

is potentially on the chopping block. The next generation destroyer, the DD(X), may not get built. That is the ship that is going to provide naval surface fire to support troops going ashore. The Joint Strike Fighter, our stealthy air-to-ground strike fighter, which we have been developing for years, is on the chopping block. The new tanker is imperiled. The need for additional airlift is imperiled. This situation is serious.

What do we need to do? The Department is engaged right now in a Quadrennial Defense Review. Every 4 years the Department looks at its needs and is supposed to analyze what it needs to defend us and analyze that in terms of military needs, not fiscal constraints. In other words, the way the law reads, they look at what structure of forces, what package of capabilities they need to defend the United States, and then we try to come up with the money to pay for that.

Well, I am concerned that the analysis may be the other way around. They may be given a figure, a budget number, and told to come up with a force structure and a package of capabilities that meet that budget number. They must be allowed to assume reasonable inflation-adjusted increases in the defense budget for the future and then be allowed to build the package of capabilities and force structure needed to defend the United States.

That Quadrennial Defense Review needs to be military driven, not budget driven. Then, in the meantime, while we wait for that review, we should stick with the planned figure for fiscal 2007. Every year, the Department sends its budget here. And, of course, the key number is the number for the upcoming fiscal year, but it is always a 5-year defense plan. In the first few years of the Bush administration, to the credit of the Department and the administration, they have basically stuck to their projections year by year, with fairly minor deviations.

The figure for fiscal 2007 that we were given last year is \$443 billion, and that is the figure that should come over. We should not sacrifice our defense requirements for deficit concerns. Whatever your feelings about the deficit and about how we ought to resolve the deficit, it is not caused by the defense budget.

The defense budget is 48 percent of discretionary spending. It was just about the same in the Carter era. The defense budget as a percentage of the total budget is 17 percent, which is 6 percent less than it was in the Carter era. As a percentage of gross domestic product, it is 3.6 percent which, again, is less than it was in the Carter era. The military budget has not caused the deficit that we are dealing with today. In fact, if we could just sustain defense spending at 4 percent of the gross domestic product, which would be an historic low, that would be more than adequate for us to build the kind of force structure that we need to defend our country. That is not too big a sacrifice to pay for this Nation's security.

I said at the beginning of my remarks that reducing the defense bud-

et in the name of reducing the deficit is a false economy. I ask Senators to consider the world situation today. The stability of the international order in the world depends on the reality and the perception of American military power. The more stable the world is, the more hospitable it is to freedom and to our interests, the faster our economy will grow, and the more money we will have available, not just for defense spending but, indeed, for all other obligations of the Government. That is something President Reagan understood. When he became President in 1981, he began building up America's defenses. He had double-digit spending increases in the military budget. He knew that was a key aspect of winning the Cold War. He got the attention of the Soviets. After a few years, they decided it was not worth it to try to compete with the United States in that arena. That was one of the key factors that led to the fall of the Soviet Union. And the freedom that resulted from that, the end of the isolation of Eastern Europe, the opportunities that were unleashed on the world are one of the reasons that we had unparalleled economic growth all throughout the 1990s, which then enabled us to balance the budget and eventually get to a surplus.

If, as a result of budget-driven decisions, we reduce the defense budget beneath what is minimally adequate, we create a sense of instability in the world, a doubt about our resolution to maintain our obligations and to protect our freedom. If that even minimally increases the possibility of a confrontation somewhere in the world, it will affect our economic opportunities and our economic growth far more than anything we could possibly save by reducing the defense budget, to put it on just as low and cold a level as possible. A strong defense, the perception of American will and resolution is good for the economy. It is necessary if we are going to grow as a country, create jobs, and generate the kind of revenue that will allow us to address the deficit.

I offer a personal note on behalf of this issue. The men and women who defend us in our military are the finest people who have ever served in any military service at any time in the Nation's history. They know the obligation that they are undertaking. They undertake it willingly. Over Veterans Day, I attended a few rallies around Missouri. I like to do that in commemoration of the men and women who have served. I was in Lebanon, MO, and met a number of our service personnel who were there. One of them was a recent enlistee in the National Guard, a young man who was proud to wear his country's uniform, proud at the prospect that he might be actively involved, as I am sure he will be, in helping our Nation win the war against terror.

We had an opportunity to visit. He understood that in doing that, he was

doing something very important, very large. He was sacrificing, and his sacrifice was a measure of the value he placed on the freedom of his country and the security of his family.

Those young men and women in America's military will keep faith with us. They are going to do what we ask and expect them to do to protect us. We owe it to them, particularly in the Congress. We owe it to them, to keep faith with them. They protect us. They count on us to protect them, to do what we know is necessary to provide them with what they need to do their jobs.

Let's live up to that. Let's have confidence that doing the right thing, meeting our obligations with regard to the national defense, is the best way to approach the future, both economically and as a matter of foreign policy and as a matter of the Nation's security.

I yield the floor.

#### FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, Thursday night, on the eve of Veterans Day, we passed the Foreign Operations appropriations bill with near unanimous, bipartisan support. I commend my colleagues for their cooperation on this bill which is so critical to America's security.

I especially recognize Senator MITCH MCCONNELL for his steady leadership.

Diplomacy and foreign policy are essential pillars of our national security. They reflect America's values, principles, and vital interests.

This \$21 billion appropriations bill promises to promote democracy, stability, and prosperity, and strengthen America's security here at home and around the world.

It also promotes America's leadership in the arena of international aid. Targeted foreign assistance is an invaluable instrument for spreading democratic values, and improving the health and welfare of our neighbors close to home and around the world. It can promote economic growth and opportunity in even the poorest of nations.

The Foreign Operations appropriations bill includes several provisions that advance these efforts. I would like to take a moment to share some of them.

The defeat of Global HIV/AIDS is one of the world's greatest humanitarian challenges. In many countries, an entire generation of productive adults has been wiped out by this one, tiny, malicious virus. The funds set aside to battle the HIV/AIDS virus target relief where it can do the most good and make the biggest difference.

Under this legislation, America is committed to providing \$2.82 billion for Global HIV/AIDS relief. That includes: \$2 billion for the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative; \$250 million for HIV/AIDS from the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund; and a \$450 million contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

By providing this desperately needed help, we save lives, strengthen alliances, and promote peace and stability.

I have often talked about humanitarian aid as a currency for peace. The Foreign Operations appropriations bill wisely sets aside targeted funding for global health programs to advance that cause.

Along with tackling the Global HIV/AIDS crisis, the Foreign Operations appropriations bill supports the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund. These funds help reduce child mortality and morbidity, and combat other, serious public health problems.

One of the most important public health crises this bill addresses is the lack of clean, drinkable water in many regions of the world.

Every 15 seconds a child dies because of a disease contracted from unclean water. Fully, 90 percent of infant deaths can be attributed to this one, basic cause.

In total, water-related disease kills 14,000 people a day. That is over 5 million people a year, not counting the millions who are debilitated and prevented from leading healthy lives.

Cholera, typhoid, dysentery, dengue fever, trachoma, intestinal helminth infection, and schistosomiasis can all be prevented by simply providing clean, drinkable water and proper sanitation.

Funding for the Safe Water: Currency for Peace Act, which I cosponsored earlier this year, will go a long way to providing this simple, but profound necessity.

In addition to providing Foreign Operations needed and targeted humanitarian aid, the Foreign Operations appropriations bill advances the critical work of stopping the spread of WMD.

We are working closely with our friends and allies to secure stockpiles of WMD-related materials and technology and to make sure our allies have the ability to protect these sensitive materials.

The Foreign Operations appropriations bill provides over \$410 million toward our nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, and demining efforts.

One of the gravest threats we face is the threat of WMD falling into our enemy's hands.

We cannot, we must not, let this happen.

Ultimately, the goal of each and every one of our foreign operations programs must be to promote America's security and America's values. And as the last century taught us, our security and our values must go hand in hand.

Whether for humanitarian, diplomatic or security purposes, effective foreign assistance advances our vital interests and protects the homeland.

The United States remains committed to eliminating poverty, expanding prosperity, and strengthening domestic institutions abroad.

And by doing so, we advance our security and prosperity right here at home.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. BEN WORTHINGTON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated steward of our national forests, Mr. Ben Worthington. Last month, Ben retired from the National Forest Service after 32 years of service. For the last 10 of these years, my home State of Kentucky was fortunate to have him serve as forest supervisor of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Ben began his forestry career at Washington State University, where he earned a degree in forest management. After graduating, he joined the Peace Corps and was relocated to Costa Rica for 2 years. Upon his return, he worked for the Forest Service in his home State of Oregon and eventually in Washington State and California. Before moving to Kentucky, he was the deputy forest supervisor at Bridger Teton National Forest in Wyoming.

As forest supervisor of the Daniel Boone National Forest, Ben oversaw the day-to-day operation and preservation of Kentucky's only national forest. The Daniel Boone National Forest covers over 700,000 acres of land from the northeastern part of the Commonwealth of Kentucky all the way to the Tennessee State line, and also includes some noncontiguous counties in eastern Kentucky. This Kentucky treasure has something for every outdoor enthusiast. With over 600 miles of trails, it can be hiked, biked, and explored on horseback. Visitors may also fish, hunt, and camp in the forest, making it a popular weekend getaway or vacation destination.

I had the privilege to team up with Ben by securing funds over the years to help with the marijuana eradication operations on or near the national forest land. Ben and his staff have worked in lockstep with the local sheriff's departments, the Kentucky State Police, and the Kentucky National Guard to identify and destroy marijuana plants. They have done a terrific job, and I know that Ben's success will be carried on by his successor.

After working for 32 years in the Forest Service, Ben plans to remain in Kentucky. His wife is active in their local community of Winchester, his mother now calls Kentucky home, and his two children attend Western Kentucky University. Ben's work ethic, dedication, and love of the land will be greatly missed, but it is time for him to start a new chapter, and I wish Ben the best in his retirement.

#### HONORING SGT. JOHN BASILONE, "A PLAIN SOLDIER" AND THREE OTHER MARINE LEGENDS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, on the 230th anniversary of the U.S. Marine corps, the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a long-awaited set of postage stamps honoring four of the corps' greatest heroes.

Today, a new generation of Americans are risking their lives to serve

this Nation. Nearly 2,100 Americans have died in Iraq, and more than 15,000 others have been injured. It is important that we honor their sacrifices and the sacrifices of those who came before them. I would like to take a few moments to talk about the four legendary marines commemorated on the new stamps.

LTG John A. Lejeune is probably the best known of this fabled four. Regarded as "the greatest of all leathernecks," Lieutenant General Lejeune made history in World War I as the first marine to lead what was predominantly an Army division. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal from both the Army and the Navy, as well as the French Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre with Palm for his service during World War I. He is best known, however, for his foresight and determination to enhance the Marine Corps by introducing specialized amphibious assault capabilities into Marine Corps training. Marines today annually read his 1921 Birthday Message Order that summarizes the history, mission, and traditions of the Marine Corps.

LTG Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller rose through the ranks from private to become one of the Marine Corps' most celebrated leathernecks. His distinguished service and leadership during critical battles in the "Banana Wars," World War II, and the Korean War earned him five Navy Crosses and made him one of the most decorated marines ever. He led marines in two of the Corps' most daring assaults: at Guadalcanal in World War II; and at Inchon in the Korean Conflict. He died in 1971 and is still revered in the Corps today for his courage in combat and his ability to inspire confidence and loyalty and for the attention and respect he showed to those under his command.

SGM Daniel J. Daly is one of only two marines to be awarded two Medals of Honor for separate acts of heroism. According to the "Historical Dictionary of the United States Marine Corps", his "record as a fighting man remains unequalled in the annals of Marine Corps history" nearly 70 years after his death. In 1900, Sergeant Major Daly was sent to China, where he earned his first Medal of Honor during the Boxer Rebellion. In 1915, he was sent to Haiti, where he earned his second Medal of Honor fighting off nearly 400 bandits. He saw combat as a gunnery sergeant in France during World War I and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Government's Croix de Guerre with Palm. He retired in 1929 and died in 1937, and remains a legend to all marines.

The fourth of the legendary marines honored on the new postage stamps is the only one the four killed in combat. One writer described him as a "big, handsome Marine with jug ears and a smile like a neon sign." GEN Douglas MacArthur called him "a one-man Army."