

There is little to inspire confidence in our efforts to hold these terrorists to account for their actions and even less to show for our work to date. Our reliance on the government of Yemen to detain and prosecute these known members of al-Qaida—and their inability or unwillingness to do so—calls into question the partnerships and relationships we have secured in our efforts to meet the number one threat we face. The State Department's 2007 "Country Terrorism Report" notes that Yemen has "experienced several setbacks to its counterterrorism efforts" and recounts multiple examples of the Yemeni government's inability to apprehend escaped convicts—many of whom are members of al-Qaida and are associated with the USS *Cole* attack. Furthermore, for the past two years Yemen has been listed as a terrorist safe haven because of al-Qaida's ability to "reconstitute operational cells there" and carry out "several terrorist attacks against tourist targets."

How reliable is the Yemeni government as a partner in the fight against al-Qaida and its affiliates if it has been designated as a safe haven for terrorists? What efforts are being taken to ensure the Yemenis commit to combating terrorists and work with us to hold those responsible for the USS *Cole* attack accountable? Can we assure the American people that the Yemenis will ensure al-Qaida is denied access to resources, opportunities and safe spaces from which to operate? We cannot simply rely on others to do our work—especially when they are clearly not doing the job that needs to be done. We cannot sit back and allow others to take the reins while we remain distracted.

The war in Iraq has brought about a dramatic and regrettable shift in our priorities—a shift away from the top threat to our national security. Despite the persistent calls from the majority of Americans, we remain bogged down in Iraq—while it drains our resources, saps our attention, and depletes us of our ability to focus on our top national security concerns. I am concerned that this same lack of focus may be behind the administration's failures with respect to the attack on the *Cole*. The administration has paid relatively little attention to the marginalization of the USS *Cole* investigation, despite how critically important it remains to our national interest.

The global fight against al-Qaida and its affiliates must be our top priority, and the administration must take seriously its responsibility to ensure that the al-Qaida operatives behind the attack on the USS *Cole* are held to account for their heinous actions.

#### NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize National Arson Awareness Week, May 4–10, and its theme for 2008: "Toy-like Lighters Playing with Fire."

The major goal of National Arson Awareness Week is to promote national recognition, awareness and understanding of the arson problem in the United States. By creating a new theme each year, the National Arson Awareness Week encourages local communities to come together and promote a different aspect of arson awareness information. Intentionally set fires are a leading cause of fire deaths and a frequent cause of financial losses in the United States. The theme for this year's Arson Awareness Week, "Toy-like Lighters—Playing with Fire," focuses public attention on the dangers of toy-like or novelty lighters in the hands of children.

Novelty lighters are frequently mistaken by children for play toys, some complete with visual effects, flashing lights and musical sounds. Such cases of mistaken identity often carry devastating consequences.

National Arson Awareness Week greatly benefits communities in California and across the Nation, as it highlights awareness of the dangers posed by arson-related issues throughout local communities. I commend the local fire departments and localities that have worked to promote awareness of the dangers posed by toy-like and novelty lighters through the National Arson Awareness Week of 2008.

#### CELEBRATING PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today, Senator INOUE and I celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard has held a significant place in both Hawaii and our Nation's history. Even before Congress passed an act in 1908 officially creating the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor has been an important port for ships and sailors from across the world.

Early in the 19th century, Pearl Harbor, or "Wai-Momi," served as a primary port for exploration and trade. By the late 1800s, the United States was looking toward Pearl Harbor to serve as the center of its expanding Pacific Fleet. On May 13, 1908, Congress solidified Pearl Harbor's strategic importance by appropriating \$3 million to officially establish the Navy Yard at Pearl Harbor. Over the next 33 years, the new naval facility at Pearl Harbor was transformed into a site capable of basing the then-newly formed U.S. Pacific Fleet, and changed the face of Hawaii in the Pacific forever.

Every schoolchild in the United States learns about the events on the morning of December 7, 1941. That was the day the U.S. Naval forces at Pearl Harbor were devastated by the Imperial Japanese Navy's surprise attack. Nine ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet sank, and more than 2,300 American lives were lost. However, our children are taught far less often about the courageous resolve and dedication demonstrated by the shipyard's employees. After resurrecting much of the fleet

from the bottom of Pearl Harbor, and repairing 18 of 21 severely damaged vessels, the workers earned the motto, "We Keep Them Fit to Fight." Their commitment to duty became a model of the U.S. war effort during World War II.

The effort and hard work by Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard personnel to maintain the ships of the U.S. Navy helped to turn the tide of war at sea in the Battle of Midway. Their tireless work ultimately ensured that of the ships damaged on December 7, salvaged, repaired, and returned to service, one, the USS West Virginia, survived the duration of the war to sail triumphantly into Tokyo Bay in August 1945. The integrity, ethos, and determination of Pearl Harbor Shipyard workers continued throughout the Cold War, and provided the United States with a national treasure and a strategically critical base of operations for Pacific naval and air power.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, the rich history and unflagging service of the men and women at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard highlighted by Senator AKAKA continues today.

Once again our Nation is at war, and our Naval Forces engaged in the global war on terror can rely on the shipyard to provide top quality support. The shipyard's work focuses on the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and makes the shipyard the largest repair facility between the west coast of the United States and the Far East. The shipyard provides full-service maintenance for both the Pacific Fleet's ships and submarines throughout the Asia-Pacific theater. In addition to this significant responsibility, the shipyard has demonstrated its diverse capabilities by supporting our nation's space exploration, Antarctic expeditions, missile defense, and its ability to rapidly respond by deploying worldwide to perform emergency repairs.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is a national treasure, and it is known as "No Ka Oi," or "The Best" Shipyard. In the tradition of upholding this moniker, it has earned multiple national awards for its excellent safety and environmental stewardship programs. These awards include the prestigious Occupational Safety and Health Administration Star, and the White House Closing the Circle Environmental Quality Awards.

Beyond the numerous contributions to our U.S. Navy, the shipyard is also an integral part of Hawaii. It is the largest single industrial employer in the State, and its direct annual economic impact is greater than \$600 million in Hawaii. Through its apprentice, engineer co-op, and other student hire programs, Hawaii residents are provided with extraordinary training, employment, and career opportunities. For some families this tradition to keep our ships and submarines "fit to fight" runs throughout a generation