

RECOGNIZING THE TOPOFF
EXERCISE IN GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to underline the importance of territories in Homeland Security operations. I commend the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recognizing the importance of United States territories to the defense of the homeland and including Guam as the first U.S. territory to actively partake in the Top Officials or TOPOFF exercise being held this year in Arizona, Oregon, and Guam from October 15th to the 24th.

The 106th Congress directed that TOPOFF exercises be conducted biennially. Originally the TOPOFF exercise was to be conducted by the Department of Justice but was transferred to the DHS on March 1, 2003 along with the Office for Domestic Preparedness. These operations are designed to improve the Nation's capacity to manage complex and extreme terrorist events.

TOPOFF exercises began in 2000 and took place in Denver, Colorado and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In focused on two different attacks one in each operational area including a bioterrorist attack and a chemical attack. TOPOFF 2 and 3 each incorporated lessons learned from the previous exercises and simulated different manmade and natural disaster events. Most recently, during TOPOFF 3 local, Federal and private sector organizations began to interface with international actors—a facet that is once again included in TOPOFF 4. Moreover, DHS has refined each subsequent exercise to reflect a more realistic scenario for local and Federal first responders.

TOPOFF 4 which begins today, October 15th, will be a 10-day exercise and will focus on five objective areas: prevention, intelligence and investigation, incident management, public information, and evaluation. The simulation will involve a series of radiological detonation devices, better known as “dirty bombs”, being simultaneously detonated in the participating regions and will involve the interaction of Federal, State, and Territorial officials along with international regional partners and private sector participants. The scenario though plausible is entirely fictional and is based on no specific military or government intelligence and has been tailored to ensure participants' specific training objectives are met.

I am encouraged that Guam will be included in TOPOFF 4 exercises. The inclusion of Guam in TOPOFF 4 adds a new layer of difficulty for national disaster planning and cooperation because it involves dealing with a massive event not in the continental United States. It also shows an underlying commitment by the U.S. government to the territories and their importance to maintain security for the entire Nation. Guam's participation in TOPOFF 4 exercises continues to demonstrate its strategic importance to overall U.S. security posture.

TOPOFF 4 will highlight the ability of Guam's local first responders to respond to a lethal radiological attack on Guam. I know that Guam's emergency first responders have been working closely with the Guam National Guard's 94th Civil Support Team in preparing

how to handle radiological release from a “dirty bomb”. It is this type of coordination at the local level that makes this exercise important and useful. The delayed Federal response following Hurricane Katrina reminds us that our local first responders must be ready and capable of responding to a variety of dangerous scenarios. The TOPOFF exercise is critical to helping our local first responders be prepared for events that are similar if not larger in scale to what happened during Hurricane Katrina so that we may be able to avoid the mistakes of the past and be more successful, as a nation and region, to responding to such catastrophes.

I commend the Department of Homeland Security in its choice to include Guam in the TOPOFF 4 exercise. The knowledge and experience gained from this experience will ultimately strengthen our national security. I also commend the Government of Guam and Federal officials on Guam who have worked very hard over the past several months in preparing for these exercises.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOULDER
CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce. The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce has been dedicated to serving the community of Boulder City since its founding in 1932. The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce meets the specific needs of its community members in acting as a tourism bureau, a convention bureau and a business promoter.

The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce is the voice of small business for the Boulder City establishments. The Chamber consists of 408 dues paying members. The logistical operations of the Chamber are run by only two employees and a vast team of active volunteers and ambassadors who contribute their time and energy to serve their community. The Chamber is governed by a Board of Directors who work in and with the community in order to better anticipate its needs.

The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce has always provided extensive services to its members as well as the entire city of Boulder City. They act as the voice of the community on both a statewide and national level. The Chamber also hosts several significant annual events which include Spring Jam and Hometown Christmas. These events are looked forward to yearly and happen because of the tireless and dependable efforts of the members of the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce. I would personally like to thank Jill Lagan and Goldie Begley for taking time out of their lives in order to come to Washington, D.C. Meeting with members of Congress and participating in the “Las Vegas Chamber Goes to Washington” event strengthens their status as pillars of the community. The dedication and service of the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce should set an example for all businesses and members of the community alike.

I applaud all their efforts and look forward to watching their future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BERNARD SLIGER

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Bernard F. Sliger, Ph.D., who served as Florida State University's President from 1977 to 1991.

Dr. Sliger will be remembered for his outstanding academic service to the university, as well as for his commitment to FSU's students. During his tenure, student enrollment at Florida State increased by nearly one-third. Dr. Sliger was especially proud to establish the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering and to initiate the Panama City Campus.

Dr. Sliger also led the university to its prominent rise in intercollegiate athletics. Under his leadership, Florida State University decided to join the Atlantic Coast Conference. As a 1990 graduate and former student-athlete at Florida State, I am proud and thankful for these achievements.

His colleagues remember Dr. Sliger for his easygoing nature and love for his school and his students. I will always remember the annual ice cream socials at his residence that brought together students, faculty, and administrators. It was considered one of the highlights of the year among students.

Dr. Sliger is survived by his wife, Greta, and four children, and I want to commend Dr. Sliger in their honor for his noble service to Florida State University.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL
TERRY S. ROBINSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Terry S. Robinson and congratulate him upon his retirement. Colonel Robinson has committed his life to serving others. He served over 26 years in the Air Force and has held numerous positions at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Program in Las Vegas over the past 12 years.

Colonel Terry Robinson was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He remained in Ohio to continue his formal education and received his Bachelor's and Masters Degrees in Psychology. Upon graduation from college, Mr. Robinson joined the U.S. Air Force to fulfill his military obligation. Determined and dedicated to achievement while serving his country, he stayed in until he earned the rank of full colonel. Upon retirement from the United States Air Force, Colonel Robinson began working at the Nevada Power Company supervising their security forces as the Chief of Security and acting as a consultant to ensure a safe working environment for all employees and customers.

Colonel Robinson began serving specialized needs of the citizens of Nevada when he began with the Salvation Army Rehabilitation