

over \$600 million in savings were harvested and redirected to the fleet starting in the Program Objective Memoranda for fiscal year 2006. Overall, Rear Admiral Loose increased production productivity by 13 percent while reducing the required workforce by 1,100 civilian positions. Key elements of the transformation that enabled these efficiencies included dramatically consolidating and fully aligning NAVFAC field commands with Navy regional commanders. This structural realignment combined Navy public works centers focused on maintenance, transportation, and utilities services with engineering field divisions focused on planning, environmental, design, and construction services to establish a single, aligned, and vastly streamlined organization—a Regional Facilities Engineering Command. He also developed and executed strategic partnership agreements with Commander, Navy Installations Command and Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps—Installations—and Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command, to enable lowest facility life-cycle business analysis and management by leveraging the transformed NAVFAC organization. With the establishment of the single, aligned Facilities Engineering Command in each Navy region, Rear Admiral Loose operationalized NAVFAC, creating a command culture of accountability, technical competency, and responsiveness to fleet mission demands and surge requirements.

Rear Admiral Loose also aggressively supported the newly established Naval Expeditionary Combat Command/Naval Expeditionary Combat Enterprise as Systems Command Commander and first chief operating officer. He developed a \$400 million program to replace overage and expended equipment, weapons, personal protective gear, and materials supporting the Naval Construction Force extended operations in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom. Rear Admiral Loose guided the largest mobilization since Vietnam of Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps Officers, enabling outstanding mission support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Clearly, Rear Admiral Loose's comprehensive knowledge of the Navy, keen judgment, and unwavering commitment to the sailor, the Navy family, and the fleet have made him an asset to the Navy. I am proud that he is my fellow New Mexican and my fellow American, and I am pleased to recognize and thank Rear Admiral Loose for his tenure as Commander, NAVFAC and Chief of Civil Engineers.

Today I honor Rear Admiral Loose for his service to our country, his inspirational moral courage, his exceptional strategic vision, and his relentlessly bold leadership. He and his wife Carol have made many sacrifices during his career in the Navy, and I call upon my colleagues and join his family, friends, and associates to wish

them "fair winds and following seas" as they embark on yet another great Navy adventure and continue their dedicated and outstanding service to this grateful Nation. •

HONORING SOUTH DAKOTA GAME, FISH AND PARKS

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks for being awarded the 2006 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks is 1 of only 15 employers nationwide to be honored with this prestigious award. The support, encouragement, and flexibility they provide to their employees who are called to serve their country with the South Dakota National Guard illustrates that they are truly deserving of this high honor. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks serves as a fine example of South Dakotans coming together to support the cause of freedom around the world. They are going the extra mile to accommodate our service men and women and thus ensure a safer, more secure America.

Today I together with the entire State of South Dakota, commend South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks for their commitment to serving our State and our Armed Forces. •

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-8329. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pantoea Agglomerans Strain E325; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8091-6) received on September 15, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8330. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Metrafenone; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8093-7) received on September 15, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8331. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dithianon; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8090-5) received on September 15, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8332. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Etofenprox; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 8089-2) received on September 15, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8333. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Joseph L. Yakovac, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8334. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the budget models used for base operations support, sustainment, and facilities recapitalization; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8335. A communication from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the operation of the premerger notification program and the Commission's and the Antitrust Division's merger enforcement activities during Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8336. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations (including 2 regulations beginning with CGD05-06-087)" (RIN1625-AA09) received on September 14, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8337. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Jamaica Bay and Connecting Waterways, New York City, NY (CGD01-06-006)" (RIN1625-AA09) received on September 14, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8338. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones (including 2 regulations beginning with CGD05-06-062)" (RIN1625-AA00) received on September 14, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8339. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations (including 2 regulations beginning with CGD05-06-069)" (RIN1625-AA08) received on September 14, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8340. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones (including 11 regulations beginning with CGD05-06-059)" (RIN1625-AA00) received on September 14, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8341. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the administration of the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8342. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin" (FRL No. 8217-8) received on September 15, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8343. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting,