Presidents in the history of Eastern Europe. Their Parliament agreed to let us put radar in there. And then next door in Poland, their Parliament agreed to have us put in a launching system. Now we are coming along and pulling the rug out from under them, and this is all covered.

By the way, if you don't like the Wall Street Journal, there is an organization called the Center for Strategic and International Studies. I defy anyone to criticize this organization. The chairman of that organization is Sam Nunn. We all remember him. I served with Sam Nunn. If you look at the people on this—Richard Armitage, former Defense Secretary Bill Cohen, Bill Frist, Henry Kissinger—you can't find a heavier list of people. James Schlesinger, Brent Scowcroft were a part of this organization. They came through and talked about all of the systems proposed for termination by Secretary Gates as very valid missions and real requirements. None of them is a wasteful program. These are Democrats and Republicans. This is not partisan.

They go on to say that Congress should legitimately question spending priorities and perhaps take the next step, which we intend to do. I am second ranking member of the Armed Services Committee. Certainly, the Presiding Officer is serving on that. I will be looking for his support to try to look at these cuts and see what is real-

ly necessary for us to keep to defend America.

They talk about the B-52 bomber. By stopping the advanced bomber, which is in this program, the Obama program, we are going to be relying upon this B-52 that has been in existence for 50 years. It is twice the age of the pilots who are flying it. We can't continue to do this.

I want to go ahead, after the conclusion of my remarks, and put in this report, which is the report of the CSIS, the Center for Strategic and International Studies. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. INHOFE. The problem is focused on one number. If they talk about that this is not a cut in defense spending, we need to look and examine that, which I will do in a few minutes. Actually, thanks to the Obama administration, overall defense spending has been cut by \$10.7 billion in 2009. You might say 2009 was not his year. It was. The second half of the emergency supplemental fell under his jurisdiction, so that is an accurate figure. It would be cut again in fiscal year 2010, based on projected inflation and the potential use of what is now being called overseas contingency. I call that the global war on terror. They want to rename it now. It sounds a little more palatable to some of these editorial liberals to whom I have already referred.

We have reached a crossroads where we will have to choose to either invest in the modernization and readiness of our military or kick the can down the road. That is what we have been doing for a long time.

We had a hearing yesterday in the Readiness Subcommittee, chaired by EVAN BAYH. The ranking member is RICHARD BARR. We went over all of this with some of the top people in the military. Quite frankly, they agreed with all these comments that I am making today and I made yesterday on this committee. Based on the projected defense budget for the next 10 years, it looks as though the administration is taking us down the same path that led to a weaker and poorly equipped military.

It is interesting that a lot of the people over the years who have been critical of defense spending—talking about liberals who are here in this Chamber—are the same ones now saying: Wait a minute, our Guard and Reserve can't handle the op tempo. That is a term used, "operation tempo," number of deployments and all this. The problem we have is that we gone through—and I will show this in a minute—a period of time in the 1990s where we downgraded the military, and then we turned around and along comes 9/11. All of a sudden, we have a President who has to prosecute a war, at the same time trying to build a military.

The plan he announced is intended to reshape the priorities of America's defense establishment and profoundly reform how DOD does business. I agree that we need to have procurement reforms in the Pentagon. There is no question about that. But let's don't use that for an excuse to cut modernization programs.

I was in Afghanistan at the time this decision was announced, and it comes at a time in our history when we have dramatically increased our domestic spending in trillions of dollars under the umbrella of emergency bailouts and stimulus packages and all of that. If you stop and think about the amount of money this administration has really spent—look at the \$700 billion bailout. Then you have the \$789 billion stimulus package. Then you have the omnibus bill that is \$410 billion. That adds up to \$2 trillion. That is in the first 3 months. So when you look and think of the stimulus package, how much better would it have been if we could have had more defense spending at that time. There is nothing that employs more people, that better stimulates the economy than defense spending. We tried to do that. Of course, that was defeated. So this President is on track to grow this country's obligations to 22 percent of our GDP while he shrinks defense spending probably down to 3 percent. Right now, it is at 4 percent of GDP. As I calculate, it will be down to 3 percent.

Let's see the chart. I would like to show people so there is no question about this. The chart we have here shows what happened back in the 1990s. The black line on top is when Bill Clinton came into office. That is fiscal year 1993. As it is projected forward for the next 8 years, the black line would say—let's say we want to keep defense spending in terms exactly as it is today, back in 1993, except for inflation. That black line is where it would be if we had kept that level of defense spending. The red line was the Clinton budget. That is what I am saying. We are going through the same thing now percentage-wise, almost the same thing that we went through there. So the difference between the Clinton budget and what would have happened with the level of spending is \$412 billion. So you can say that is a \$412 billion cut.

Many of us on the floor of the Senate in the 1990s—me probably more than anybody else—talked about these dramatic, massive cuts in procurement and modernization. With very few exceptions, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have been using the same weapons systems while fighting a two-pronged war for 8 years, weapons and weapons systems from back during the Cold War, the same ones we are using today. We have been unsuccessfully trying to get past this bow wave created in the 1990s when the military budget was cut by \$412 billion and acquisition programs and research and development were pushed to the right.

That is a term we use that means if you are going to delay something, you push it to the right.

The cost of kicking our military modernization down the road is twofold in that the increase in the cost to modernize and the increased cost to develop and fuel new weapons is an increased cost to operate and maintain. It gets to the point where it is like the car you drive. You buy a new car. You drive it for 20 years. At least that is what I do. You finally get to the point where you are paying more to maintain that car than if you would get a new one. A lot of that is because of the accounting system that Government has. It is somewhat guilty of forcing this type of thing. But that is what has happened. We have forced ourselves to use older and older stuff.

Our major combat systems that our troops are using today are those developed and procured during the 1980s. Some of them go all the way back to the 1950s. The Reagan administration was handed a military, everyone agrees now, that was a hollow force. No one questions that. At that time, people thought: There is not going to be any problem now. And then when the Cold War was over, everyone had this euphoria: We no longer have a threat out there. The Cold War is over. The term they used, if you will remember, was—I can't remember what it was now. It was a great benefit to put that money into social programs, which is what we are doing today. A peace bonus, that is what it was.

So anyway, our combat systems are older and older, and the Reagan administration expanded the military budget, increased troop size, reenergized weapons procurement, revived intelligence capabilities, and returned this country to its superpower status that it had been in the past. He guaranteed the superiority of the U.S. military's weapons systems capabilities through long-term investments and ensuring that our troops were provided with the most advanced equipment available.

Secretary Gates said in January of 2009:

Our military must be prepared for a full spectrum of operations, including the type of combat we are facing in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as large-scale threats that we face from places like North Korea and Iran.

I want to say one more time that I don't blame Secretary Gates. I am glad he is the Secretary of Defense. I just wish he had a better hand dealt him so he could do a better job. I think he is operating under the limitations of a White House that is just not a prodefense White House. Far too often, we have learned the hard lessons that we don't have a crystal ball to precisely predict what our needs will be in the future.

This actually happened to me. The last year I served in the House was 1994.

I was on the House Armed Services Committee at that time. I will always remember we had someone come in and

testify and say that in 10 years we will no longer need ground troops. They were talking about all the precision stuff the Air Force does and the technology that was coming. That was testimony a lot of people rejoiced to hear so they could start cutting the Marine Corps and the Army, which is exactly what happened. Then what happened? Then we had Bosnia and we had Kosovo and we had Iraq and we had Afghanistan. Now, after 7 years engaged in the war on terror, we know he was wrong.

The strategic environment has become increasingly complex, dynamic, lethal, and uncertain. Today, our military is fighting with equipment that is decades old and with a force structure that is 40 percent less than it was in the 1980s. That is essentially what was cut during this timeframe right here. It was a cut of about 40 percent, if we take the budgets at the beginning and the end of it.

So we are talking about force structure and modernization. Right now, the Air Force has 2,500 fewer aircraft. The Navy has cut its fleet size in half. The Army has reduced its force to half the number of divisions it had during the first gulf war. This all happened in the 1990s. For the past 17 years, our military has been asked to do more with less.

One of the concerns I had back during the 1990s, when they were cutting the force strength—that was back during the time they were all rejoicing with this euphoric attitude I mentioned that the Cold War was over and we do not need a military anymore—so they were cutting it back at that time and believing we were not going to have to have the needs we were going to have. Unfortunately, what took less than a decade to field in the 1980s will now take us several decades to field. In the case of KC-X, the KC-X was supposed to be online. We were supposed to actually have it by this time. Right now, our fueling capability is done with KC-135s.

I will say this: At Tinker Air Force Base, they do a great job of taking these ancient aircraft and continuing them in service. But there will come a point where we can no longer continue to do that. In the United States, we are going to have to build and sustain military capabilities required to respond to possible future threats across the spectrum.

Wouldn't it be great if we knew what the next war was going to be like? We have never been in that position. We have tried to guess, but we have always been wrong. The next war will not be like the past one or even like the one we are in now. History has taught us that very hard lesson. It also does not mean the next war will be like the one we might have to fight 5 or 10 years from now. The decisions we make today on the Senate floor will set the stage for what happens in the next 40 years. I wish there were time. I wish we could instantly determine what our needs will be 20 years from now and not

have to prepare in advance. We cannot do that. Does anyone want to hazard a guess what the world will be like in 20 years?

There is a Marine Corps general. I have his name down here somewhere. In just this past February, he made this statement to a bunch of young marines. I was over there at the time he made it. This is a quote I want to read:

You say the next conflict will be a guerrilla conflict. I say, it depends. In my lifetime, we have been in 5 big fights and a bunch of little ones. In only one of those 5 big ones—

And Desert Storm is what he was referring to—

had we prepared for the type of war we wound up having to fight.

That is one out of five.

It is one thing to say that a certain type of fight is more or less likely; it is quite another to say it is certain to be one or the other. In war, the only thing certain is uncertainty.

He went on to say:

It may be that nobody can beat us in a conventional fight today, but what we buy today is what we will have to fight with in 2020.

Furthermore, advertising that our focus of effort is on the low-to-mid intensity fights of the future reduces the deterrence that powerful conventional capabilities demonstrate to traditional state actors. Non-state actors, guerrillas, terrorists are not likely to be deterred by our capabilities. Nation-states are.

See, we are used to that. He is dead right in this case. We knew during the Second World War who the enemies were: Germany and Japan. We knew their capabilities. During the Cold War, we knew the capabilities. I sometimes look wistfully back on the days of the Cold War because at least then it was predictable. We knew how they thought, their thinking process. We knew their capabilities.

He goes on to say:

We had better well have the capability to fight the guerrilla and the nation-state, regardless of which of these is more or less likely.

That is a very wise man. He is advising his young marines, and they listened, and it makes sense.

We were not able to predict the fall of the Soviet Union, the rapid growth of the ballistic missile capability of North Korea, or the rise in the asymmetric warfare in which we are currently engaged. It does not matter how great our military leaders or intelligence is, our strategic thinking will always be imperfect. We have a lot of smart generals out there, and they are going to try to tell us what we are going to need 10 or 15 years from now, and they are going to be wrong because they have always been wrong. They understand that, as that Marine Corps general stated.

In order to provide stability, America is going to have to be able to deter or defeat any threat, be it an insurgency or a challenge from a near-peer competitor. We cannot any longer fool ourselves that we are still sending our sons and daughters out with the best equipment.

When I talk to people around the country, there is an assumption out there that when we go to war, regardless of what kind of war—asymmetrical or conventional warfare—we are sending our kids out with the best of equipment. That is not true.

In a minute, I am going to show you that there are other countries that have things that are better than what we have in our defense capability, in our effort to conduct warfare. But before I do that, let me at least address what all these critics of me were saying when we talked about how much less money right now we are going to be projecting into our force structure, in our military spending, if we do the math. So let's go ahead and do it.

As I stated earlier, we need to look at the total defense budget—what DOD actually spends on all its operations.

During the Bush administration, the sources that funded our defenses were not all just DOD or the Department of Defense, appropriations and authorizations. They were also the DOE funds. DOE has a lot of funds for nuclear ships and weapons. We have certainly wartime supplementals. All of those added up to what we spent on defense. What they are trying to do now is say, well, the DOD appropriations are actually going to be greater today than they were in fiscal year 2009. Well, that may be true, but that is not the total amount of defense spending. That is just a small part of it.

I think the best evidence of that is to see what systems we have to cut in order to act under the confines of this budgeting.

First, there is a net loss in defense spending in 2009 of \$10.7 billion. This is the second increment of the supplemental that came under the jurisdiction of the current administration, the Obama administration. President Bush increased the total defense budget in 2009 by \$37.2 billion.

He also approved \$65.9 billion in supplemental funds for the first part of fiscal year 2009.

President Obama's supplemental request of \$75.5 billion for defense needs funds an increase of 21,000 troops. Well, I agree with his message that we need to increase the number of troops and increase the number of troops in Afghanistan. That is very reasonable. But we are going to have to pay for those troops, and we cannot pay for those troops with the same amount of money we had when we had 21,000 fewer troops.

The GAO report on the cost of the Iraq withdrawal said it will be a "massive and expensive effort" . . . that costs would more often increase in the near term. In other words, as you draw down in Iraq, that is going to increase the actual cost.

It went on to say that the cost of equipment repairs, replacements, closing, and turning over 283 military installations in Iraq and moving troops and equipment home "will likely be significant."

Unfortunately, defense spending actually decreases in 2009 by \$10.7 billion

due to President Obama's decreased total supplemental request from \$189 billion to \$141 billion.

So let's compare 2009 to 2010, where I have been accused of not being able to do the math.

Defense spending does increase from 2009 to 2010 by \$14.9 billion. But according to President Obama's letter to Speaker PELOSI, there will be no more supplementals. If we take the supplementals out, then it is a dramatic reduction in spending. That would mean DOD would have to fund all wartime operations out of the hide to the tune of \$100 billion-plus.

However, President Obama does fence off \$130 billion for "Overseas Contingency Funds." Well, that is within the budget, and I guess that is what he now calls the war on terror. Even adding the \$130 billion to defense spending—which is never the case with supplemental funding—the overall increase in defense spending for 2010 is \$3.5 billion.

I say that because we know when we have an emergency supplemental, everybody puts everything they can into it, and that is where the effort is taking place.

Now, we add the accelerated growth of the Army and Marine Corps—a 65,000 and 22,000 increase, respectively—at a cost of approximately \$13 billion to cover pay and health care costs, and we start to see the beginnings of how our military modernization gets gutted.

The DOD has certain "must pays," things they have to pay. They have to pay personnel, operations and maintenance, ongoing wartime, and contingency operations. With a zero supplemental fund, the money to pay for these "must pays" will be taken from the base Defense budget, and the areas that are always hit are research and development and acquisition. There we are talking about modernization.

So what I would like to do—well, first of all, just look at what is being cut. We know about the Future Combat System. I am going to cover these in a minute, but there are the F-22s, the C-17s, the national missile defense system, the future bombers, and it does not stop in 2010.

As we look at the projected defense budget through 2019, we see a decreasing defense budget compared to GDP starting at 3.8 percent in 2010 and ending with 3 percent in 2019.

This is interesting to compare, to use the percentage of GDP. If we go back and look at what happened in the entire 20th century—for 100 years—and we take the average of defense spending as a percentage of GDP, it is 5.7 percent—5.7 percent. I have been asking to just keep it at no less than 4 percent. Right now, it is a little under 4 percent, but it would go down to 3 percent with the budget expectations we are looking at right now.

So when compared to a sustained annual defense investment of 4 percent of GDP to recapitalize and modernize our military, the 10-year proposed Obama defense budget is \$1.3 trillion in the

red. It is so similar to what we went through in the 1990s. I do not like to be overly critical, but there are a lot of people who are liberal people who generally, in their own mind, do not think we need a military. I have listened. They will never admit it. But they say, well, if all nations would stand in a circle and hold hands and unilaterally disarm, all threats would go away.

I respect people who have this opinion, even though the opinion is wrong.

So we have ships and naval aircraft that currently average being 18 years old, and Marine Corps aircraft that now average being over 21 years old. Refueling tankers—I am talking about the KC-135s—are over 44 years old; Air Force fighter aircraft, 19 years old; special operations aircraft, over 27 years old. Special ops—everyone realizes what a great job they are doing. It is kind of like the Marine Corps. They always have to make do with older equipment but never complain about it.

In order to keep 40-year-old KC-135s in the air, the DOD had to reprogram almost \$3 billion from the KC-X to repair KC-135s. For the KC-X, we might remember—that was kind of confusing—a contract was let, and that contract was challenged. That would have given us—not immediately, certainly, but over the next 20 years, we would be able to replace the KC-135s.

I think it is easier—rather than to spend any more time talking about very complicated things in terms of budgeting—to just look and see service by service. The Army's current fleet of combat vehicles was developed and procured between 30 and 60 years ago.

We have the M1 Abrams tank, which has done a great job, that was developed back in the early 1970s and fielded in the early 1980s. The M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle—we are still using that right now, and it is 25 years old. It is on its third significant modification, and it has been crucial in defending our troops against the IEDs the RPGs. Both of these combat-proven vehicles continue to undergo fleetwide resets. Yet they are so old.

So let's look at another particular one, the best artillery piece we have in the U.S. Army. It is called a Paladin. The Paladin is a technology developed in World War II. You actually have to get out after each shot and swab the breech.

Now, it has gone through some new reiterations, and currently there is another one that is taking place. But again, this is what we have. There are five countries now, including South Africa, that make a better artillery piece than our Paladin. This is one of the programs that is a part of the FCS program that is going to be cut. Secretary Gates didn't say it was completely cut; he just said it is delayed. That is a nice way of saying it is cut, it is gone.

So I would hope one thing: That when we are going through what they call the PIM Program—the Paladin Integrated Management Program—we keep these running, to upgrade them so they

will be somewhat competitive in the battlefield. I would say at the very least we should keep that PIM Program going if we cut the future combat system. We should keep the future combat system on track, but if we dump the FCS, we don't want to dump the PIM with it. So even with that PIM update, the Army expects to keep the Paladin in use until 2060, and that is 100 years on the battlefield.

Our Army is long overdue for a thorough and comprehensive modernization. I would just go back again to 1994 when we had people testifying that in 10 years we would no longer need ground capability or ground fighters. The proposed Defense budget would cancel the Army's future combat system and the modernization programs intended to replace the Paladin. FCS would bring improved armor and would save lives. Nonetheless, that was one of them that was cut.

Let's go to the Air Force. For nearly two decades, our Air Force has dominated the skies and ensured air superiority. But a recent GAO study stated that air sovereignty alert operations—the post-9/11 operations that protect our homeland—are at risk due to aging aircraft and insufficient procurement. The Air Force grounded 259 of its 441 F-15 Eagles from November 1997, and last May the service parked 500 of its T-38 Talons, the trainers. A lot of those were taking place at Vance Air Force Base in my State of Oklahoma. They don't have quite enough of them yet, but again, that is part of the problem we are having right now. Our aging fleet is out of service. Last October, the Air Force ordered more than half of its 356 A-10 fighters to stay put because of cracks inside the wings. While we have enjoyed the benefit of investment during the 1980s of the F-15, the F-16, the A-10, the F-117, which is now out of service, the service is talking about retiring 137 F-15s, 177 F-16s, and 9 A-10s. I say that creates a problem.

We had a very courageous general named John Jumper. John Jumper ended up being the Chief of the Air Force, but before he was Chief of the Air Force—and this was about 1998, so it was during the Clinton administration, and it took a lot of courage for a uniform to stand up and admit publicly, with his background that no one would question, that now—back in 1998—he said the Soviets—the Russians—are making the SU series that are really fifth-generation fighters and we don't have anything that can really compete with them that is better than our F-15s or F-16s, which is all we had at that time. So in spite of all of the above, President Obama is shutting down the F-22, the only fifth-generation fighter we have. Remember, we were going to have 750 of them, and he is going to stop at 187. If you stop the production line at 187, we are not going to be able to produce any more of these things.

If some President comes along in 4 years and says: No, they made a mis-

take 4 years ago, we are going to have to get that line going again, the first ones would cost about twice. So this is one of the problems we are having.

They are talking about increasing the F-35s—that is the Joint Strike Fighter—but that is a different mission. It certainly can't compete with the F-22.

Well, we have a very serious problem. Again, it gets down to, do we really have an expectation in America—we send our kids into battle in the air or on the ground—that we are going to get them the best equipment to work with? I wish that were the case, but it is not the case.

The Navy. At a time when the U.S. Navy is being called on to project its presence in more parts of the world than ever before, the recommendation that is coming from the White House is that the Navy shrink its carrier fleet to 10 aircraft carriers by 2012 and delay the acquisition of the other portions of its fleet. We see what is happening now. We have these aircraft carriers staged all over the world, and to be cutting that fleet, to me, is totally irresponsible.

I remember when I was first elected to the House. My first year was 1987. The first weekend I was in the House of Representatives, and I was going to be on the House Armed Services Committee, I spent the weekend down off the coast of Virginia on the USS Coral Sea. I went out there and landed on the carrier. I thought I had died and gone to heaven, it had such capability. At that time, in 1987, as we looked as the Sun was coming up, we could see the Soviet ships that were going around with their periscopes, the submarines, looking at what we had. Now that is out of commission; the Coral Sea is gone. These things don't last forever. The opposition—China, right now, is building these things. We have to stay better than they are. Yet we are cutting our carrier fleet.

This reduction of aircraft carriers goes further below the previous QDR—that is the Quadrennial Defense Review—of 12 carriers required for moderate risk. So we have a situation where we need 12 carriers—not 10 but 12—for moderate risk. Moderate risk is a term that is used in the military as to lives. If you have no risk, you are not going to lose human lives. If you have high risk, you are going to lose a lot of human lives. This is moderate. So we are saying we are willing to cut two aircraft carriers below what we call moderate risk or loss of life. I am not willing to do that.

In the last few weeks, we have seen how important the Navy is in watching some of the pirate counterterrorism operations off the coast of Africa. I was over there in Somalia and in that area just a week ago. We are having some successes in our battle with the pirates, but again, a very critical part of that is our carrier capability.

Meanwhile, Russian and Chinese submarines continue to be a threat to our

forces, with China operating over 60-something quieter subs. Since the 1990s, China has been unilaterally hedging its maritime power to exclude the U.S. Navy from the Taiwan Straits and along China's coasts. We all know that. Now we have China, Japan, Australia, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Indonesia, Singapore, Bangladesh, and South and North Korea either now or planning to acquire submarines to compete against ours. In all, we now have found it acceptable in this budget that is coming out of the White House to cut our total ships down to 300. I remember when there were 700 ships.

Missile defense. This is something I think everyone should understand now. We think about the tragedy of 9/11. We think, as bad as that was, how much worse it would have been if they had had the capability of the nuclear warhead on a delivery system, hitting a major city in America. We wouldn't be talking about 3,000 deaths; we would be talking about 300,000 or maybe 3 million deaths.

On February 3, Iran launched a satellite on the 30th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution, demonstrating key technologies of propulsion, staging, and guidance. This is what they did. We are talking about just 2 months ago in that demonstration. Then, going all the way back to 1979, I recall in—I was concerned in 1998 as to what the capability was going to be for North Korea in terms of having a multistage rocket capability, and the administration at that time, the Clinton administration, said it will be from 8 to 10 years, on August 24 of 1998. Seven days later, even though they said it would be 8 to 10 years before they had the capability, they fired one, and that demonstrated the capability they had.

It makes you wonder how accurate we are right now in our assessment of their capability. Nonetheless, this budget recommended a 16-percent cut in the missile defense budget by \$1.4 billion, and this is something that is totally unacceptable. We are going to have to reverse this.

It wasn't long ago that we recognized we had to have a capability in the Czech Republic and in Poland. We wanted to have a radar capability in the Czech Republic and an interception capability in Poland, next door. Why do we need this? Because as they develop their capability in Iran and they want to come and shoot something at Western Europe and possibly to get to the east coast of the United States of America, the only place we can reliably, with our technology, shoot that down would be in that area of Eastern Europe.

So we went and negotiated with the Parliaments. I was there. Vaclav Klaus, the President of the Czech Republic, who happens to be one of my favorite people in the world—and he is one who helped us get this through Parliament. It wasn't easy. The thinking was: Well, is this going to be a threat? Are we going to have Russia

coming down and complaining, saying this is an act of aggression? No. We are just trying to knock down a missile that might be coming from a place such as Iran or Syria or someplace else going toward Western Europe and the United States. Well, they finally agreed. The Parliaments of Poland and the Czech Republic agreed, and now we pull the rug out from under them with this proposed budget.

The airborne laser—where is the chart on the missile defense?

All right. I know this is heavy lifting, and this is not an easy thing to understand. But if you look at a missile defense system—let's keep in mind, this is the 26th anniversary of Ronald Reagan, saying SDI—members of the Strategic Defense Initiative—everyone criticized them: No one will ever be able to hit a bullet with a bullet. Well, they hit a bullet with a bullet. We have had several tests demonstrating that we can do it. Well, how do you knock down a missile coming in? You have three phases. There is a boost phase, a midcourse phase, and a terminal phase. We are currently in good shape on the midcourse phase and the terminal phase, but the main area where we are stark naked is in the boost phase. We don't have anything.

We have the airborne laser. That is getting very close to being able to deploy a system to knock down an incoming missile when it is easiest to hit them. That is the boost phase, before they are going all that fast. And they cut that out of this budget.

We need to have—we decided on a policy several years ago, and certainly the Senate Armed Services Committee as well as on the House Armed Services Committee that was headed at that time by DUNCAN HUNTER and I think agreed to by the Democrats and Republicans at that time, that we need to have redundancy in all three areas if we are going to be able to knock down an incoming missile.

I don't think there is anyone in America today who denies that the capability of, No. 1, hitting America is there and, No. 2, of being able to knock it down is there if we continue with this program. But we have to have that capability in the boost phase, and this budget takes that out. I am just as concerned about that as I am about the fact that we really lied to the Czech Republic and to Poland and put them in a very awkward position.

So I guess in conclusion I agree with the President and Secretary Gates that we are going to have to reform our Defense acquisition system. There is a lot of waste in that. The Presiding Officer and I both serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and we know we need to do some work, but we don't want to be doing this at the risk and at the expense of properly modernizing our services. I have stated many times in this Chamber that the greatest trust placed upon Congress by the American people is to provide for their security by maintaining a strong national defense.

TOM COLE, a House Member from Oklahoma, said it best the other day. He said that eloquence and charm are a poor substitute for a strong national defense. You can be very eloquent, as our President is, and very charming, as our President is, and talk about these things and act as if the threat is not there, but we need to have a strong national defense.

I think Ronald Reagan said it better. He said just to be sure we are prepared. He said: Trust but verify. Trust but verify. We trust these guys over there that they are not going to attack us, but let's verify it.

We can avoid this far too frequent debate on the defense budget by ensuring a minimum level of funding for our military.

So this is where we are today in our situation. I again look at something totally unprecedented. I have something here, if I can find it, that is rather interesting to compare. What we have done—and this is something no one has seen yet because we are still working on it, but we are taking a comparison of 1993 and today. That was the year President Clinton was elected. He also had control of the House and the Senate and the White House, just as the Democrats do today. And we went through the election process. We understand that. But the things they are doing, that President Clinton did at that time and President Obama is doing today, are just remarkably similar.

In the military, the Army was cut back in the Clinton administration by 18 divisions down to 12 divisions, and here we are doing the same thing today. At that time on health care—right now, the President is talking about a universal Government-run health care system. Back then, they called it Hillary health care.

They called it Hillary health care, the same thing. Gun control, the same type of thing. I will wait and do this all at once. I am trying to get to the amount of money. I was on the floor criticizing President Clinton because he proposed \$243 billion in tax increases. The current President is talking about \$1.4 trillion in tax increases. The budget they are operating with right now—I don't have it here—at that time, he talked about a budget of \$1.5 trillion. That was Bill Clinton in 1993. Now it is over twice that much. These are numbers we never thought about before. If you add together the \$700 billion bank bailout, the \$789 billion stimulus plan, and the \$410 billion omnibus spending bill, that adds up to over \$2 trillion, which is unheard of. It is very similar. It is just on a larger scale than that of 1993.

That is the concern I bring to the floor today. I have only a few minutes left. I will cover one of my other three concerns. I have talked about the TARP funding on the floor. The TARP funding was supposed to be used to buy damaged assets. At that time, in October of 2008, the Secretary of the Treasury promised that if we would give him

\$700 billion, he would spend it to buy damaged assets. Some in this Chamber believed him. I didn't. I said put it in writing, let's get it into the law. But they were in too big a hurry and said: We have to do it now or we will have another Great Depression. He spent the money to bail out many banks that didn't even want to be bailed out and banks that previously both Geithner and Paulson were associated with. So that was a problem and we should now try to salvage what we can out of that program. So that is another subject—one I have spent quite a bit of time on over the last 7 years.

Seven years ago, when the Republicans had a majority in the Senate, I became chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. At that time, we were very close to ratifying the Kyoto Treaty. We remember this all started with the United Nations and then, of course, the people in Hollywood, the Hollywood elitists, moveon.org, and the Michael Moores of the world—and they had a right to do it—were saying we are going to have to stop emissions of greenhouse gases, and that the anthropogenic gases and man-made case gases were causing global warming.

I remember so well, in 1975, in the State legislature, at that time the same magazines that are putting on the front page this idea that global warming is taking place—they are not doing it now, but they were up until about 5 years ago. Back then, they were saying: Get ready, another ice age is coming, we are all going to die. I remember using the term that this has to be the greatest "hoax" ever perpetrated on the American people.

Fast forward to the late 1990s, when Kyoto was there, when I was chairman of the committee and I believed that manmade gases were causing global warming, until the Wharton Business School came out with the Wharton econometric survey. They showed clearly that if we were to sign on and ratify the Kyoto Treaty, it would cost the American people in the range of between \$300 billion and \$330 billion a year. Then, if you fast forward that to the next McCain-Lieberman bill, it was even more than that, and the Warner-Lieberman bill was even more than that.

When I looked at it at that time, back when we were very close to ratifying the treaty, I found out that the science was not there. A lot of scientists were saying it was there, but it wasn't. Today, if anybody wants to get into my Web site, inhofesenate.gov, you can see all of the scientists. We have over 700 of them who used to be on the other side of this protecting their grants. They had to play this game to do it. They are now coming over to the skeptic side.

As we listen to the current administration, they are now going to try to, by regulation, impose this giant tax on the American people because they know they cannot get it through this

Chamber. We defeated it a year ago today—the last effort to have a cap-and-trade tax on the American people—by almost a 2-to-1 margin. They are going to try to do it again. When you talk about the \$700 billion bailout and the stimulus bill, at least that is a one-shot deal. With this, you are talking about a regular annual tax increase on the American people of about \$350 billion. The estimates are between \$3,000 and \$4,000 a year per family. What good would that do? Even if it is true, if people listening to me today, including fellow Members, believe manmade gases are causing global warming—if they believe that to be true, what good would it do us in the United States to unilaterally say we are going to impose these restrictions and pay \$400 billion a year? And what good will it do if we do that, because our manufacturing base will go into countries where they have no restrictions. That would happen.

I inquire as to the time remaining?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 40 seconds.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I think the other speakers are here. Later on, I will talk about the assets we have, and that we have to keep Guantanamo Bay—Gitmo, as it is referred to. It has performed well for us since 1903. I cannot think of one statement, other than political statements, as to why we have to get rid of that great asset.

With that, I thank the Chair for his tolerance and I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

To: CSIS J. Board of Trustees, Advisers, and Friends

From: John J. Hamre

Date: April 13, 2009 (Number 298. Two pages)

Re: Cancelling weapons systems

I was out of the country last week when Secretary of Defense Gates announced his recommendation for wholesale termination of a large number of weapon systems. This was such a big deal that he skipped the 60th anniversary celebrations of the founding of NATO in order to prepare for the announcement.

Secretary Gates epitomizes what Americans want in public service—fairness, decisiveness and decency. And he clearly captured broad public support with his recommendations. In dozens of conversations, I always heard some version of "it is about time we had a leader that did this." This is usually followed up by a question "do you think he will be reversed by Congress?"

There is a myth in American politics, that defense contractors are powerful manipulative forces in Washington. Ever since President Eisenhower coined the term "the military-industrial complex" the popular sense is that defense companies manipulate the Department and the Congress to get whatever they want. I have been in and around the defense business for 30 years. My experience has been that they are not the all-powerful force of popular imagination. Defense contractors are hugely vulnerable because they are entirely dependent on the attitude of one customer—the Defense Department. If the Secretary of Defense decides we don't need something (and the Joint Chiefs go along with the decision—a crucial factor), defense contractors have virtually no recourse.

Yes, Congress has occasionally reversed the decision of a defense secretary. I remem-

ber when the Congress kept the B-1 bomber alive after President Carter recommended its termination. But the B-1 would never have been built had it not been for President Reagan who used it to symbolize his different approach to defense policy.

I suspect that most of the Secretary's recommendations will hold. Every year the Congress receives the president's defense budget, tears it apart and puts it back together, and usually approves 97% of what is requested. A powerful member of congress can add \$10-20 million here or there for something, but adding billions of dollars to reverse the Secretary's decision on a single weapon system is almost impossible. We are again returning to an environment when adding something to the defense budget must be offset by cutting something out. A congressman can strongly plea to add \$2 billion for program X, but very rarely offers offsetting cuts in other programs. And with each instance, the pleading congressman has to ultimately argue "my judgment is superior to that of the Secretary of Defense".

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The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. HATCH pertaining to the introduction of S. 897 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. I must interrupt the Senator from Utah. There is an emergency.

The Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:41 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair until 12:47 p.m. and reassembled at 12:47 p.m., when called to order by the ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. BURRIS.).

REMEMBERING STEVE MOSLEY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn about the passing of a man who gave many long years of dedicated service to this Capitol.

If you only know this Senate through C-SPAN, it is likely you never saw Steve.

But if you had the privilege to work in this beautiful building, Steve's work was indispensable.

Steve was a valued member of the Senate Sergeant at Arms' Capitol Facilities team for 32 years—since he was 20 years old.

He was part of the team of hard-working men and women who care for this historic building.

If a room in the Capitol needed to be set up for a meeting, set up again an hour later for a hearing, and set up again for a reception, you knew you could count on Steve to do the work right, and on time.

When a filibuster seemed imminent, Steve was part of the crew that would retrieve the cots from storage and set them up in the Capitol—just in case.

Steve's willingness to be helpful was invaluable. Not long after I moved into

my office on the third floor of the Capitol, Steve was in my office to install a rug.

He saw that there was a problem. He told my staff that he had seen the problem in another office—the way the rug was to be laid out, visitors would trip on the corner of the rug and might fall.

This was just one example of how Steve cared for this institution and the people who visited this building every day.

Whatever it took to make this Capitol work for visitors and employees, Steve did—with pride and professionalism.

Steve was a friendly man who liked almost everyone—except the Dallas Cowboys.

He was a generous man who never called attention to his generosity. If a coworker needed a ride, Steve was the first to offer. He brought Easter baskets to his friends' children.

Steve Mosley died suddenly and unexpectedly Wednesday night of a heart attack.

I join my colleagues and all who work in this Capitol in offering our deep condolences to Steve's wife of 26 years, Michelle, and their only child, Steven Jr., whose 25th birthday is today.

He was much admired and he will be much missed, in this Capitol and among those who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO THE CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great national parks in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, located southeastern Kentucky, near Middlesboro. The park will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year.

In the 1920s, the idea of creating the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park was formed, and after 30 years of planning and hard work, the park was finished and dedicated, 50 years ago this coming July.

The park will hold several special events in July celebrating the anniversary of the historic dedication, including the gathering of oral histories from people who were present during the creation, early days, and dedication of the park.

At the time of the dedication, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park included 20,184 acres—10,679 in Kentucky, 7,478 in Virginia, and 2,027 in Tennessee. Until 1980, it was the largest historical park in the country. It is estimated that more than 1 million people will visit the park this year.

Efforts have been made by the National Park Service since 1997 to prevent surface coal mining in the area surrounding Fern Lake. In cooperation with my friend in the House, Congressman Hal Rogers, we were able to pass legislation that authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire Fern

Lake and the surrounding watershed to preserve this natural resource.

I value the importance of this park and have consistently secured funds to help acquire and preserve the lake. Located just southeast of Middlesboro, Fern Lake serves as the primary water source for the community and is visible from the Pinnacle Overlook, which is a popular visitor attraction at the Cumberland Gap National Park.

This park shows the importance Kentuckians place on our natural environment, and I applaud the work of the individuals who helped make this park a reality and those who continue to safeguard its natural beauty for many generations to come.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the dedication of one of our Nation's most beautiful historical parks.

94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 94th Anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Ninety-four years ago today, the Ottoman Empire—now modern-day Turkey—began the systematic destruction of the Armenian people. Armenians were driven from their homes and villages, marched to their deaths in the deserts of the Middle East, and slaughtered in cold blood. Before it was over, approximately 1.5 million Armenians lost their lives in the first genocide of the 20th century.

Recently, the Armenian and Turkish Governments announced important progress toward achieving the full normalization of relations between their two countries. I support this effort, and am hopeful that this process will lead the Turkish Government to finally acknowledge the irrefutable truth of the Armenian genocide and also to greater peace and prosperity for the people of Armenia.

As President Barack Obama has said, "The Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence. The facts are undeniable." There is no need for further study or debate because we must never legitimize the views of those who deny the very worst of crimes against humanity.

On this solemn anniversary, we remember those who were lost in the Armenian genocide, while honoring the survivors and their descendants who have done so much to make America and the world a better place. I am personally grateful that so many of those individuals have chosen to call California home.

We also take pause to acknowledge that such crimes are continuing today. There is perhaps no more fitting example than the genocide that is raging in the Darfur region of Sudan.