

Utah, in the areas of developing, calibrating, and integrating various sensors and other payloads onto UAV platforms, which will facilitate future R&D development of UAV capability within the military.

Project Title: Compliance Tools Development for Metals in Antifouling Paints

Amount: \$800,000

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Navy RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Kennecott Copper (Rio Tinto) and International Copper Association, 260 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding:

Funding would be used to develop environmental modeling software tools to survey site-specific naval installations for buildup of harmful heavy metals in harbor sediments caused by paints and coatings on naval vessels at port. This tool will allow the navy to measure and monitor which coatings are best and most cost-effective for anti-fouling paints (some of which contain copper), and allow the Navy to remain in compliance with environmental standards.

Project Title: Tomahawk Cost Reduction Initiative

Amount: \$3.28 million

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP of Utah

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: Navy RDT&E

Address of Requesting Entity: Williams International, Inc., 3450 Sam Williams Drive, Ogden, Utah 84401.

Matching Funds: None

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

Description and Justification of Funding:

Funding is needed to incorporate new manufacturing technologies into the Tomahawk production line that will reduce the per-unit costs for future missiles. This funding has a quick pay-back period on this proven "weapon of choice" in many conflicts.

ON THE RECENT ARSON ATTACKS ON THE ETZ-HAYYIM SYNA- GOGUE ON THE ISLAND OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the recent arson attacks on Jan. 5 and 16 targeting the historic Jewish synagogue in the port-city of Hania on the island of Crete.

The Etz-Hayyim Synagogue holds a library of religious books and functions as a museum and memorial in the ancient harbor city of Chania. Etz-Hayyim dates back to the Middle Ages and serves as one of the last Jewish monuments on the island of Crete, in addition to serving as a house of worship.

I applaud the Greek authorities' quick action and recent arrests of the suspected perpetrators of the attacks and urge the individuals responsible be swiftly brought to justice. The State Department has praised the Greek government for condemning the attacks and taking a strong stand against anti-Semitism and

racism. I join them in their praise and congratulate the Greek government for its swift and decisive reaction.

These are only the most recent in a series of anti-Semitic incidents to surface in Greece from Veria to Ioannina and to Volos in the recent past. In fact, this type of virulent anti-Semitism continues to rise worldwide and must be met with equal defiance and determination to defeat those who would perform these despicable acts.

We must not let this type of anti-Semitism percolate as the world has seen the evil that stems from this type of hatred and bigotry. I stand firmly with Greece and the Jewish community of Hania, and Jewish communities around the world, and implore the international community to voice their outrage against this intolerance.

I urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, due to the death of my brother I was unable to participate in the legislative proceedings of the House during the week of January 18, 2010. If I had been present I would have voted the following:

Rollcall 6 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to congratulate the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine for its 150 years of commitment to advancing science and improving health. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 7 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to congratulate the Penn State women's volleyball team on winning the 2009 NCAA Division I national championship. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 8 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to commend the University of Virginia men's soccer team for winning the 2009 Division I NCAA National Championship. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 9 was on a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3254, H.R. 3342, and H.R. 1065. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall 10 was on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the Castle Nugent National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 11 was on a motion to suspend the rules and pass the Idaho Wilderness Water Resources Protection Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 12 was on passage of the Taos Pueblo Indian Water Rights Settlement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall 13 was on passage of the Aamodt Litigation Settlement Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall 14 was on passage of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Rollcall 15 was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to express condolences to and solidarity with the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 16 was on a motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment—Nuclear Forensics and Attribution Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WIL- LIAM REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2009 BUSINESSES OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce 2009 Businesses of the Year.

The Businesses of the Year Awards are divided into eight categories. Each year, the Prince William Regional Chamber identifies a business for each category that best exemplifies the entrepreneurial and community spirit of the County. The winners represent some of Prince William's most heartening stories of success and charity.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the recipients of the 2009 Businesses of the Year Awards:

New Business of the Year: Dogtopia of Woodbridge.

Small Business of the Year: The Dog Eaze Inn.

Medium Business of the Year: Whitlock & Associates Wealth Management.

Large Business of the Year: R.W. Murray Co.

Home Based Business of the Year: ImageWerks.

Community Service Organization of the Year: Greater Prince William Community Health Center.

Cultural Arts Organization of the Year: Youth Orchestras of Prince William.

Community Outreach Award: Larry Hair Designers, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2009 Businesses of the Year and wishing them continued success. Strong businesses are the backbone of a healthy and robust economy, and we do our community a service to encourage their creation and growth.

THE RELEASE OF DANGEROUS DE- TAINEES FROM GUANTANAMO BAY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter that I received earlier today from Deputy National Security Adviser John Brennan in response to my many letters to him and the President on the release of dangerous detainees from Guantanamo Bay to unstable countries. In Mr. Brennan's letter, he confirms that detainee recidivism has dramatically grown from 13 to 20 percent over the last year. The administration has been suppressing this information for many months and I have urged the White House on several occasions to release it to the public.

He also challenges my concerns about the release of a detainee named Ayman Batarfi, who is connected to Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda's anthrax program. I also submit for the record a response to Mr. Brennan's letter by Mr. Thomas Joscelyn that was published on The Weekly Standard's Web site.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2010.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: I am writing in response to questions you have raised in letters to the President on November 2, 2009, November 5, 2009, November 12, 2009, December 18, 2009, December 29, 2009, and January 12, 2010, as well as during a briefing I provided to Members of the House of Representatives on January 13, 2010. In particular, you have posed questions relating to the closure of the detention facilities at Guantánamo Bay and the Administration's counterterrorism efforts in Yemen. Let me take this opportunity to address these issues in greater detail.

The professional assessment of our military commanders and civilian leaders at the Department of Defense is that closing the detention facilities at Guantánamo is a national security imperative in the war against al-Qa'ida. Secretary Gates, Admiral Mullen, and General Petraeus have all stated that closing Guantánamo will help our troops by eliminating a potent recruiting tool. All three officials prosecuted this war under the previous Administration and continue to do so today.

With respect to detainees transferred abroad, this Administration has instituted the most robust review process ever applied to detainees at Guantánamo, including halting the "stove-piping" of classified information and requiring unanimous interagency decisions prior to every transfer. On January 22, 2009, the President signed Executive Order 13492, directing the consolidation of information from all agencies relating to Guantánamo detainees. As a result, Federal agencies for the first time have unprecedented access to a wide range of classified information collected from across the government.

The Executive Order also directed a comprehensive interagency review of all individuals at Guantánamo. To implement this directive, a task force was established with more than 60 career prosecutors, agents, analysts, and attorneys from across the government, including civilian, military, and intelligence officials. Every decision to transfer a detainee to a foreign country during this Administration has been made unanimously by all agencies involved with the review process after a full assessment of intelligence and threat information. This includes the Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, as well as the Departments of State, Justice, and Homeland Security.

A critical factor in considering the transfer of detainees abroad relates to security conditions in the receiving country. The situation in Yemen presents significant challenges in this respect, and as a result, we have been deliberate about transferring detainees there. The previous Administration transferred 13 detainees to Yemen, and this Administration has repatriated 7 to date. Although more than 90 Yemeni detainees remain at Guantánamo, the Administration temporarily suspended repatriations to Yemen earlier this month because of the specific security conditions and threat environment in that country.

During the briefing on January 13, you made allegations that one detainee repatriated to Yemen had been involved in weapons of mass destruction. As it has done in every

case, the task force thoroughly reviewed all information available to the government about this individual and concluded that there is no basis for the assertions you made during this session. I am attaching a classified addendum to this letter that addresses your concerns directly.

We believe that significant improvements to the detainee review process have contributed to significant improvements in the results. According to the most recent report to Congress pursuant to section 319 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009, the Intelligence Community assesses that 20 percent of detainees transferred from Guantánamo are confirmed or suspected of recidivist activity. This figure includes 9.6 percent of former detainees who are confirmed recidivists and 10.4 percent of former detainees who the Intelligence Community suspects, but is not certain, may have engaged in recidivist activities. I want to underscore the fact that all of these cases relate to detainees released during the previous Administration and under the prior detainee review process. The report indicates no confirmed or suspected recidivists among detainees transferred during this Administration, although we recognize the ongoing risk that detainees could engage in such activity.

The Administration has worked aggressively since President Obama's inauguration to fully support Yemeni stability. Although previous punitive policies left Yemen with little U.S. financial and military support, this Administration is attempting to correct this problem by significantly increasing our financial and military support to the Government of Yemen. In addition to assisting Yemen in countering al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula, we are examining political and fiscal reforms to improve the security conditions in Yemen and ensure that gains are lasting.

These issues are among the most challenging we face as a nation, and the Administration is committed to executing a careful and comprehensive approach that promotes the national security of the United States. I look forward to working with you in the future on these and other issues.

Sincerely,

JOHN O. BRENNAN,
*Assistant to the President for Homeland
Security and Counterterrorism.*

[From the Weekly Standard, Feb. 2, 2010]

BRENNAN IS WRONG ON BATARFI
(By Thomas Joscelyn)

Jake Tapper of ABC News has obtained a copy of a letter John Brennan, the assistant to President Obama for homeland security and counterterrorism, sent to congressional leaders Monday night. Brennan defends the administration's efforts to close Guantánamo in the letter. While conceding that the number of former detainees who are "confirmed" or "suspected" of returning to terrorism has risen to 20 percent, Brennan says that all of the recidivists were released during the Bush years. Brennan goes on to argue that the Obama administration has made "significant improvements to the detainee review process," implying that it is being more careful in determining which detainees can be transferred or released than its predecessor.

In the middle of his letter, Brennan inserts this curious paragraph: During the briefing on January 13, Representative Wolf made allegations that one detainee repatriated to Yemen had been involved in weapons of mass destruction. As it has done in every case, the task force thoroughly reviewed all information available to the government about this individual and concluded that there is no

basis for the assertions Representative Wolf made during this session. I am attaching a classified addendum to this letter that addresses these concerns directly.

Brennan is referring to a Yemeni named Ayman Batarfi, who the administration repatriated to Yemen in December of last year. (I've written about Batarfi previously. See, for example, here and here.)

Brennan's characterization of Batarfi is surely wrong. Congressman Wolf got it right. And you don't need classified information to see that Wolf has the better of the argument.

The key is Batarfi's involvement in al Qaeda's efforts to develop anthrax. Intelligence authorities at Guantánamo consistently and repeatedly found that Batarfi played a role in al Qaeda's anthrax program while working for al Wafa—a "charity" that is really a front for al Qaeda. (Al Wafa has been designated an al Qaeda entity by both the U.S. and the UN.) During a hearing at Gitmo, Batarfi conceded he worked for al Wafa.

An October 31, 2005 memo prepared for Batarfi's first administrative review board (ARB) hearing at Gitmo says Batarfi "met a Malaysian microbiologist in Kandahar at the Haji Habbash guesthouse" in mid-August 2001. "The microbiologist wanted to equip a lab and train the Afghans to test blood." The authors of the memo added: "The same microbiologist was involved in developing anthrax for al Qaeda."

A November 28, 2006 memo contains the same allegations.

So does a December 28, 2007 memo, which adds (see the bottom of the page here and the top of the page here) that Batarfi "told another al Wafa employee to purchase four to five thousand United States Dollars worth of medical equipment for that individual"—that is, "the microbiologist who was involved in developing anthrax for al Qaeda."

The same December 28, 2007 memo also includes this sentence, in reference to Batarfi: "The detainee was identified as being a past participant in Al Qaeda's anthrax program and as having ties to al Qaeda."

Thus, on one hand, we have John Brennan's claim that "there is no basis for the assertions" that Congressman Wolf made about Batarfi's involvement in al Qaeda's WMD efforts and, on the other hand, we have the three memos written by authorities at Guantánamo over the span of more than two years.

Each of those three memos references Batarfi's involvement in al Qaeda's anthrax program.

There is more.

The U.S. government's unclassified files on Batarfi discuss his ties to a "Malaysian microbiologist" who was involved in trying to produce anthrax for al Qaeda. This individual is not named in the files, but is most likely al Qaeda's anthrax scientist, Yazid Sufaat.

Sufaat's background makes it clear why Gitmo officials were so troubled by Batarfi's ties to him.

Sufaat hosted two 9/11 hijackers at an apartment in Malaysia during the week they attended a key terrorist meeting. Sufaat also played host to Zacarias Moussaoui, who was scheduled to take part in the 9/11 attacks or a similar follow-on plot prior to his arrest in August 2001.

Sufaat was recruited to run al Qaeda's anthrax program by a top al Qaeda operative named Hambali, who is currently a high-value detainee being held at Guantánamo. Hambali introduced Sufaat to al Qaeda's number two, Ayman al Zawahiri. Zawahiri wanted to jumpstart al Qaeda's program for developing anthrax and asked Hambali for assistance in finding a suitable scientist.

Sufaat fit the bill. In 1987, he graduated from California State University at Sacramento with a bachelors degree in biological sciences and a minor in chemistry. In 2001, Sufaat put his degree to work for al Qaeda. The 9/11 Commission found that he spent "several months attempting to cultivate anthrax for al Qaeda in a laboratory he helped set up near the Kandahar airport," which was then a key facility controlled by Osama bin Laden.

Batarfi met Sufaat during this time period.

During one of Batarfi's ARB hearings, the following allegation was read aloud: "In mid-August 2001, [Batarfi] met a Malaysian microbiologist in Kandahar at the Hap Habbash guesthouse. This microbiologist wanted to equip a lab and train the Afghans to test blood."

Batarfi did not deny the allegation, instead he offered this answer: "He was a student, he was not a microbiologist. He wanted to complete his studies and he asked me [for help]. He was only here for four months and had wanted to learn from the people in the hospital how to used (sic) blood-testing equipment. He asked me if he could purchase this medical equipment from Pakistan because in Afghanistan there were not any facilities to purchase it. I told him we could purchase it through [the] al Wafa Office and donate it to the hospital instead of you getting the money from yourself."

One of the board members then asked, "What kind of medical equipment?" Batarfi responded: "It was [a] centrifuge, anti placenta for blood groupings; it was [an] autoclave for blood spacement. It was very simple equipment. He said it was approximately \$5000."

Later, during that same ARB session, the following allegation was read: "The Detainee told another al Wafa volunteer to purchase four to five thousand United States Dollars worth of medical equipment for the Malaysian microbiologist."

Again, Batarfi responded: "... I told the Malaysian microbiologist, if you want to purchase the \$5000 worth of items for the lab it is better to purchase it through al Wafa and you give the money to Afghanistan to me and then send it to Pakistan because it is unsafe."

Note that Batarfi did not deny meeting with the "Malaysian microbiologist," who is most likely Sufaat, or that he authorized al Wafa's purchase of lab equipment for him. Instead, he claimed that the microbiologist was only a "student" who "wanted to complete his studies." Moreover, Batarfi said the equipment was for supposedly innocuous blood-testing.

But Sufaat was no student at the time. Sufaat had graduated from California State years earlier. And al Qaeda tasked Sufaat with finding a way to manufacture anthrax, which is not an assignment that would be given to a mere student. Batarfi's ties to Sufaat are particularly troubling because, after the September 11 attacks, U.S. authorities found that al Qaeda's biological and chemical weapons programs were far more advanced than previously suspected. It is certainly plausible, if not likely given the allegations made against Batarfi while he was at Gitmo, that the equipment Batarfi agreed to purchase for Sufaat was part of this program—possibly to test blood for anthrax infections.

Batarfi was aware of how serious the allegations concerning Sufaat were. During the same hearing, Batarfi protested:

"They put my case with the Malaysian guy because he was a microbiologist. But now I found they claim he was [in the] anthrax field. So I did not know anything about this charge. He was a student who did not complete his studies and he was in Afghanistan

for only four months to work with the technicians about the lab test."

Thus, Batarfi's own testimony indicates he met with and approved the purchase of equipment for al Qaeda's anthrax scientist. Batarfi's denials were only tailored to convey his own supposed ignorance of what was really going on. But there is no reason we should take Batarfi's excuses at face value. Batarfi's denials are tissue-thin.

Indeed, Batarfi made a number of similar admissions in the context of hollow denials during his hearings at Gitmo. Batarfi admitted he purchased cyanide, but claimed it was for dental fillings. He admitted he worked for al Wafa, but claimed the al Qaeda-designated charity wasn't really an al Qaeda front. Batarfi admitted that he met with bin Laden in the Tora Bora Mountains in November 2001. But, Batarfi claimed, he sent a letter to someone (he does not say to whom) asking to meet with the "head of the mountain" and, somewhat magically, just happened to get a face-to-face sit down with the world's most wanted terrorist—at Tora Bora, in November of 2001—you know, when the whole world was looking for him. This was the second time Batarfi claims to have accidentally met bin Laden. The first time came at a funeral in Kabul when, again, bin Laden just happened upon the scene. Batarfi also admitted he stayed at various al Qaeda and Taliban guesthouses, but says he didn't realize they were facilities associated with Osama bin Laden at the time. Finally, Batarfi met the Taliban's health minister in 2001 because, well, that's just the sort of thing an al Wafa employee would do.

The bottom line is this: Congressman Wolf has good reasons to think Batarfi was involved in al Qaeda's anthrax program. Brennan says he has a classified assessment showing otherwise. The Obama administration should release it, so we can see how the detainee task force reached this conclusion. Did the task force take Batarfi's empty denials at face value?

In the meantime, there is plenty of evidence in the unclassified files, which are freely available online, showing that Brennan is wrong.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHILDEHELP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Childhelp and to congratulate them on their 50th Anniversary.

Childhelp is one of the premier national organizations dedicated to leading the fight against child abuse and neglect. Founded in 1959 by Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Feddersen, Childhelp's approach focuses on prevention, intervention and treatment. The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and receives calls from throughout the United States, Canada, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam. Childhelp's programs and services also include residential treatment services; children's advocacy centers; therapeutic foster care; group homes; child abuse prevention, education and training; and the National Day of Hope, part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month every April. Several of Childhelp's programs were firsts and continue to be studied by professionals worldwide as "models that work."

Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Feddersen continue to actively lead the organization and provide its vision, serving as Chairman/CEO and President, respectively. Their humanitarian commitment has been recognized throughout the world; Sara and Yvonne were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for three consecutive years, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

It is impossible to know how many lives have been touched by Childhelp, how many children protected, how many families strengthened. Although exact numbers may be difficult to identify, it is clear that Childhelp has filled a critical role in child abuse prevention and education. It would not have been possible for Childhelp to achieve its many successes without the dedication and commitment of their volunteers. They are the heart and soul of the organization; they are the links that keep the chain strong.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Childhelp, especially the volunteers of this incredible organization, for their commitment to the most vulnerable members of our society, our children. I also ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Childhelp on the occasion of its Golden Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP DR. AUDREY F. BRONSON

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, the great Marian Anderson once said, "Leadership should be born out of the understanding of the needs of those who would be affected by it." In recognition of her investiture as the first woman President of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity, I would like to honor an extraordinary individual who personifies the "understanding leader" Ms. Anderson described, Bishop Dr. Audrey F. Bronson.

At the age of 14, this remarkable woman was called to begin her vocation as a preacher. In 1975, she was inspired to establish the Sanctuary Church of the Open Door serving the community of West Philadelphia. In September 1978, the successful Sanctuary Christian Academy was founded to produce students skilled in reading, writing, mathematics, language arts and computer science. Other ministries at the church include Sanctuary Bible Institute; Sanctuary Family Resource Center and Referral Service; Sanctuary Christian Day Camp; Dunlap Apartment Complex; and Sanctuary Outreach Ministries.

Bishop Bronson's spirituality, extraordinary intellect and selfless nature reflect the nurturing of her loving and learned parents and brother. Her father, Dr. Uriah Perry Bronson, was a minister and pastor of churches and principal of several schools in Florida. Her mother and step-mother were both teachers and church workers. Her brother, Dr. Oswald P. Bronson, a United Methodist minister, was pastor of several churches and President of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He recently retired as President, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida and currently serves as President, Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida.

Dr. Bronson received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education from