

A year ago, we learned again that the national law enforcement system is only as strong as its weakest link. If all jurisdictions everywhere are not full partners in the legitimate, practical, day-to-day operations of the existing national system for information sharing and Federal-State cooperation, each of us anywhere is at risk.

The information now available demonstrates that the enormous tragedies of a year ago might well have been entirely prevented if authorities in a State far from the Washington area had used the existing Federal resources available to them.

The fact is, on the night of September 21, 2002, 11 days before the sniper shootings began in the Washington area, the local police in Montgomery, AL, obtained a clear fingerprint of a suspect in a brutal robbery and murder. As we now know, that fingerprint matched a print on file in the FBI electronic matching system.

That information could have quickly led the authorities to Malvo and Muhammad, the two people later charged with the Washington area killings that began on October 2 that year.

A State crime laboratory with a few thousand dollars worth of proper hardware and free software from the FBI could have transmitted the Alabama fingerprint to the FBI system on Sunday morning, September 22. That system would have automatically compared the print with the 45 million prints in the system. The matching print could have been found and identified by the FBI by noon on that Sunday. In fact, the FBI's average response time on such print matches was 3 hours and 16 minutes last year.

The FBI's State assistance program makes it easy and inexpensive for a State to transmit unidentified prints directly to the automated fingerprint system. The Justice Department even provides grants to help with the costs.

But 15 States, including the State of Alabama, are not yet fully connected to the FBI system. They cannot transmit the fingerprints found at crime scenes directly to the FBI's automated 24-hour-a-day fingerprint searching system.

In the Alabama case, had the full facilities available from the Federal Government been utilized, look-out alerts or arrest warrants for the Alabama murder suspects could have been circulated throughout the Nation some time between September 22 and September 24, followed quickly by the description and license plate number of the car they were using.

In other words, at least 7 full days before the first shooting in the Washington area, Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies could have identified Muhammad and Malvo and could have been searching urgently for them, because they were wanted for the robbery/murder in Alabama. Tragically, we now know that local police officers in two other States made traffic stops of the suspects' car and

checked the driver's license and plates with the national databases during those 7 days. But because the readily available national system had not been used, those checks produced no response. Malvo and Muhammad were not apprehended, and the DC area sniper shootings took place.

It is not my purpose to single out Alabama for special blame. This is a national problem. Fifteen States are not fully connected to the FBI's electronic matching system. Many other States may not take full advantage of this and other Federal resources.

The FBI spent \$640 million building its fingerprint system, because it persuaded Congress that "if we build it they will come." The system works well beyond the planners' dreams. It usually responds on a ten-fingerprint check of an arrested suspect within 20 minutes. It usually reports on an unknown single fingerprint within about 3 hours.

Thirty-five States are fully using this valuable resource. They use the system routinely and automatically, because as one police official put it, "You catch bad guys" this way. In fact, some police departments sent the FBI all the old unidentified prints they had as soon as they connected to the system. Time after time, even very old prints from unsolved cases were matched with prints in the system, and old crimes were finally solved.

On this sad anniversary of the DC sniper shootings, I hesitate to discuss these painful facts, when the victims' families are still grieving. But I, too, have been where they are now, and so I feel I can speak the painful truth, the truth that will teach us how to make the future better than the past.

The truth is that we now know this tragedy could have been prevented—not by tougher laws or more intrusive investigative powers, not by ethnic or racial profiling, but by strengthening and fully using the effective systems we already have in place.

Attorney General Ashcroft wants even more law enforcement powers that will threaten still more basic rights. But I say, let's fix the nuts and bolts of the system we already have. It is a scandal that 15 of our States are still not fully linked to the FBI system. The financial cost is small, and Federal grants are available to defray it and pay the cost of any training that is needed. Hopefully, no such avoidable tragedy will ever happen again, and the victims we mourn and honor today will not have died in vain.

CHANGE IN INTERNET SERVICES USAGE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to announce that in accordance with title V of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Rules and Administration intends to update the "U.S. Senate Internet Services Usage Rules and Regulations."

Based on the committee's review of the 1996 regulations, the following

changes to these policies have been adopted effective October 8, 2003.

The following changes have been made:

A. SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITY:

Senate Internet Services (World Wide Web and Electronic mail) may only be used for official purposes. The use of Senate Internet Services for personal, promotional, commercial, or partisan political/campaign purposes is prohibited.

Members of the Senate, as well as Committee Chairmen and Officers of the Senate may post to the Internet Servers information files which contain matter relating to their official business, activities, and duties. All other offices must request approval from the Committee on Rules and Administration before posting material on the Internet Information Servers.

Websites covered by this policy must be located in the SENATE.GOV host-domain.

It is the responsibility of each Senator, Committee Chairman (on behalf of the committee), Officer of the Senate, or office head to oversee the use of the Internet Services by his or her office and to ensure that the use of the services is consistent with the requirements established by this policy and applicable laws and regulations.

Official records may not be placed on the Internet Servers unless otherwise approved by the Secretary of the Senate and prepared in accordance with Section 501 of Title 44 of the United States Code. Such records include, but are not limited to: bills, public laws, committee reports, and other legislative materials.

B. POSTING OR LINKING TO THE FOLLOWING MATTER IS PROHIBITED:

Political Matter.

a. Matter which specifically solicits political support for the sender or any other person or political party, or a vote or financial assistance for any candidate for any political office is prohibited.

b. Matter which mentions a Senator or an employee of a Senator as a candidate for political office, or which constitutes electioneering, or which advocates the election or defeat of any individuals, or a political party is prohibited.

Personal Matter.

a. Matter which by its nature is purely personal and is unrelated to the official business activities and duties of the sender is prohibited.

b. Matter which constitutes or includes any article, account, sketch, narration, or other text laudatory and complimentary of any Senator on a purely personal or political basis rather than on the basis of performance of official duties as a Senator is prohibited.

c. Reports of how or when a Senator, the Senator's spouse, or any other member of the Senator's family spends time other than in the performance of, or in connection with, the legislative, representative, and other official functions of such Senator is prohibited.

d. Any transmission expressing holiday greetings from a Senator is prohibited. This prohibition does not preclude an expression of holiday greetings at the commencement or conclusion of an otherwise proper transmission.

Promotional Matter.

a. The solicitation of funds for any purpose is prohibited.

b. The placement of logos or links used for personal, promotional, commercial, or partisan political/campaign purposes is prohibited.

C. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF INTERNET SERVICES:

During the 60 day period immediately preceding the date of any primary or general election (whether regular, special, or runoff)

for any national, state, or local office in which the Senator is a candidate, no Member may place, update or transmit information using Senate Internet Services, unless the candidacy of the Senator in such election is uncontested. Exceptions to this moratorium include the following; posting of press releases, posting of official statements of the member appearing in the Congressional Record, and technical corrections to the website.

Electronic mail may not be transmitted by a Member during the 60 day period before the date of the Member's primary or general election unless it is in response to a direct inquiry. Exceptions to this moratorium include the following; press release distribution to press organizations, and email to perform administrative communication.

During the 60 day period immediately before the date of a biennial general Federal election, no Member may place or update on the Internet Server any matter on behalf of a Senator who is a candidate for election, unless the candidacy of the Senator in such election is uncontested.

An uncontested candidacy is established when the Rules Committee receives written certification from the appropriate state official that the Senator's candidacy may not be contested under state law. Since the candidacy of a Senator who is running for reelection from a state which permits write-in votes on election day without prior registration or other advance qualification by the candidate may be contested, such a Member is subject to the above restrictions.

If a Member is under the restrictions as defined in subtitle C, paragraph (1), above, the following statement must appear on the homepage: ("Pursuant to Senate policy this homepage may not be updated for the 60 day period immediately before the date of a primary or general election"). The words "Senate Policy" must be hypertext linked to the Internet services policy on the Senate Home Page.

A Senator's homepage may not refer or be hypertext linked to another Member's site or electronic mail address without authorization from that Member.

Any Links to Information not located on a senate.gov domain must be identified as a link to a non-Senate entity.

D. MISCELLANEOUS:

Domains and Names (URL)—Senate entities shall reside on SENATE.GOV domains. The URL name for an official Web site located in the SENATE.GOV domain must:

Member sites—contain the Senator's last name.

Committee sites—contain the name of the committee.

Office sites—contain the name of the office.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to speak in memory of U.S. Army Sgt Travis Friedrich, of Naugatuck, CT, who was killed fighting for his country in Iraq on Saturday, September 20. He was 26 years old.

Like so many of our brave men and women who are serving overseas today, Sgt Friedrich was a reservist. He was a graduate student at the University of New Haven, working on his degree in forensic science, and was also working full-time as a laboratory technician in Waterbury.

When he was summoned to active duty in January, he left behind family

and friends who loved him, and a promising education and career. But Sgt Friedrich answered his country's call and he did so in exemplary fashion.

Sgt Friedrich grew up in Hammond, NY, and was a shining star in both academics and athletics. He graduated from Brockport State College, majoring in chemistry and criminal justice, and came to Connecticut 3 years ago with dreams of becoming an investigator in law enforcement. Tragically, it was a dream he would not live to fulfill.

Everyone who knew Travis Friedrich said that he represented the best of the American armed forces and, indeed, the best of America. His friends remembered his sense of humor, and his leadership as co-captain of his college crew team. He also had a tremendous work ethic whether he was on the field of battle, in a classroom, or on the job. And he loved his family and friends, just as he loved his country.

When people like Travis Friedrich make the decision to enlist in our armed forces, they do so knowing that one day, they could be called upon to make profound sacrifices—and possibly the ultimate sacrifice—for this nation, and the values and freedoms that we represent.

That's not an easy decision to make, but for an individual with the courage and the integrity of Travis Friedrich, it was a natural one. "Wherever I go," Sergeant Friedrich once said, "I want to do my share." He did his share, and much, much more.

I salute Travis Friedrich for his bravery, his heroism, and his service to his country. I offer my most sincere condolences to his parents, David and Elizabeth, and to all of his friends and family.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to express our Nation's deepest thanks and gratitude to a young man and his family from Casper, WY. On September 23rd, 2003, Cpt Robert L. Lucero was killed in the line of duty in Iraq. While searching a building in Tikrit, Captain Lucero was fatally wounded by an explosive device that took his life and injured another soldier.

Captain Lucero was a member of the Wyoming National Guard, and was the very model of the citizen soldier. He was a vibrant young man who loved being outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved his family and his country. Captain Lucero had a profound sense of duty and felt a strict obligation to his country and his job as an American soldier.

It is because of people such as Captain Lucero that we continue to live safe and secure. America's men and women who answer the call of service and wear our Nation's uniform deserve respect and recognition for the enormous burden that they willingly bear. Our people put everything on the line everyday, and because of these folks, our Nation remains free and strong in the face of danger.

Captain Lucero is survived by his wife Sherry and his mother Lois Ann, as well as many family and friends. We say good bye to a son, a husband, a brother, a soldier, and an American. Our Nation pays its deepest respect to Cpt Robert L. Lucero for his courage, his love of country and his sacrifice, so that we may remain free. He was a hero in life and he remains a hero in death. All of Wyoming, and indeed the entire Nation was proud of him.

ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE PROGRAM

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the statement and efforts of my colleague from New Mexico, Senator BINGAMAN, on behalf of the Essential Air Service, EAS, program.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have been a strong supporter of EAS, which provides subsidized air service to 125 small communities in the country, including four in Maine—Augusta, Rockland, Bar Harbor and Presque Isle—that would otherwise be cut off from the nation's air transportation network. As approved in May by the Senate Commerce Committee, the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill reauthorized and flat-funded the program for 3 years, and includes certain changes to the program, which are drastically scaled back from what the Administration proposed earlier this year for EAS "reform." The Administration had called for EAS towns to provide up to 25 percent matching contributions to keep their air service.

The Commerce Committee bill creates a number of new programs to help EAS communities grow their ridership, including a marketing incentive program that would financially reward EAS towns for achieving ridership goals. With regard to local cost-sharing—the centerpiece of the Administration's EAS proposal—the Commerce bill would create a pilot program to allow for a 10 percent annual community match at no more than 10 airports within 100 miles of a large airport.

While the cost-sharing provisions in the committee bill are much less strict than the Administration proposal, and could only be applied to a EAS community under certain specific conditions, I remain concerned about the concept of requiring EAS towns—some of which are cash-strapped and economically depressed—from kicking in hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to keep their air service. For example, if Augusta or Rockland, ME, were to be chosen for the cost-sharing pilot program, they would have to come up with more than \$120,000 annually to retain their air service.

As such, on the floor I supported Senator BINGAMAN's amendment to strike the cost-sharing section from the bill and was pleased when it was approved unanimously by the full Senate. The House adopted an identical amendment