

protected benefit that lasts as long as the beneficiary lives. Since women tend to live longer than men, they are in greater danger of outliving their other sources of retirement income; but it is impossible to outlive one's Social Security benefit.

The current system also provides extra benefits to spouses with low lifetime earnings which helps many women, even if they did not work at all outside the home.

Further, Social Security provides benefits to spouses of any age who care for children under 16 if the worker (other spouse) is retired, becomes disabled, or dies. Women represent 98 percent of recipients receiving benefits as spouses with a child in their care.

In the future, Social Security will continue to be important for women. As the labor force participation rates of women rise, women will reach retirement with much more substantial earnings histories than in the past. Therefore the percentage of women receiving benefits based solely on their own earnings history is expected to rise from 37 percent today to 60 percent in 2060. However, this means that 40 percent of women will continue to receive benefits based on their husband's earnings.

These aforementioned provisions allow us to claim that our current retirement system is equitable and just. Significantly, both financial necessity and social justice demand that to maintain this claim, a new system must retain minimum, guaranteed benefits and critical protections so that women are not penalized for inequity in pay and for taking care of the rest of us.

As Franklin Roosevelt stated: “* * * [this] law will take care of human needs.” Let's not forget women's needs.

I urge my colleagues to remember women and support social security reform that would bring their real life needs and circumstances into account.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman MILLENDER-MCDONALD and Congressman DELAURO for arranging this special order tonight. We must bring attention to the exceptional circumstances of women as we examine the Social Security issue. As other Members of Congress have mentioned tonight, there are a few simple facts that show why women are effected by changes made to Social Security more than their male counterparts. First of all, most women earn a lower salary than men and therefore put a smaller amount into the Social Security Trust Fund with every paycheck. They are also more likely to spend a portion of their lives out of the workforce than men and women are half as likely as men to receive a pension which means they depend on their Social Security check as their sole source of income. Finally, women live longer than men and depend on Social Security for a longer period of time.

Therefore, changes made to the Cost of Living Adjustment and the idea of converting Social Security funds in private accounts will have a drastic effect on the way that retired women live. These factors must be taken into consideration when we decide how to resolve the issue of the potential insolvency of the Social Security Trust Fund. While limiting COLA's may cut costs, it will lower the standard of living for retired women because they rely heavily on Social Security as their only means of

income and they live longer and need these adjustments to stay out of poverty. Private accounts may also have a negative effect on the retirement income of women because they may outlive their accumulated funds. Private accounts may put many women in a position where they live the later half of their retired years in poverty.

While Social Security is the economic mainstay for many women, we must also make a better effort to educate working women today about the benefits of investing in a pension plan. We must give them an opportunity to invest so they do not have to live out their golden years on an annual Social Security income that amounts to less than the minimum wage for most recipients. This coupled with making changes to the Social Security system that helps not harms women will improve the lives of all women in their retirement years.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of the women who were here tonight. We did not cover this as extensively as I would have wanted to. We will be back, because as we embark upon Mother's Day we must remember the elderly women in this country and their need for Medicare and Social Security.

REGARDING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I serve here in Congress as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military, a subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services. Before I move into remarks regarding the supplemental appropriation that will deal not only with the funding shortfalls in Kosovo and the funding shortfalls to fund our national military strategy, along with disaster assistance and humanitarian aid, I would like to comment on some remarks made by one of my own Republican colleagues here tonight during the 5 minutes. He put up a chart and on the chart he had lists that in World War II, with a 13 million force, we had 31 four-star generals and with our force of today, we have 33 generals, and that even though we have reduced our force, we still have all of these general officers.

Being responsible for the force structure decisions of the United States military, I would like to advise America that I have held the line on the increase, the demand for the increase out of the Pentagon on general officer strength. The force that fought World War II, that military force, is completely different from the military force of today. We also have encouraged jointness, greater cooperation and interoperability between all the services. When you do that, yes, you end up

creating some bureaucracies and an increase in need for general officer strength. But more importantly we are going to maintain the sort of rank-heavy military for a very important reason. Kosovo really is that third scenario, “third scenario” meaning we have a national military strategy to fight and win two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts. So you take a circumstance in Korea, you can take a circumstance in Iraq, and now we have the third circumstance with regard to Kosovo. If, in fact, the United States found itself on a three-front war and we had the necessity to have to build a force rapidly, we could do that when we maintain officer strength in the general officer corps along with senior noncommissioned officers. That is the reason we are going to hold the line on those strengths. So the chart that was used tonight is somewhat misleading, and I wanted to correct the record.

Over the next 1 hour, the gentleman from the 52nd District of California (Mr. HUNTER) chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement and myself will discuss why all of the Members, and to inform America why we should support the emergency supplemental appropriation that we will be voting on here later this week.

Let me be very clear that there are some Members that point to this bill as though it were some form of a referendum on the President's actions in Kosovo, or that if we add additional funding to this supplemental appropriation that somehow we are forward funding the Clinton-Gore war. There is a lot of rhetoric, political rhetoric that is being used around here. So what the gentleman from California and I would like to clarify for everyone is what is the purpose of this emergency supplemental funding and why we have an increase in military funding in this bill that is over and above the President's request.

I believe that this bill is mislabeled. It should not be emergency funding with regard to Kosovo. This bill is necessary to fund the national security strategy of this country. The President has the singular responsibility to lay out the national security interest of this Nation. He then turns to the military planners and said, “What is the national military strategy to carry that out?” That is what makes us uncomfortable today.

Let me pose to you this question. Can anyone name this country, a country whereby 709,000 active service personnel, eight standing Army divisions, 20 Air Force and Navy air wings with 2,000 combat aircraft, 232 strategic bombers, 13 strategic missile submarines, with 232 missiles, 500 ICBMs, intercontinental ballistic missile systems, with 1,950 warheads, four aircraft carriers, 121 surface combat ships and submarines. Can anyone name this country with that type of force structure?

□ 2145

Is that country the former Soviet Union?

No.

Is that country Russia?

No.

Is that country China?

No.

Is the country the United Kingdom?

No.

You give up?

That country, the global superpower, no longer exists.

You see, the force structure that I just listed is how much the American military forces have been cut since 1990.

So why does our force structure matter so much?

First, let us look at the success.

In 1990 and 1991, the 45-day Gulf War was highly successful.

Why?

Well, in our active forces in 1990 we had 18 divisions. In the Air Force tactical wings we had 24. Navy ships and submarines, we had 546 as we were coming out of the Cold War era.

Part of the success was not only the force structure, but it was also because we had a highly-trained, well-equipped combat-ready force.

The question that is painful for those of us that serve on the Committee on Armed Services and those who appropriate funds on its behalf, was challenging for the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), and myself and others, is that we have to ask that question:

Could we fight and win a Gulf War today?

You see, that makes us very uncomfortable if you were to ask us that question, because we have forces in Korea on the peninsula, we have our forces in Iraq today, and now the President has us in a third scenario in former Yugoslavia.

So when we look at that force structure in 1990 and we see where President Clinton and Vice President Gore have taken us down to today with those budgets, we today have:

Army divisions, we have 10.

Air Force tactical wings, we only have 13.

And Navy ships and submarines, we only have 315.

The number that is used so often here in Washington is, if we do not hold the line on the Navy, we could dip below a 300-ship Navy, and that is fearful, my colleagues.

What is really concerning about these 10 active divisions: If you were to say, "All right, Congressman. Of those 10 divisions, how many are ready to go right now?" Five, only five because the other five divisions are called the follow-on divisions, and they have been hollowed out. They are short over 300 noncommissioned officers per brigade, over 300.

So we have got some anxiety building up between myself, and the gentleman

from California (Mr. HUNTER) and others about our present force structure today.

Let me put this into real numbers for my colleagues, divisions, wings, submarines, ships. Let me put it into numbers so my colleagues can relate, for those who are not familiar with the military.

The Army has been reduced. When we say taking down the size of these divisions and those who support them, we have reduced the Army strength by 250,000 personnel. The Navy has been reduced by 200,000 personnel, the Air Force has been reduced by 150,000 personnel, and the selected reserve has been reduced 250,000 personnel. And what is also very difficult today is we are not retaining the qualified personnel, nor are we recruiting the sufficient numbers to meet current service requirements. That is very challenging to many of us.

So why is force structure so important? Why are we talking about that? Force structure is important because earlier when I mentioned the purpose of the military, it is the means to the political objectives laid out by the President with regard to our national security interests.

I am going to read from the annual report to the President and Congress signed by the Secretary of Defense William Cohen here in 1999. He lays out our military strategy. The military strategy is in sum, and says on page 17:

In sum, for the foreseeable future U.S. forces must be sufficient in size, versatility and responsiveness in order to transition from a posture of global engagement to fight and win in concert with our allies two major theater of wars that occur roughly at the same time. In this context they must also be able to defeat the initial enemy advance in two distant theaters in close succession and to fight and win in situations where chemical and biological weapons and other asymmetric approaches are employed.

That is the present national military strategy.

So earlier I used this example of if we are involved in a Gulf War scenario, and North Korea decides to do something foolish, do we have the force structure to fight and win a two-front war? The open secret and the pain that we have to deal with is we do not have the force structure to do that today.

I do not get into the strategy decisions, but I am not going to be just the critic. I want to be the constructive critic. Do my colleagues know what would be different from a Republican administration and the Democrat administration with regard to this military strategy? I would take out where it says in order to transition from a posture of global engagement. I would strike those words from the military strategy. You see, that foreign policy of the President, this engagement

around the world is what strains the military force. So the President has our military force stretched so thin in so many different places around the world, that is what makes it challenging, and I am going to speak to that a little bit more here later.

Let me also refer to the difference in the dollars that are used on the defense along with the utilization of the force. You see, the world is not as stable, and this is a paradox. The world is not as stable today as it was during the stand-off of the Cold War. So often we hear in this town that the Russian bear has been replaced by a thousand vipers. The enemy today is difficult to define. The force structure that we have, we have to be more mobile and more fluid as we think of how to fight and win the next war. If you plan the next war how you won the last one, you have positioned yourself for failure, so we have to be very smart about our business.

But what is clear here by this chart is there is a mismatch between funding and the use of military force. Now you can look at this force here during the Bush administration, and the dollars, and the procurement, and the funding and the readiness to utilization. Some would be quick to say: Well, look, you have got too much money and you are not using the force. I heard our own Secretary of Defense say:

"Well, what's the purpose of the military if you do not use them?"

I am not sure I can follow her logic.

The purpose of the military is to fight and win the Nation's wars and to protect our interests, not to utilize the war in every corner of the world as though we are the world's policemen. You see, that is what gets us in trouble.

When I think of the paradox, it is almost those who say the B-2 bomber, and this is before the Kosovo incident, never dropped a bomb. That is a good thing, my colleagues. If the military never has to fire a shot, that is a good thing. When we are the finest, the best, the most well equipped military in the world, who wants to take us on? Our enemies are not cooperative. They take us on when we are vulnerable, and we are getting vulnerable.

Look at this one right here. From 1993 to 1999, we have reduced the budgets, and we have increased the utilization. So during the Bush administration the War Powers Act reporting to Congress, there were six. President Clinton's term, and AL GORE, 46 reports have been sent to Congress. That is the utilization. So not only has he taken our military force and stretched them to those 135 countries around the world, he has actually placed our military into harm's way in over 46 places around the world. Over utilization.

So what is happening to the force? The wear and tear on our forces, it is showing. It is showing, and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is going to talk about that coming up.

Let me go to this chart for just a second. When I talked about the utilization all around the country, Mr. Speaker, the President has a foreign policy of engagement. Engagement. And he uses our military as though they are diplomats, and military-to-military contacts and everything all around the world. But let us talk about some of the larger ones.

North Korea, we have 40,000 troops.

Bosnia, we have the 10,000.

In Iraq we have 20,200 aircraft, 1 carrier battle group.

Kosovo, 30,000 troops, 800 aircraft, one carrier battle group.

But we have got troops all over the place from Haiti, Honduras, Cuba, Iceland, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Argentina, Egypt, India, Israel, Kenya, Tanzania, Diego Garcia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Japan, Australia, China, Singapore, Thailand. The list goes on, and on, and on. So, we have taken our military force, we have cut down the structure, and we have spread them all around the world, but you see the President in their force structure says we can transition from spreading our forces all around the world, and then all of a sudden we can bring them together and we can fight and win in two near simultaneous major regional conflicts, and, oh, by the way, if we happen to get bogged down in Kosovo, do not worry, we can win.

No, this is very uncomfortable, Mr. Speaker, very, very uncomfortable.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, I have conducted numerous hearings on the growing problems facing our service men and women. Although pay and benefits is important, there are other equally important issues stressing the force, quality of life issues, health care, lack of spare parts, lack of adequate training time, the aging of equipment, the high depreciation rates on our equipment, increased operational tempo, longer working hours and the family separation, reusing and reusing the same people. Asking them to do more with less is not a strategy for success.

Do not take my word for it, Mr. Speaker. Let me read some excerpts from a letter I received from a young Navy lieutenant:

Honor, courage and commitment are words that are often used in jest. What they should say is honor the sailor, respect the job and the sacrifices that he endures. Have the courage to give those who risk their life every day in the defense of our country and democracy the proper equipment to do their job. Make the commitment to the basic human needs that every human being, even sailors, need for themselves and their families. We need to provide the fleet with all the tools to maintain our assets. Just-in-time manning and ramping up for deployment is ludicrous. People and assets need to be in

position and on board to benefit the rigors of the training cycle. Sailors need to be properly trained. They need to have the proper support, equipment to test the systems, be it on a ship or on an aircraft. They need publications that are up to date. They need various hand and automated tools to adequately perform the maintenance and maintain the equipment. I do not know what the fix is, and I do not know all the answers, but I will tell you I have never seen the Navy in such a sad state of affairs. I love this business and have always believed that there is honor in my chosen profession. Every cut back has a cost. In this case I think we cut too deep.

This Navy lieutenant said it in words for which I could not replace. So what have we done? We increased those missions dramatically, we have stressed the force, and this sailor is sending a basic message to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), and myself, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN), and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) who chair subcommittees in the Committee on Armed Services that we need to take care of the force as much as we can, and that is the purpose of our supplemental. We have asked for some billions of dollars over and above the President's mark, spending mark, and what we are trying to do is to fund this national military strategy.

This is no attempt by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and myself or others to front load some Kosovo war or anything else. We recognize that there are stresses in the force.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) tells a story about some F-16s in the Pennsylvania National Guard that did not have GPS, the global positioning system in the F-16s when they were deployed to Iraq in operation Provide Comfort. So what did the pilots do? They went to Radio Shack, bought it, strapped it onto their legs.

When one is flying an aircraft at high altitude over the desert, there is not much to navigate off of, and one has to have that GPS system. I feel awful, America, that we are not even doing the modernization of our force and pilots are actually going to Radio Shack to modernize their own fighter aircraft.

□ 2200

That is sad.

Let me move now to a quote from Admiral Jay Johnson. He said, we have approximately 18,000 gap billets in the fleet. What does that mean, Mr. Speaker? That means in the Navy today we are 18,000 sailors short.

Navy ships are being deployed at 10 to 20 percent under their strength. What does that mean? That means that

when an aircraft carrier or a cruiser, when they leave harbor, they are leaving about 80 percent strength. So when they are deployed at sea and they end up with injuries, a workplace injury, a back or sick call, there are no replacements. They do not send replacements out to sea. Everybody has to then carry the load.

So instead of now working in the boiler room where maybe 10 people are assigned they now have seven. Two people get hurt, five now have to pick up the load. Instead of working 10 hours, they are now working 14 hours. That is what is happening to our force, and it is very, very difficult.

Let me mention Kosovo for a second. Here is something that is also very, very concerning to us. The current Kosovo mission has forced the United States to divert planes from their patrols over Iraq in order to support the ongoing campaign.

This quote here, in the New York Times, in early April, the Navy shifted its only aircraft carrier in the western Pacific and its 75 combat jets out of the region indefinitely to help wage war in the Yugoslavia campaign.

If we have taken our only carrier now out of that region of the world to support this so-called humanitarian war, how can we satisfy the national military strategy? We cannot. We cannot.

The second quote is, the Pentagon briefly suspended enforcement of the no-fly zone over northern Iraq when fighter bombers and radar-jamming planes were dispatched to the air war in Serbia.

Mr. Speaker, if we are having difficulty here at the moment maintaining the front against the forces in North Korea on the peninsula, maintaining the no-fly zone requirements in Iraq, and we have this war now in Kosovo and we cannot even mix and match, that is a very strong signal to us that we have to take corrective action, and it is immediate.

If all we do is fund what the President's request is, all we do is fund the bullet for bullet which they are firing, shame on us. We have to step forward, bite the bullet, that the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is going to talk about, and do much more than that and go beyond.

I yield to the gentleman from San Diego, California (Mr. HUNTER), a highly decorated Vietnam veteran and well respected in this House, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), for yielding me this time and for making such a superb presentation on the inadequacies of military funding that exist right now.

I have to protest that I did nothing special in Vietnam. I simply showed up, but I did serve with a lot of great people. I want to commend my friend for his participation in Desert Storm.

I think a good point here that the gentleman made very strongly is the fact that, while the military has shrunk by almost 50 percent, and most people do not realize that but some people realize that, they realize it is smaller, the natural tendency is to feel that since it is 50 percent of the original size it has been cut back so dramatically, over 200,000 people in the Army and 200,000 people in the Navy and so on, the team that is left has to be well paid, well armed and well trained.

One would think, boy, the residual people that we have there after we pared it down from this huge military that we had, a lot of people think we had in 1990, 1991, this military has to really be just in great shape, with lots of new equipment and ready to go.

The tragedy is, we have cut the military almost in half; and the half that we have left is not well paid, number one. The gentleman has really done wonders working as chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, and he has been pushing hard to get compensation, and we know that the average military personnel today are making about 13.5 percent less than their civilian counterparts. That means if someone is an electronics technician in the Navy, they are making about 13.5 percent less on the average than the guy who is working for a private company out in industry.

The real tragedy of that is that, at the end, the bottom line is we have today about 10,000 military personnel on food stamps.

As I watched the stock market go through the roof the other day, I thought about that. Here we are in one of our most prosperous times and people are commenting on the endurance of this prosperity that we have had, the longevity of this prosperity. We have a military that is half as big as it was a few years ago, and the men and women in that military are underpaid, and 10,000 of them are on food stamps.

So, wrong, the first instinctive reaction is this must be a well-paid military since it has been cut in half. Answer, no.

Second, people must think, well, my gosh, it is half the size it was, it must be really well trained since it is pared down to this smaller force.

I think of Colonel Rosenberg, who was one of the national trainers at the National Training Command hearing that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN), chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Readiness, held at Nellis Air Force base in Nevada. Colonel Rosenberg said, and I paraphrase him, he said, it is a real tragedy that this military that we built out of the ashes of the Vietnam War, that won so overwhelmingly in Desert Storm, is being destroyed before our very eyes.

When we asked for particulars from Colonel Rosenberg and others who were

testifying there, these are the trainers at the National Training Center, it is kind of like the military college where the infantry goes and the armor goes and the artillery units go to get their upper level training. Once they have graduated from high school, so to speak, they go to this military college, which really is a big training ground out in the desert in the West, and they have to perform against a mock enemy, and they are given points.

The trainers said, among other things, the troops that we get often do not know anything about maneuver with armor. They do not know anything about the basics of calling in artillery fire. They do not know how to handle many, many procedures that have to be handled on the battlefield. In other words, this is like getting people in their first year in college and one realizes that they never should have graduated from the 11th and 12th grades in high school and one feels like they have to send them back for a refresher course.

We have fine young people in the military. So why are not they getting the training that is necessary, at least to get them into the upper training level? Well, the answer is, those dozens of deployments that the gentleman just talked about, that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) just talked about, where the President has pulled people out of school, and a lot of these military schools are very technical, they have to sit there in a classroom and really learn to know their job, but these people are pulled out of their schools before they can finish it. They are kept from going to their schools.

It is like a kid who is in high school. He is supposed to get good grades his last year in high school. His dad has a farm, and his dad pulls him out of class 3 days out of 5 in the week, so he is only going to class about half the time he should have gone to class in his senior year, and all of a sudden he figures out he is not ready for college.

That is what this President has done with this downsized military. He has stretched it all over the world.

The average person will say, wait a minute. Those people that are in Bosnia, that is training. Well, it may train them for deployment, but it does not train them with the simulators. It does not train them with the test ranges that we have. It does not train them with the classroom work that they need.

So the second fallacy most people believe is that this smaller force is well trained, and it is not.

One last example, talking to the Marines, we talk about the V-STOL aircraft that goes straight up off the ground, the jet aircraft, that the Marines use, instead of going down a runway and lift off; very, very difficult aircraft to fly. When one asks the Marines, how many hours do these pilots

really need to maintain proficiency in this very difficult aircraft, they will always say, over 20, 22, 24 hours a month. They have to have that to maintain proficiency.

What are they getting? They are getting about 12. They are getting about 12, because there is no money for training. That is just one of the many, many examples of inadequate training.

So that second fallacy that these people are well trained is, in fact, a fallacy.

Lastly, one would think, my gosh, if we have an Army that is 10 divisions today instead of 18 divisions, we have a Marine Corps that has been cut back, we have a Navy that has been cut back, and I noticed the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is more precise than I am, we had 546 ships when we started, when we did Desert Storm. When we made up our chart last year, we had 346. When I gave my last briefing, it was 325. Now it is down to 315. We are dropping like a rock.

One would think when this Navy has been compressed to such a small fleet those ships that are there must be bristling with armaments. Wrong. It is not well armed. The reason is, we have starved our ammunition accounts. If anything qualifies, if we are talking about this emergency supplemental, and I hope every single Member of Congress, Democrat, Republican, liberal, conservative, I hope we all vote for it tomorrow. Because if there is anything that is an emergency, it is an inadequacy of ammunition. We have a shortage of ammunition.

One of the most important ammunition that we have a shortage of is cruise missiles, long-range missiles, like Tomahawks, like conventional air launch cruise missiles. Because what we see today is a very complex and difficult to penetrate air defense in most of the world where we have to operate. We see that in Kosovo right now, but it is not limited to Kosovo. We are seeing the Iraqis continue to strive to build an air defense that is going to be able to take down American aircraft. They have not done it yet, but they import SAM missiles. We see that with the North Koreans.

So anyplace we go, we figured that the air defense over North Vietnam was more intense than it was over Berlin in World War II because of surface-to-air missiles. So we devised a way to allow our pilots, our neighbors who are pilots, to go out there and fly their mission, release a payload and return to their carrier deck or the tarmac of their runway without being killed.

The way we were able to do that is with cruise missiles. That is stand-off missiles. That means a B-52 does not have to fly into all that flak like they did over North Vietnam in December of 1972 when, as I recall, about 10 were shot down the first day.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. JOHNSON) recalled sitting in his prison

cell and watching a B-52 get hit in mid-air by a SAM missile and just explode before his eyes.

We are flying those same B-52s today, but we have missiles on them that are launched from many miles away from the target. The cruise missile takes off, it travels like an unmanned airplane itself, and it hits a target. And, meanwhile, the pilot is hundreds of miles away from that anti-aircraft fire; and he returns safely to his base. We are short on those missiles.

It does not make any sense that this country, as prosperous as we are, as devoted to human life as we are, and especially the lives of our service people, should have a shortage in cruise missiles.

I want to tell my friend, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), who has made just an eloquent presentation tonight, we are short on cruise missiles. We are short several billions of dollars' worth of cruise missiles.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, let me ask the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) this question: I have the sense that the military planners in the Pentagon, in order to maintain readiness levels to their comfort, they have taken money that should have gone to ammunition and they are using it to maintain present operations and they are assuming a risk, are they not?

Mr. HUNTER. That is exactly right.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like for the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) to discuss that assumption of risk, how serious is it, how is it measured and what we are going to do about it in the supplemental.

Mr. HUNTER. The gentleman is exactly right. Because every time we have had one of these contingencies where the President wants to send troops, whether it is an operation that we consider justified or not, every time we have one of those operations, to fund the operations initially they take money out of the ammunition accounts. They also take money out of the spare parts accounts. That is why our mission capability rates are dropping below 70 percent on average.

□ 2215

They have dropped more than 10 percent, meaning a plane, out of 100 aircraft that take off that are built to do a particular mission, only about 70 of them now can do that mission.

So the President takes that money, or the military looks around for money, Congress is not giving them any extra money to fund an operation where the President said, you steam over here and do this mission, so they take it out of ammunition. They were going to buy that ammunition, but they will buy it next year, right, when they get the money back?

All of a sudden, they do the mission, they get a little money back, maybe in

a supplemental funding bill, but they never get as much as they took out, so the ammunition accounts get lower and lower.

They say, when they appear before us, and the gentleman always asks that great question, and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FLOYD SPENCE) asks that question, as well, our great chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, he says, what is going on here, Admiral? What is going on here, General? Can we win these two wars?

They say, well, we can win those wars, but we now are taking on a higher risk. When we ask them to translate what risks means, it means risk of casualties, heavy casualties. Because we cannot win a war now with overwhelming force, like Norman Schwarzkopf did in Desert Storm, where you just crush the enemy, bring all your body bags empty to the United States. There are no dead Americans to put in them, and they all come home fairly quickly.

We no longer have that overwhelming force. What we have is the ability, like two fairly evenly-matched fighters, to slug it out, taking a blow for every blow that we give. That means taking dead Americans for every casualty we inflict on the enemy. And hopefully in the end, because we have a superior industrial base and because we have a democracy with a strong economy, we overwhelm the enemy at some point, maybe the allies come in and help, and we finally win. But when we win, it is like one of those boxing matches where the sportswriter said that after looking at the faces of both of the fighters, it was hard to determine who the winner was. Instead of looking at the faces of the fighters, we are looking at body bags stretched out in front of us of dead Americans who ran out of ammunition.

Right now the Marines are \$193 million short of basic ammunition, and the Marines are the 911 force. The Army is \$3.5 billion short of basic ammunition.

That is not a standard that I created, and that is not a standard that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) created or the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FLOYD SPENCE) or the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILL YOUNG), who is chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, who has done such a great job, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. JERRY LEWIS), chairman of defense appropriations, of putting this supplemental together.

We did not go out and set some standard and say, we have decided that instead of 100 million M-16 rounds, we want 200 million, that is a Republican standard. We took the President's standard. We wrote in to the services and said, how many M-16 bullets do you need to be able to fight that two-

war contingency that we might have to fight? How much should we have in reserve?

They answered back. In fact, they answered back across the total line of ammunition. I have a summary of that here. In total ammunition across the board, and I have two pages here, but I will show Members just a summary page, we are \$13.8 billion short, according to the President's standard. That is according to President Clinton's own standard of how much ammunition we need.

So when the President says, I do not want you adding extra things to this defense bill, he means that he does not want to give the full load of ammunition to his troops that his own clerks and auditors and generals and admirals have figured out they may need in an extended battle. Somehow, ammunition is no longer a prerequisite to having a strong military.

I would say if there is anything that is an emergency it is ammunition. If I had my way, let me tell the Members, we would have a supplemental tomorrow of not \$13 billion, but one that was \$28.7 billion, because that is what the services told us they could use right now in ammunition and spare parts and equipment. Because we not only want to have enough ammunition for the soldiers' ammunition pouches, we also want to have planes that can take off and lift off the ground. Today, as Members know, our mission capability rates have been dropping like a rock.

Mr. BUYER. If the gentleman will yield further, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman's concern is as great as mine that we are unwilling to assume a risk that will increase casualties in a war scenario around the world, the funding shortfall if we do not do even a piece of that in the emergency supplemental, I would say to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), would we not have to wait then until the 2000 budget cycle, which means that the ammunition and the missiles which we are requesting may not even get to the force until about 18 months from now?

Mr. HUNTER. The gentleman is exactly right. In fact, we will have to wait for next year's funding, so we will have to wait at least 4 or 5 months before we can even enact the bill and have next year's funding levels start. That means having the Pentagon ready to start making contracts.

And then most of these ammo lines, some of them are closed, so most of these ammo lines will have to be reassembled, the assembly lines. By the time the soldier actually gets the bullets in the field or the airplanes get the cruise missiles or the Navy gets its particular missiles, 18 to 24 months can go by.

Do Members know what is interesting, some of the administration people have argued, well, we cannot execute this contract in the next 12

months, so we do not think we should do it now. They are saying, it takes a long time to get ammunition, so let us not start now.

Well, when do they want to start? Do they want to start when we have a conflict and we discover that we are out, we are empty? And I think our enemies should make no mistake about it, we still have an enormous nuclear arsenal, but I do not think anybody in this Chamber wants to rely on a nuclear arsenal as a deterrent.

In 1950 we did. One of the arguments for drawing down the force, we had 9 million people under arms in World War II. We just stacked arms. We got out of the military so fast and drew those units down so fast, because Americans wanted to come home and have babies and work on their farms and get jobs and enjoy the prosperity of America. We stacked arms.

General Marshall was asked, how is the demobilization going, in 1948? He says, this isn't a demobilization, it is a rout. We are just throwing our guns away. A few years later the Koreans marched down the Korean peninsula, a third-rate military, and almost pushed us into the ocean past the Pusan perimeter.

We were pretty sure that the Chinese would not mess with us. In fact, we didn't think anybody would mess with us because we had nuclear weapons. In fact, in those days we had the only nuclear weapons.

One reason that we allowed our forces to get so small, and incidentally, the Army was 10 divisions, just like it is today, we had drawn it down that small, but we figured that nobody would mess with us because we had nuclear weapons. We had this high technology that everybody was afraid of.

All of a sudden we discovered this third-rate military pushing our people down the Korean Peninsula. They overwhelmed the 25th infantry division, captured the commanding general, William Dean, our bazookas bounced off the T-64 Soviet tanks, because they had not stood still, they had continued to make and develop their weapons systems, and we lost a lot of people.

In my cousin's home in Fort Worth, Texas, we have a picture of my second cousin, Son Stillwell. Son was a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps who died in Korea. Lots of us in America have pictures on our mantles of people who lost their lives in wars which we were not prepared to fight.

Probably nobody today knows or can remember what social program took priority over a strong military in 1950, when so many of us lost relatives in the Korean War. But everybody that looks at those pictures on their mantles remembers who they lost.

I would say that our number one obligation as Members of the U.S. Congress to our people, and we do lots of

things for people that the Constitution never mandated, we know that, and we all participate in it. But our number one obligation is to defend our people.

We have allowed the military to be bled down so low that we can no longer look our constituents in the eye and say, we can defend you and we have a real good chance of your youngsters coming home alive.

Mr. BUYER. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I have heard some comment by Members that some of the emergency supplemental funding will actually be coming out of the social security trust fund. In other words, if Congress had made the pledge that every dollar of the surplus is to go to the social security trust fund, are we not really spending that social security dollar on defense?

We have also recognized that there will be funding in the surplus for payments on the national debt and a tax cut for any dollar that is over and above that allotment towards social security.

I will concur with the gentleman's comment that one of the first requirements of a government is to protect its people. I think what makes me very uncomfortable, the gentleman and I and those that serve in this body, it is easy to be the critic of the President or those in the Pentagon, but we have to become very constructive, because we are responsible.

The Constitution, does it not, I would ask the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), places us with the singular responsibility to build the force and make sure that it has what it needs to meet the legitimate needs of this Nation.

So when the gentleman laid out the scenario of what happened in Korea after World War II, the gentleman almost laid out the scenario that history is about to repeat itself; that those of us, myself and the comrades who served in the Gulf War, America and the world was impressed with our high-tech military force, so much so that no one would dare take on the United States military, especially in an air-land war, and that we could move anywhere in the world we want.

So in the face of such a deterrent, we drew down the force so rapidly and so quickly that now in force structure it is there, we have people. They are not as well-equipped as we would like. They are not as well-trained. And, oh, by the way, if we have to use them, I guess we will try to use what ammo we can, and we will never be in a two-war scenario, anyway. We hear that rhetoric around the town.

But I would say to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), if we do this plus-up in this emergency supplemental, would the gentleman agree that we can immediately open up these lines for the missiles and begin replacing a lot of the needs?

Mr. HUNTER. Yes. Mr. Speaker, to answer the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), and he has made such an eloquent presentation and made a great case for increasing our national defense funding, if we do in fact come up with this money, one thing we can do is go to the vendors.

If we have an ammunition line or a spare parts line or a missile line, you may have 25 or 30 major suppliers, companies that used to make little parts for that particular unit. You have to go get them and say, hey, you have to go back into business, because we are low on ammo and we need to get this ammo turned out quickly.

We can work with them, with a partnership of business and government. We can get in there and accelerate those lines and get them up and get producing. I think we can start turning out, for example, cruise missiles and other things a lot faster than the Pentagon thinks we can. I think when the Americans really want to do something, they can do it.

With respect to the senior citizens and their concern about social security, my feeling is, I have no qualms about using this money for an emergency. Lack of ammunition is an emergency. The generation that saved Private Ryan is going to want to help save this country. I am reminded that without national security, there is no social security.

With respect to the other programs, the tax cuts and social programs, whether you are a liberal who loves social programs and thinks tax cuts are terrible, or you are a conservative like myself who thinks that tax cuts increase the economy and increase jobs, no matter where your position is on the political spectrum, we should all agree that ammunition comes first. Let us have ammunition before we have tax cuts and before we have social programs. I do not think anybody would disagree with that.

Mr. BUYER. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask this question, but I am going to lay out a statement first.

If we do not have access to some of our high tech munitions such as laser-guided munitions, where an aircraft can stay miles up and drop a laser-guided munition through the front door of a target, I have heard comments, the hall comments, that we have all types of dumb bomb munitions that we could access.

But if we are to play into this, that we have so much dumb bomb munitions, are we not asking our pilots, who could stay miles above, to assume a risk? Because in order to drop that dumb bomb, they are going to have to come down into radar coverage, pick up the sight of their target, and immediately pull out. So those who are advocating, well, let us just drop dumb bombs, we will assume risks.

□ 2230

It is stunning for me how some people in this body are willing to let soldiers and sailors, airmen and Marines, pilots assume risks and not adequately equip them. Does the gentleman have a comment?

Mr. HUNTER. I would say there is no sight more gratifying I think to the member of a military family, to a spouse and the kids, than to have their dad get off of that airplane or get off of that ship in the good old United States and welcome them with open arms to come home.

Bringing our pilots home is very important to us. And the thing that allows them to come home alive is for them to be able to keep their plane a hundred miles from the target, launch a standoff weapon that can go in and hit the target while they stay out of range of those surface-to-air missiles. And I think one of the greatest agonies that we ever endure is when we have POWs and when we see what happens to some of them. And we have listened their stories when they come home. We have had some great ones on both sides of the aisle, Democrats and Republicans.

Smart weapons, standoff weapons, cruise missiles save lives. It is an absolute disservice to our uniformed people to not give them the very best. They deserve the very best. They are not getting adequate pay right now. We all know that. They are 13 percent below the domestic sector. We are trying to ramp that up. I know the gentleman is leading that charge and he is going to get some fruition to his efforts. That is one reason why the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and the other members of the Subcommittee on Defense and the full Committee on Appropriations sat down and added ammunition to this supplemental, they added a lot of smart weapons.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to offer an amendment that I hope is approved by the Committee on Rules that allows us to restart the Tomahawk missile lines, because I think we have got to have a lot of Tomahawk missiles because we cannot tell how fast we are going to have to use them. And I think we should build at least as many as President Clinton's own analysis say we need for the two-war requirement.

But to answer the gentleman's question, standoff weapons mean that Air Force families get to see their daddy. And having to fly over a target and drop a gravity bomb on that target with all that anti-aircraft fire and all of those very sophisticated surface-to-air missiles shooting back means that we of going to have dead pilots and we are going to have prisoners of war.

Mr. BUYER. As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement, I would like for the gentleman to

comment on some other questions that Members are asking and some of their comments that increasing this billions of dollars over and above the President's number, that we are putting in things that the Pentagon did not ask for and that it is pork laden. So I ask the gentleman to comment on that, because I know the numbers that I put together for the Guard and Reserve, I spoke to each of the chiefs of each of services for their go-to-war requirements. Period. Operational. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HUNTER. Let me answer the gentleman. I can tell the gentleman that I sent over a request to the services to tell us exactly what they need. I did not ask any contractors what they wanted to sell. And I did not ask any congressmen what they wanted to get for their district.

I think most of the congressmen that I have talked to just want to get what is right for America. They realize we have got to refill the ammunition coffers. This list, it represents a direct response from the services with respect to how much they have right now in terms of cruise missiles and all the other things that we need and how much the President's own analysis says we need and what the shortages are.

So they sent over the shortages. We did not get them from anybody else. We did not set any new standards to try to embarrass the President. We just used his standards. That is what this is.

Incidentally, the cruise missiles I am sorry to say, they used to be built in San Diego in my district. Well, about 10 years they moved out and they are now built in Arizona across the Colorado River, and so Arizonans have jobs building cruise missiles. I do not care. I do not care if they are built in the northeast, the Midwest, wherever. They save pilots' lives. I would like to have them come back to San Diego some day, but I do not think that is going to happen. But I think all Americans just want to see ammunition right now.

Mr. BUYER. Will the gentleman yield? The large request that I put in was in excess of \$800 million. My district: Agricultural. A lot of corn, soybeans, wheat, a lot of pork, cattle, chickens, duck production, automobiles. I do not have the big defense contractors. So those who want to say that it is pork laden, I do not sell any of my hogs, none of my hogs out of Indiana for this bill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, let me say to the gentleman who put together this Guard and Reserve package and does it for the Armed Services Committee, the gentleman has always acted with total integrity and has always met the needs of the services. Unfortunately, we have always had to cut what the services need, cut the supply of resources that we are going to give

those shortages by about 50 percent. There are lots of things that the Guard and Reserve need right now on their equipment and in their training and in their ammunition and spare parts to be able to go off and serve in a foreign theater.

Mr. BUYER. One of the examples the Chief of the Army Reserve put on the list, he requested fire trucks. It would be very easy for someone who does not know anything about the military to look at the list of equipment necessities under the emergency supplemental and say why are we funding fire trucks?

The answer is very simple. The Army Reserve has the ground support mission for the Apaches that were sent over to Albania and the present fire trucks from the Army reserves are utilized in Bosnia and they need to have the fire trucks.

Mr. HUNTER. People need to know when an aircraft comes in on fire, and this is one thing I learned in San Diego watching our Federal firefighters who handle the jets out there, they have to have incredible training and great equipment to be able to put out those fires on the aircraft and save lives. So they have to carry a contingent of firefighters with them.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield?, he will be happy to have yielded to me because I am going to extend a great compliment to the gentleman. I have been impressed with the gentleman's chairmanship over the years. With his focus on operational requirements, getting to the services what they need to fight and win the Nation's wars.

I want to compliment the gentleman as one of the strongest advocates to make sure that our ammunition bins are filled. Because I can say that, yes, we all share the responsibility on procurement, but it is singular with the gentleman from San Diego in this body because we have to turn to him as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Procurement to tell us what those needs and requirements are. And, actually, we yield to the gentleman's integrity that he will make those proper decisions. That is not just us; America yields to him. America out there whose sons and daughters may be in Korea right now, part of the 37,000 that are right now on the line in Korea or in a ship or in Okinawa or maybe they are in Iraq right now or wherever they are in the world to face a threat they have to be able to sleep in comfort that the gentleman from California has made sure that their son or daughter can access just in time to get that ammunition. And that is why I compliment the gentleman.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I say to my friend, I thank him for that compliment. When I see the gentleman

from Indiana up there in the Committee on Armed Services, I see a soldier who has a great integrity and devotion to his country and to his people that he serves with and to the people that are still serving. The gentleman has done a wonderful job.

What I think is a great tragedy is that I do not think we are fulfilling our obligation. I do not think we as a body are fulfilling it. And if we get to a point where we have our Marines and soldiers or sailors or airmen coming up short of ammunition, short of spare parts and more of them die on the battlefield because of that, then we will have failed them.

So I hope that every Member votes for this supplemental appropriation tomorrow and I hope they vote for the amendments. And it is going to be in two days. I hope they vote for the amendments that increase the ammunition supply. Even if we vote for those, we are still going to be about \$12 billion short of basic ammunition. So we are not taking care of the problem, but we are taking care of part of the problem.

I really thank the gentleman for his hard work. And maybe the gentleman could share with us his ideas too about how we are going to finally close this pay gap over the next several months and years.

Mr. BUYER. Well, I will close this tonight and reclaim my time that on May 13 we will mark up the Subcommittee on Military Personnel's Chairman's mark and we are going to address the increase in military pay. We are going to change the pay tables to increase retention. We are concerned about the retention not only at the mid-level officer and NCO, but also the retention of general officer strength. They are leaving for other jobs and that is not healthy.

We are going to reform the retirement system. We are looking at creating a Thrift Savings Plan for the military. Part of this emergency supplemental, about \$1.8 billion, is for the funding of the pay package, subject to the authorization that we come up with. So we are going to address the pay differential and we are going to take a very serious look at a lot of other things.

I did not totally concur with the Senate's package, S. 4. It became a huge Christmas tree and everybody wanted to throw their arms around the soldier. But the problems are much greater. It is the quality of life issues. It is the housing issues. It is the readiness. It is the lack of spare parts. It is a large issue. So we are going to make sure that we try to address it by the breadth and we are going to be smart about our business.

Let me close with this one story that has always moved me, and I think it will go to the heart of the spirit of why the gentleman from California and oth-

ers work so very, very hard on these issues. I think of the World War II veteran. It is the World War II veteran I believe is a generation that changed the world and left freedom in their footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by saying that they understand the total sacrifice and they have taught a generation what freedom means. The gentleman's example on Korea here tells us let us do not relive history. Let us accept the responsibility. This is not an emergency supplemental for Kosovo; this is funding our national military strategy and it must be done.

NATIONAL TEACHERS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure on behalf of my colleagues today to recognize National Teachers Day and National Teacher Appreciation Week. We know the old bumper sticker that reads, "If you can read this, thank a teacher." Well, tonight I would like to thank teachers.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) organized this special order, but was unable to be here tonight because he had to attend a funeral. But on his behalf and my colleagues', I would like to talk a bit about teachers.

According to the National PTA, the origins of National Teachers Day are somewhat unclear but it is known that Arkansas teacher, Mrs. Mattie White Woodridge began corresponding with political and educational leaders around 1944 about the need for a national day honoring teachers.

One of the people Mrs. Woodridge wrote to was Eleanor Roosevelt who persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day in 1953.

In the late 1970s, the National Education Association as well as many of its local affiliates persuaded Congress to create a national day celebrating the contributions of teachers and such a day was established in 1980. In 1985, the NEA and the National PTA established a full week of May as National Teacher Appreciation Week, and to make the Tuesday of that week National Teacher Appreciation Day.

It is only right that we take a moment to honor the dedication, hard work, and importance of teachers in our society. As a teacher myself, I know that teaching is a hard and sometimes unrecognized job. But of all the important jobs in our society, nothing makes more of an impact on our children than a well-trained, caring and dedicated teacher. No job ultimately is more important to our society.

Each of us has had teachers who have made marks on our lives who have

pushed us to achieve more and challenged us to excel. While these teachers may not command the celebrity of a sports star, they continue to work every day often under difficult circumstances to guide our children to a better future.

We here in Congress, on both sides of the aisle, continue to debate ways to improve our public schools and to boost the educational achievement of our young people. Experts have suggested all kinds of ways to strengthen our education system. But as we talk about these programs and policies, we may forget that one of the best ways to improve our education system is to show respect and support for our teachers.

Teachers across our Nation are doing an outstanding job. As I have traveled around my central New Jersey district, I have met hundreds of teachers who are working hard every day to prepare students to succeed in this economy and it is not often easy.

□ 2245

Compared with many professionals, teachers are underpaid and overworked. The Education Testing Service pointed out in a recent report that despite the importance of the work they do, teachers still earn less in median weekly wages than doctors, lawyers, accountants, public relations professionals and even many service workers.

Studies consistently show that teachers earn less than other professionals with similar educational requirements, and that is just not right. As long as this country continues to pay teachers less than it pays others, we will not get all we need. In the next decade we Americans must hire two million new teachers to fill vacancies and to keep up with student school growth, and we need the best people.

Teachers often perform miracles in the classrooms, which too many of us take for granted. We forget many times teachers are called on to undertake other tasks in addition to teaching. Teachers today often have to enforce discipline and guide troubled children to the help they need. Our Nation can improve its education system by showing respect for teachers and by letting them know how much we value their work. All of us should take time to thank our teachers.

Later this week, when I return home to New Jersey, I will visit a teacher at West Windsor Plainsboro School on Friday morning, the first morning I am back, and I will teach a class in physics. But we need to do more than simply reflect on teachers' contributions and drop in occasionally. We need to undertake policies that will make their jobs easier. We need to work together to find ways to support teachers, to help them continue to grow professionally, to help our school districts hire more qualified teachers, to help