

apparently LPR sampling, though NLG is unclear on this point. NLG's concern is misplaced. The bar on LPR sampling is implicit in the proposed regulation, which earlier in the same subsection clearly excludes LPRs.

Administrative Office of the United States Courts

The AOC suggests in a May 16, 2008 comment that the word "agency" as used in the proposed rule be defined to exempt judicial agencies from the obligation to collect DNA samples from persons facing charges. A person facing Federal charges may have been arrested by state authorities or turned himself in, and therefore may not have had a DNA sample collected by an executive agency during a Federal arrest. I do not recommend that judicial agencies be exempted from the proposed rule, as they may be the only—or at least the first—Federal agency that is in a position to collect a DNA sample from an offender. I see no reason to exempt judicial pre-trial services agencies from the obligation of all parts of the Federal government to carry out those ministerial tasks necessary to the prevention of violent crime.

AOC also notes that the proposed regulation does not identify a system for determining whether an offender's sample is already in NDIS. This is an administrative matter that need not be addressed in the text of the proposed regulation.

Canadian Embassy and MP

The Canadian Embassy and a Canadian Member of Parliament submitted comments on May 19, 2008 posing several questions about the scope of the proposed rules, most of which appear to be based on a misunderstanding that the rule would require sampling of routine Canadian visitors to the United States. The rule exempts persons processed for lawful entry to the United States or held at a port of entry for consideration for admission to the United States, exceptions that address the concerns raised in these comments.

Sincerely,

JON KYL,
U.S. Senator.

FUNDING FOR PEACEKEEPER TRAINING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to speak today in favor of the administration's funding request for the Global Peace Operations Initiative and one of its important components, the Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance Program, for which the bill before the Senate, the fiscal year 2010 State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, includes \$96.8 million in funding. These programs, which I have supported in their various forms for more than a decade, are vital tools in helping the United States and nations around the world, but especially in Africa, to contain crises, violence and instability that threaten not only other nations, but also our own.

The Global Peace Operations Initiative, or GPOI, began in fiscal year 2005 as an effort to address worrisome gaps in the world community's ability to support, equip, and sustain a growing number of peacekeeping operations. This initiative comprised, in part, the fulfillment of a U.S. pledge at the June 2004 G-8 summit meeting at Sea Island, Georgia, to train 75,000 new peacekeepers. The GPOI built on and incor-

porated the Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance Program, or ACOTA, which has trained African peacekeepers since 1997. The objective of these programs is to train and equip military units to deploy to peacekeeping operations, many of them in Africa. In addition, GPOI supports efforts to train special "gendarme" police units to participate in peacekeeping operations.

Why are these programs so important? I think we all recognize that the world has become a more challenging and less stable place, but we may not recognize just how pronounced regional security problems have become. We do not need to look further than the two largest United Nations peacekeeping operations, in Darfur, Sudan, and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Both of these missions were authorized in response to complex regional conflicts. The United Nations, which oversees the majority of peacekeeping operations worldwide, reports that more than 100,000 peacekeepers and police personnel are deployed on peacekeeping operations—a sevenfold increase since 1999. Those troops are deployed in 17 separate operations, nearly half of which are on the African continent.

Through ACOTA and GPOI, the United States has helped to meet the growing demand for peacekeeping personnel. Since its start in 2005 through the end of fiscal year 2009, GPOI has provided training for nearly 87,000 personnel representing more than 50 nations. Appropriately, given the security challenges in Africa, ACOTA is GPOI's biggest initiative. Since 2005, more than 77,000 personnel from about two dozen African nations have received training through the initiative, and almost 14,000 more have received training under ACOTA through other funding sources. To make these numbers more significant, on average, 90 percent of units trained under ACOTA have deployed between 2005 and 2009.

GPOI provides partner nations with the training and equipment they need to perform peacekeeping missions through the UN or regional groups such as the African Union. This training is broad, and appropriately focuses on peacekeeping-specific tasks such as how to operate checkpoints and convoys, maintaining peace by safely disarming potential combatants, protecting refugees and internally displaced persons, developing and following appropriate rules of engagement, and, in some cases, peacemaking operations.

According to a report by the Department of State Inspector General, GPOI training through ACOTA "is a win-win situation in which minimal numbers of U.S. military troops are involved, African professionalism and capacity are built up, and the participating African troops are rewarded well when deployed." Significantly, the IG report states "that there have been minimal disciplinary problems and no ACOTA

trained troops have been cited for atrocities or notable human rights abuses," an important sign that the emphasis on adherence to human rights standards and following the UN's rules of engagement has paid off.

The bill before the Senate, the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill, includes funding for the administration's request of \$96.8 million in funding for GPOI in fiscal year 2010. All of this funding is contained in the peacekeeping operations, or PKO, account of the bill. Based on past practice and the demand for peacekeeping in Africa, the Department of State will likely allocate more than half of this funding to ACOTA. Nearly \$100 million is a substantial commitment of taxpayer dollars. But the price of failing to fund these important efforts would be far higher.

Our military leaders are particularly supportive of such efforts, with good reason. Admiral Mike Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, believes the U.S. commitment to aid the peacekeeping efforts of other nations is "extremely important and cost effective in comparison to unilateral operations these peacekeepers help promote stability and help reduce the risks that major U.S. military interventions may be required to restore stability in a country or region. Therefore, the success of these operations is very much in our national interest."

I agree with Admiral Mullen. Programs such as GPOI are important not only because they help alleviate suffering around the globe—which they surely do—but also because they are a cost-effective way of managing U.S. security interests.

I am especially pleased that the administration intends to concentrate going forward on strengthening the capability of partner nations to train their own peacekeeping forces. This "train the trainers" approach multiplies the impact of U.S. efforts by giving partner nations the ability to sustain their own peacekeeping efforts. Using this model, the State Department plans to assist in the training and equipping of more than 240,000 peacekeepers over the next 5 years. The other focus will be on growing the planning and operational capability of the regional security organizations on the African continent.

There are other steps we should take to make these vital programs more effective, particularly in Africa. Outside that continent, the U.S. military's Geographic Combatant Commands are responsible for much of the day-to-day management of GPOI programs, including contract management. In Africa, however, those tasks have been performed by contractors working for the State Department's Bureau of African Affairs. With the stand-up of U.S. Africa Command, AFRICOM, in 2008, there is now a Combatant Command in place that could take over the same types of management duties performed elsewhere by its sister commands. I believe

the Departments of State and Defense should explore whether such arrangements are advisable. Given the State Department's deep reliance on contractor personnel to manage the ACOTA program and AFRICOM's unique interagency command structure, I believe AFRICOM ought to be given a more significant role in the day-to-day execution of this critical program. Meanwhile, both departments should make efforts to ensure close cooperation between the State Department and AFRICOM personnel so that the taxpayers and partner nations see the maximum bang for the buck because they are a cost-effective way of managing U.S. security interests and supporting U.N. peacekeeping while reserving U.S. troops for other operations.

Having successfully completed the first 5-year phase, GPOI is entering a new phase. I urge my colleagues to support fully the administration's funding request for GPOI. With this money, we can help contain violence and chaos in many of the world's most troubled places. We can reduce the chance for such instability to create direct and immediate threats to our own security. We can enhance the ability of partner nations to maintain the peace in their own sectors of the globe. And we can accomplish all these things with a relatively modest amount of money—an investment with a substantial return, in both human and financial terms.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 86. An act to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3603. An act to rename the Ocmulgee National Monument.

H.R. 3951. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Louisiana Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Roy Rondenno, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 4213. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 125(c)(1) of Public Law 110-343, the minority leader appointed from private life Mr. J. Mark McWatters of Texas as a member of the Congressional Oversight Panel on the part of the House.

At 2:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of con-

ference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3288) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 86. An act to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3603. An act to rename the Ocmulgee National Monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3951. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Louisiana Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Roy Rondenno, Sr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4213. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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-3966. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Hong Kong; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3967. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Adjustments to the Allowance System for Controlling HFC Production, Import, and Export" (FRL No. 9091-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3968. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Ban on Sale or Distribution of Pre-Charged Appliances" (FRL No. 9091-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3969. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clothianidin: Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8793-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3970. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act" (FRL No. 9091-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3971. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Changes to the Medicare Claims Appeal Procedures" (RIN0938-AM73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3972. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Application of Certain Appeals Provisions to the Medicare Prescription Drug Appeals Process" (RIN0938-A087) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3973. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2009-0213-2009-0223); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3974. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Chile relative to the design and manufacture of the Sig 556 Rifle in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3975. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-238, "Omnibus Election Reform Amendment Act of 2009"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3976. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-239, "Hospital and Medical Services Corporation Regulatory Amendment Act of 2009"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3977. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3978. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3979. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2009 Agency Financial Report"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.