

Committee (PITAC) noted in its recent report, the emphasis of Federal information technology research programs in recent years has shifted from long-term, high-risk research to short-term, mission oriented research. This is a trend that began in 1986 but has accelerated over the last six years.

PITAC warned that current Federal support for fundamental research in information technology is inadequate to maintain the Nation's global leadership in this area, and it advocated a five-year initiative that would significantly increase basic-research funding. The Administration's response to the PITAC report is its Information Technology for the 21st Century proposal—IT<sup>2</sup>. I believe this proposal, however well-intentioned, falls short of what PITAC envisioned. It does not, for example, commit the Administration to any funding increases beyond fiscal year 2000. In fact, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the Administration's own figures show flat or declining budgets beyond next year for the IT<sup>2</sup> agencies, so any increases in information technology research would have to come out of other important science programs, an untenable situation.

To address the issues raised in the PITAC report, I am introducing the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act today. This is a five-year bill that provides justifiable, sustainable, and realistic increase in information technology research. It authorizes for fiscal years 2000 through 2004 nearly \$4.8 billion, almost doubling IT research funding from current level, at the six agencies under the Science Committee's jurisdiction: the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Energy, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

This bill will fundamentally alter the way information technology research is supported and conducted. Its centerpiece is the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development program, which:

Limits grants to long-term basic research with priority given to research which helps address issues related to high-end computing, and software and network stability, fragility, security (including privacy) and scalability.

Requires all grants to be peer reviewed by panels that include private sector representatives.

Establishes 20 large grants of up to \$1 million in FY 2000–2001; 30 large grants in FY 2002–2004.

Makes \$40 million available for grants of up to \$5 million for IT Centers (6 or more researchers collaborating on cross-disciplinary research issues) in FY 2000–2001; \$45 million in FY 2002–2003; \$50 million in FY 2004.

Provides \$95 million to create for-credit private sector internship programs at two and four-year colleges and universities for IT students. To participate in the program, a company must commit to provide 50 percent of the cost of the internship program.

Authorizes a total of \$385 million for new computer hardware for terascale computing, which will be allocated in an open competition by NSF. Awardees must agree to integrate

with the existing Advanced Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure program and give access to Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act research grant recipients.

In addition, the bill authorizes \$111 million through fiscal year 2002 for the completion of the Next Generation Internet program.

Another of the bill's provisions requires NSF to report to Congress on the availability of encryption technologies in foreign countries and how they compare with similar technologies subject to export restrictions in the United States. I believe that export controls on encryption are stifling development in this critical area, and I think this study will demonstrate that the current policy on encryption is self-defeating.

I also have included language in the bill to make the research tax credit permanent. For too long, businesses have been unable to plan for long-term research projects because of the annual guessing game surrounding the extension of the credit. To encourage capital formation, the credit must be a fixture in law instead of a perennial budget battle. As you know, there are a number of bills that expand the R&D tax credit, but I believe extending it permanently is a good start. Once that hurdle is cleared, we can then examine ways to improve it.

The Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 1999 has been endorsed by both the Technology Network, a coalition of leading technology executives, and Ken Kennedy, the academic co-chair of the PITAC. It is a strong bipartisan bill, and I encourage all my House colleagues to support the measure.

#### TRIBUTE TO WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to pay tribute to the men and women at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, for their outstanding performance in Operation Allied Force.

Whiteman Air Force Base is the home of the 509th Bomb Wing, led by Brigadier General Leroy Barnidge, Jr. The men and women of the 509th Bomb Wing flew their B-2 Stealth Bombers into harm's way for the first time during Operation Allied Force. The air crews, maintenance crews, and the bombers performed magnificently. The B-2 bomber demonstrated unparalleled strike capability, dropping nearly 20 percent of the precision ordnance while flying less than 3 percent of the attack sorties. They flew some of the longest combat missions in the history of the Air Force, a non-stop 31-hour sortie from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri to directly over the skies of Yugoslavia and back.

The B-2 bomber not only proved itself in combat operations, but it put teeth in the Air Force's ability to project global power. The B-2 can carry sixteen 2,000-pound bombs or eight 5,000-pound bombs that can be deliv-

ered stealthily, with precision, against difficult targets such as "bunker busting" of underground compounds. Because the B-2 flies from and returns to Missouri, its deployment is unaffected by base crowding issues such as those that had to be worked out in Europe. Its maintenance budget is tight, particularly when you look at the number of aircraft and associated maintenance required as an alternative to a B-2 strike.

While the role of the B-2 as a combat system was impressive, the performance of the men and women of Whiteman Air Force was simply stellar. They deserve the gratitude of the American people for their indispensable role in Operation Allied Force. Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to fine men and women of Whiteman Air Force Base.

CONGRATULATING STACEY LEE  
BAKER, MICHELLE LEE BAKER  
AND TAMARA KARAKASHIAN

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 9, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stacey Lee Baker, Michelle Lee Baker and Tamara Karakashian for being chosen to be presented to the Archbishop of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, at the 28th annual Debutante Ball. To be chosen, these young women must be active members of their community and church.

Stacey Lee Baker, age 19, of Fresno, has taught the pre-kindergarten Sunday School class at St. Paul Armenian Church, for three years, and is actively involved in the Armenian Christian Youth Organization (ACYO) as Assistant Treasurer, and previously as Secretary. In 1991, she was ordained an acolyte by Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian. She attended the Diocesan Armenian Camp from 1990 to 1992. Locally, she has volunteered at the Poverello House, a local homeless shelter. A 1997 graduate of Bullard High School, Stacey is currently attending Fresno City College where she majors in nursing.

Michelle Lee Baker, age 18, Stacey's sister, has taught the pre-kindergarten Sunday School class for two years. Michelle is currently the Corresponding Secretary of the ACYO. She also attended the Armenian Camp for two years. In keeping with family tradition, she has volunteered at the Poverello House. Michelle is a senior at Bullard High School where she maintains a 3.8 grade point average and is a lifetime member of the California Scholarship Federation. She is an Algebra Lab Assistant and is currently a member of the Math Club and the Junior Larks. Upon graduation, she plans to attend the California State University Fresno, where she will major in accounting.

Tamara Karakashian, age 19, of Visalia, is an active member of the St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church in Yetttem, where she was a choir member and served as the Easter Luncheon Committee Chair for four years. She was the Chair person of the ACYO, Recording