

any other country on the planet. It unwillingly hosts a number of radical terrorist groups that have killed hundreds of Indonesian citizens and hundreds of foreign visitors to Indonesia's shores. It sits astride vital trade routes linking the Middle East to the Pacific.

We want Indonesia to succeed, and we will continue to support the Indonesia Government and the Indonesian people. But uncritical assistance to the TNI will only hinder Indonesia's democratic transition and undermine our interests in that country.

We know Indonesia faces a serious terrorist threat and that the Indonesian authorities must act to protect their nation's citizens from that threat. We have urged closer U.S. cooperation with Indonesian police authorities to face down terrorism, and we support efforts to fund, train, and equip the Indonesian police's antiterrorism units. We applaud the Indonesian Government's determination to vet all members of such units to make sure they have not been involved in human rights violations.

We do not dispute that the TNI could play an important and appropriate role in Indonesia's own fight against terrorism, but we cannot ignore the institution's history of human rights abuses. We should not lend American support to an unreformed TNI, a TNI that no Indonesian democratic institution can hold accountable for human rights abuses. Congress clearly expressed its intent in this regard.

We will find ourselves on shaky ground—and place our counterterrorism strategy in the region at risk—if we do not press for reforms in an Army that considers itself above the law.

I strongly urge the State Department to reconsider its decision to waive in such a preemptory fashion the restrictions placed upon military assistance to Indonesia by this Congress. The administration needs to provide Congress with a better sense of the benchmarks it is using to encourage TNI reform and measure TNI progress. And it needs to use its waiver authority more judiciously if it expects Congress to continue granting such authority.

DORRANCE SMITH

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, earlier this week, the Committee on Armed Services favorably reported the nomination of Mr. Dorrance Smith to the full Senate. Mr. Smith is an experienced and highly accomplished television executive, who has been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. I have a copy of Mr. Smith's biography, and I would note that he is a four-time Emmy award winning television producer who spent 9 months in Iraq from 2003 to 2004 where he served as Senior Media Advisor to Ambassador Paul Bremer. I have met with Mr. Smith on several occasions. I believe him to be highly qualified, and I fully support his nomination.

At a full Armed Services Committee hearing on October 25, 2005, and later, at an executive session of the Armed Services Committee on December 13, at which Mr. Smith was present, he fully and respectfully answered all questions posed to him. Many questions focused on an op ed article he wrote as a private citizen that appeared in the Wall Street Journal on April 25, 2005. In this article, based on his "in the trenches" experience as Ambassador Bremer's senior media advisor in Baghdad, Mr. Smith questioned the practice relied on by major media outlets in the United States of airing video of insurgent attacks supplied by the Arab satellite news channel Al Jazeera. I am satisfied with Mr. Smith's responses. I would note that no major media outlet, except Al Jazeera, expressed any concern about Mr. Smith's op ed.

The post of Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs has been vacant since June 2003. Mr. Smith is an outstanding nominee. I urge favorable, rapid action by the full Senate on his nomination.

I ask unanimous consent that the above-referenced biography be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DORRANCE SMITH

Dorrance Smith is a four-time Emmy award winning television producer, political consultant, and media strategist who has worked over 30 years in television and politics.

Mr. Smith spent nine months in Iraq in 2003–2004 where he served as Senior Media Adviser to Ambassador Paul Bremer. He was responsible for developing a state of the art communications facility in Baghdad for the Coalition Provisional Authority and a public diplomacy strategy for the United States government. In addition, Mr. Smith was asked to overhaul the fledgling Iraqi Media Network. By April, 2004 this effort was deemed so successful that the terrestrial channel—Al Iraqiya—was launched on satellite. For his efforts he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.

More recently he has been a consultant to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies and the 2004 Republican National Convention.

A four time Emmy Award winning ABC News and Sports producer, he has held a number of positions at the network, including serving as the first executive producer of "This Week with David Brinkley."

From 1989 until 1991, Smith was the executive producer of ABC News "Nightline." During his tenure he was responsible for the weeklong "Nightline" series originating from South Africa, which covered the release of Nelson Mandela. The broadcasts won an Emmy award. In addition he served as executive producer of the prime time special "Tragedy at Tiananmen—The Untold Story," which was honored with the duPont Columbia University Award, the Overseas Press Club Award and an Emmy. "Nightline" also won an Emmy in 1991 for outstanding news coverage of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Prior to his work on "Nightline," Smith was the executive producer of the number one rated Sunday public affairs program, "This Week with David Brinkley," a post he held from the program's inception in 1981

until 1989. During his tenure the broadcast received the first Joan Barone Award, the George Foster Peabody Award, and was named the Best National TV Interview Discussion Program by the readers of the Washington Journalism Review.

In 1991 Smith left ABC News to become Assistant to the President for Media Affairs at the White House. In this capacity Smith handled all television and radio events involving President Bush, members of the White House staff and Cabinet. In addition his office handled all regional media; coordinated media strategy for administration officials seeking confirmation; and organized the debate preparation during the 1992 political campaign.

In 2001, Smith was designated by FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh to handle all media following the events of September 11th. In this capacity Smith was responsible for FEMA's media strategy for print, radio and television. Smith organized and distributed the now famous FEMA video feeds from Ground Zero. He reorganized the Public Affairs Office to meet the post September 11th media demands.

At ABC News, Smith became executive producer of all weekend news programming in 1980. He was responsible for the production and programming of "World News Saturday," "World News Sunday," "The Weekend Report," and "The Health Show."

Prior to his weekend assignment, Smith was Washington producer of ABC News' "The Iran Crises: America Held Hostage." He also served as ABC News Senior Producer at the 1980 Winter Olympics, the 1984 Winter and Summer Games, and the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary.

From 1978–1979, Smith served as ABC News' White House producer. Smith joined ABC News as a Washington producer in 1977. Previously he was staff assistant to President Gerald Ford.

He began his broadcasting career at ABC Sports in 1973 as an assistant to the producer. In 1974 he was made Manager of Program Planning for ABC's Wide World of Sports.

Smith is a member of the Advisory Council for the George Bush Library in College Station, Texas.

He graduated from Claremont Men's College in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He lives in McLean, Virginia.

FIRST SESSION OF 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. ALLARD. I rise today to speak in review of the first session of this 109th Congress. I have served in the Congress since 1991, and I can say without exaggeration that this year has been the single most productive year I have participated in. As I will detail, we have passed numerous significant legislative items, some of which have languished in Congress for many years. We have stayed a determined course in the global war on terror, maintaining our commitment to our troops and to those eager to adopt a democratic way of life in place of tyranny. We have stayed a proven course to reduce the tax burden on Americans and on American business. Economic indicators in the markets, home ownership data, and employment all illustrate the wisdom of this course. This Congress has shown a very real commitment to principle. While there are those in this body and in the media who would like to deny it,