

The school district's observers will require more training, Britt said. "Most are implementing the way that they were trained. The state didn't provide exhaustive training. It was more surface-level, which was a good beginning. However, it wasn't thorough. We need more follow-up in a timely manner."

FUTURE PLANS

The state Department of Education is currently evaluating TEAM.

State officials are committed to gathering feedback that will help determine where the evaluation model needs revision, and stakeholders are providing input through several channels.

The Tennessee Consortium on Research, Evaluation and Development (TN CRED) is launching a statewide survey in spring 2012 and conducting focus groups throughout the year. State officials are also traveling across the state to meet with stakeholders.

The state Department of Education's Advisory Group will bring revision recommendations to Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman. Based on the proposed revisions, the recommendations might need to be brought before the State Board of Education.

I thank the President, and I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I asked for unanimous consent to be recognized following the remarks by the Senator from Tennessee. It has been called to my attention that the Senator from Virginia would like to have the floor at this time, so I renew my unanimous consent request that I be recognized at the conclusion of the remarks of the Senator from Virginia.

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

The Senator from Virginia.

NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION ACT

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague from Oklahoma for giving me the courtesy of speaking, and I thank him again for the work he has done on the Foreign Relations Committee, Subcommittee on East Asian Affairs, where he is the ranking Republican, and the other work he has done on the Armed Services Committee.

Today I rise to speak about the National Criminal Justice Commission legislation which I introduced more than 2 years ago and which the leader and the managers of this bill are now going to offer as an amendment to the pending legislation. First of all, I thank the leader and the managers of the bill for calling up this legislation. I also thank my principal Republican cosponsor, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, for all the work he has done.

There are good national commissions and bad national commissions and redundant national commissions and sometimes there are national commissions which are not only needed but vital to the resolution of issues we face.

I am thinking, as I speak, of the first Commission on Wartime Contracting

which Senator CLAIRE McCASKILL and I introduced 4 years ago and which resulted in a finding of approximately \$30 billion in fraud, waste, and abuse in contracts that had gone to Iraq and Afghanistan and which provided a model for the way we should be approaching such contracts in the future. I would put this particular national commission in that category. It was put together after much thought and many hearings. It is paid for, it is sunsetted at 18 months, and it is dedicated to helping us resolve an issue of very serious national purpose.

I began on this issue before I came to the Senate—the issue of the imbalance in our criminal justice system and the need to bring a comprehensive resolution in terms of how we handle crime and reentry in this country. We have had more than 2½ years of hearings since I came to the Senate. After I introduced this legislation, we met—at staff levels, since I am not on the Judiciary Committee—with representatives from more than 100 different organizations across the country and across the philosophical spectrum.

This chart is an indication of the type of support we have received for this commission. I will not read the names, and I don't expect anyone viewing the TV screen to be able to read all the names, but this is an unusual circumstance. We have organizations as philosophically diverse as the ACLU, the NAACP, the Sentencing Project, the National Organization for Victim Assistance, the ABA Criminal Justice Section, the National Center for Victims of Crime, along with the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs Association, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which all agree we need to step forward and examine our criminal justice system in a comprehensive way, from point of apprehension to point of return, so that we make better use of our assets and make better use of our own people, quite frankly.

Today we incarcerate more people than any other country in the Western world or in any known country in the world. We have 2.3 million people in our prisons and jails and another 5 million people on probation or in some way under postcorrectional management. Hundreds of thousands of people are being released from jails and prisons every year and reentering society, and at this point we are without a comprehensive structure that will allow those who wish to become productive citizens again the opportunity to have the right kind of transition.

At the same time, we have 7 million people under some form of correctional supervision or in prisons and we don't feel any safer. This is the other beam our analysis has ridden as we looked at this. Even today, if we ask Americans, two-thirds of the people in this country believe crime is more prevalent today than it was a year ago.

So we were tasked—we tasked ourselves—with looking at this problem to

try to figure out how we can do a better job of addressing the issue of criminal justice, spending less money. We are now in a situation where State and local budgets have been stretched to the breaking point. Professor Western of Harvard estimates that annual correctional spending right now is about \$70 billion, with State spending on corrections increasing 40 percent over the past 20 years.

We are witnessing a war on our border with respect to gang warfare. Since President Calderon launched an offensive against drug gangs and cartels in 2006, tens of thousands of people have died in drug trafficking violence along the border. It is estimated that these cartels are now operating in more than 230 cities and towns in the United States. These entities need to be examined in the context of transnational gang activity as they relate to our criminal justice system.

We are also largely housing our Nation's mentally ill in our prison system. The number of mentally ill in prison right now is nearly five times the number of mentally ill in inpatient mental hospitals. Noted experts have cited jails and prisons as the No. 1 holding facility for the mentally ill.

So the conclusion we reached, after listening to dozens of representatives from different organizations across the philosophical spectrum, was that we need to have a long-overdue, top-to-bottom, beginning-to-end examination of how the criminal justice system works in the United States from point of apprehension to the decision of whether to arrest. And, if arrested, what sort of port does a person go into? How long should that person be in prison? What should prison administration look like, and how could that be better adapted? What models do we have out there that can be applied? What should reentry programs look like, and how do we deal with the ever-increasing problems of transnational gangs? We need to examine all of those pieces together.

The last review of this nature that was undertaken was done in 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson. So I introduced the National Criminal Justice Act, the goal of which is to create a blue ribbon national commission, time sunsetted—18 months—to get the finest minds in the country together to examine these different pieces and to come back to the Congress with specific recommendations for reforming our national criminal justice system.

Just last week, in a meeting of the Senate law Enforcement Caucus, Philadelphia Police Chief Charles Ramsey noted the tremendous influence of this last commission's report, which was reported in 1967—44 years ago—and voiced strong support for the creation of a new commission. We are long overdue to look at what works and what doesn't in our criminal justice system.

This bill has, quite frankly, struck a nerve across the country. I have heard from citizens across all 50 States in support of this initiative. I mentioned

the list of supporting organizations, including judges, lawyers, police, public health officials, educators, academics, prisoners, civil rights organizations, and people who are simply concerned about making our criminal justice system better, more fair, and more adaptable to solving the issues of the true criminal population in the United States.

So, again, I express my appreciation to Majority Leader REID for working with the managers of this bill and bringing this amendment to the pending legislation, and I trust that it will be a noncontroversial, \$5 million, paid-for study that will, in the end, help us resolve the many fallacies that now pervade our criminal justice system.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am here today to clear up a lot of misunderstandings that are floating around the country concerning the decision to have some of our troops—not combat, but some of our troops—go into sections of Eastern and Central Africa to cooperate with about five countries that have been trying, for 25 years, to eradicate the Lord's Resistance Army and their leader whose name is Joseph Kony.

It has disturbed me quite a bit over the years that not many people care about Africa. I can remember back when President Clinton was in office that at that time I objected to sending troops into Bosnia and Kosovo because he was using as a reason to do that ethnic cleansing, and I said at that time, here at this desk on the floor: Why is he concerned about ethnic cleansing in Bosnia when on any one given day in any one country in Africa—at that time it was mostly in west Africa, and I used Sierra Leone as an example—in any one day there are 100 people more who are being ethnically cleansed in Africa than there are being ethnically cleansed in the same day in Bosnia or in Kosovo. But nobody cared.

Fortunately, that changed when 9/11 came and people realized there was a serious problem. When our country was attacked, it became evident that we needed to take action against terrorists in the Middle East. As the Middle East was squeezed many of the extremists would move south through Djibouti, through the Horn of Africa. So, wisely, we decided—and it was mostly the decision by the Senate Armed Services Committee, on which I serve—we would assist Africa in developing five African brigades located north, south, east, west, and central. That has been undertaken, not as rapidly as I wish it were, but, nonetheless, that is happening. The recognition there is, as terrorism goes down through Africa, if they are prepared—and I am talking about the Africans—

to handle that terrorism and to stop that terrorism as it comes in, then we will not have to send our troops in.

That is essentially what happened last week when the President decided to send these troops into the north central part of Africa to address the problem with the Lord's Resistance Army, or the LRA, and Joseph Kony.

The past few days have been kind of interesting. Rush Limbaugh yesterday talked about this issue, and somebody brought it to my attention. Even though I disagreed, I do not disagree with him as often as some on the other side do. But he made a statement. I am quoting now:

Now, up until today, most Americans have never heard of the Lord's Resistance Army. And here we are at war with them.

Well, it is not true.

Have you ever heard of [them]?

He talked about it with three people who are always in his studio: Dawn and Brian and Snedley.

Have you ever heard of [the] Lord's Resistance Army, Dawn?

"No."

How about you, Brian?

"No."

Snedley, have you?

"No."

You never heard of [the] Lord's Resistance Army? Well, that proves my contention, most Americans have never heard of it, and here we are at war with them.

Let me clarify, and in a minute I will talk about what their mission is there. We are not at war with them. In fact, we are specifically precluding our troops from any kind of combat in that area. But I wish to put it in proper context as to the significance of this.

I have had an opportunity to spend a lot of time in Africa—more than any other Member of this U.S. Senate, or any other Member of any other Senate even before this. I have had many conversations over the last 15 years with President Museveni of Uganda and his First Lady Janet about the problem.

It all started in northern Uganda. In the 1980s Alice Lakwena had a dream in which she was told to overthrow the government of Uganda. Alice founded the Ugandan "Holy Spirit Movement" and led a group of rebels against the government. Eventually, Alice was exiled and, her cousin, Joseph Kony took over her group. What happened was, Joseph Kony, who fancies himself a spiritual leader, has gone in and started building—you can call them a number of different things: a children's army or the "invisible" children—but to go in and build this massive army of young people—I am talking about kids from the age of 12, 13, 14 years old; young kids—he goes out and abducts them from villages. Then they come in, and they teach them how to operate AK-47s, how to join this army he has put together. If they do not do it, or if they fail in their training, then they are mutilated.

I will show you a chart in the Chamber with a series of pictures. These are

young kids. These pictures give you an idea of how young they are: 11, 12, 13 years old, with AK-47s. That is what their army looks like. See that little kid there, he is 11 years old. This one in this other picture is 12 years old. They are carrying heavy weapons.

For the ones who do not do what he tells them to do, they mutilate them. Here is another chart with more pictures. As you can see, they do it by cutting off their nose, cutting off their ears, cutting off their lips—that is a big thing they do—cutting off their hands.

You see this picture right here. His name, by the way, is John Ochola. He is one we have seen before. They have taken his ears off, his nose off, cut off both of his hands.

Here is another picture up here, and one down here. This is a young child. His lip is cut off, his nose is cut off, and his ear is cut off. You can see that. That had just happened. They bandaged him up.

Once they are in this army, to go back to their villages and murder their siblings, and murder their parents. If they do not do it, this is the price they pay.

Anyway, we have made the decision to go and help them—and we also have a program that is called train and equip, which I will talk about in a minute—but to go in and actually be of assistance to these countries; in this case, taking out this particular maniac who has been there for 25 years.

It is not just in Uganda. I went up to Gulu. Gulu is in the northern part of Uganda. Senator MIKE ENZI was with me at this time. We went up and we saw a lot of these kids who came back who had been mutilated. We went down and talked to President Kagame, the President of Rwanda. You might remember, Rwanda, in 1994, is where the greatest, the most devastating murder by genocide in recorded history in Africa took place, killing 800,000 people, using machetes, torturing them to death. They had the same problem down there.

Then, if you go over to the DRC, Democratic Republic of the Congo, that is Joe Kabila. Joe Kabila is one who is very much concerned. Of course, Kinshasa, the capital of the DRC, is way over on the western side, and it is several time zones over to the eastern side where Joseph Kony was killing these kids at that time. In fact, the major city over there is Goma. We were in Goma shortly before Kony escaped and went north to the Central African Republic, and then back up to South Sudan.

I had occasion to be in South Sudan last week. That is a new country. It was an exciting thing to go into a new country and sit down with their members of Parliament. We talked for a good 2 hours. We had 25 members of the Parliament of the brand new country, South Sudan, and they told me one of their major concerns right now is getting this guy Joseph Kony. He has now