

sad is, even those who are charged with trying to stop drugs again at their source are coming into the United States, interdicting them. In this case, it is SouthCom, the Southern United States Military Command. Again, they are not firing at anyone. They are not going after drugs. They are providing surveillance and basic information which we share with those countries.

We heard what is going on with the countries not getting the information. In the Clinton administration these past few years, we have seen the requests in this, I am a little color blind so it is either blue or purple here depending on one's ability to detect colors. But I definitely know this is red. The red is the assets provided by DoD declined. Requested and provided by DoD.

So we know that the job has not been done. We know that the Congress must intercede at this important juncture; that we must pass this. We must not get into a debate about getting this equipment here.

Unfortunately, the bill has been added to. We have had a series of natural disasters in North Carolina and other areas. We have had problems in agriculture. Certainly nothing has been more impacted than the military.

The reason why DOD assets have declined is because we have got them off in some dozen deployments that the President has chosen as a priority. The priority, I submit, is not to Kosovo today. The priority is in our own backyard. It is in our neighborhoods. It is in our school.

When I go to areas like Sacramento, where the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) lives and his family resides, and hear the stories of illegal narcotics and how parents in a community of 200,000, 600 abandon their children, there is a program to restore their children back to their families. Less than 5 out of 35 take their children back because drugs have so destroyed their minds and their lives and their capability even to care for their offspring. There is something wrong.

But we are going to take this message to the floor tomorrow. We are going to take this message to the American people during this campaign. I am going to conduct hearings across the country from now until the last day of my term in office this year.

We will get some results. We will make a difference. If Rudy Giuliani can do it in New York, if one wants to say a tough town, New York is a tough town with tough people. We can have a mayor with the success that he has had. But how disappointing it must be, how deflating it must be to him, he who has worked so hard, had made so many tremendous improvements, when we went to Baltimore, what did we use as a drug treatment example? The people from Baltimore asked to hear what they were doing in New York City in

drug treatments. So not only was there success in stopping the murders, but in treating the individuals and successful programs they developed.

But it is not found on the liberal pages of the Washington Post and the other publications that want to demean the mayor of New York and others who are on the frontline who have successful programs. But they will not ask any questions to those who have left us behind and who have destroyed real war on drugs, who have dismantled any efforts to stop most cost effectively, before they ever get to the streets of our communities, illegal narcotics.

Well, we can have a Baltimore or we can have a New York City. We can have a nation. If we had 80,000 drug addicts in Baltimore with 600,000, a declining population, we can certainly have one out of eight Americans. Certainly that has a tremendous toll.

We can have people, like in California we heard in testimony at field hearings in the district of the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), abandon their children. Is that what we want?

Well, the choice will be ours tomorrow. The choice will be ours in the next few months. Some serious mistakes have been made. If we do not learn by those mistakes, they will be the cries of the families and mothers and sisters and brothers and relatives of more than the 15,973 that were lost in 1998. They will be the cries and sadness of a whole nation.

We must move together on this. We must learn by the mistakes of the past. I know we can do a better job. Certainly that is our responsibility.

SUPPORT FIRE AND EMS COMMUNITY WITH AMENDMENT TO EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in an unanticipated move to rally the support of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the constituents of our colleagues on both side of the aisle who are involved in the Nation's fire and emergency services and those who support those brave men and women who protect our communities, our cities, and our counties all across America.

Mr. Speaker, there are 32,000 organized departments in this country, 85 percent of whom are totally volunteer, who every day across this Nation, respond to every conceivable disaster that the American people face, not just fires, floods, hurricanes, tornados, missing children, problems in the community. They are there. Incidents in-

volving chemical plants, oil refineries, people who are there when there are problems on our waters.

The Nation's 1.2 million men and women who serve as our domestic defenders have an opportunity this week that they have not had in the 250 year history of this body and this country. Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, when the supplemental appropriation bill comes to the floor, I expect that an amendment will be offered by myself, by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the appropriate subcommittee from the Committee on Science, by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) who has a major piece of legislation pending, all of us coming together, along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the Majority Leader, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the Majority Whip, to support the first major comprehensive appropriation for the Nation's emergency response community.

Mr. Speaker, I have been in this body for 14 years. Before coming to this body, I was the mayor of my town; and before that, I was the volunteer fire chief and spent a good part of my life working as a volunteer fire fighter, fire instructor, trainer for 80 fire companies as a volunteer in southeastern Pennsylvania.

It was 13 years ago that I helped organize what is today the largest caucus in this body and the other body, and that is the Congressional Fire and EMS Caucus. Our role has been to raise the awareness of these brave Americans who every day of every year have protected our country from domestic tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, there is no other group of people largely volunteer who, each year, lose 100 of their members who are killed while responding to disasters, because that is what happens in America every year. On average, 100 fire and EMS personnel are wiped out either in fires, in accidents, hazmat incidents, floods, tornados, responding to emergency situations, who are just doing their job. There is no other profession where 85 percent of the people are volunteers and yet 100 of them are killed each year.

We have an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to recognize these people on the House floor tomorrow. Our bipartisan amendment will put forth \$100 million of emergency supplemental funds to help these men and women better prepare to serve their communities.

Now, a cynic might ask, why would the Federal Government want to help what is basically a local responsibility? We are not trying to federalize the fire service. But we are asking the fire and EMS people across this country to do more and more every day.

We are asking them to respond to incidents of terrorism involving chemical

or biological weapons. We are asking them to respond to large natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and tornados. Yet the bulk of the money to buy the equipment and do the training of these people comes from chicken dinners, tag days, and suppers in the fire halls.

We have an opportunity tomorrow, Democrats and Republicans, to come together with an overwhelming vote in support of our American heroes. These brave men and women who, for 250 years, have protected America's towns and cities, a unique aspect of this group, Mr. Speaker, is they protect our inner city urban areas and they protect our rural farming districts. They are all over America.

We have missed the boat. We created the AmeriCorps program, a great idea to promote volunteerism. Do my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, the volunteer fire service cannot even qualify for the hundreds of millions of dollars that AmeriCorps gets each year?

We support the law enforcement, the police departments in AmeriCorps, in fact about \$3 billion a year. We even use Federal funds to help buy the police vests for the local police officers. But we have done nothing for the fire and EMS community.

The President wants 100,000 new teachers. He wants 100,000 new police officers, not a mention of the fire and EMS personnel departments and people across America.

Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, in this body, our colleagues can have a chance to support the first major appropriation of real dollars to help these brave men and women: \$10 million to fully fund the rural fire protection program, for small rural departments, \$10 million for burn research, and \$80 million for a national grant program to be competitively based, where every fire department in America can compete for a dollar-for-dollar match for funds to provide communications, training, equipment, to help them better protect their towns.

Finally, we will change the provision of one of the largest Federal block grant programs to our cities and counties across America, the Community Development Block Grant Program, to allow that money to be used if the local leaders so choose for fire and EMS. That could mean the availability of up to \$4.8 billion this year of money already going out to our cities and counties across America.

I would ask our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to respond affirmatively. I would ask our constituents all across America to make those phones ring tomorrow morning from 8 o'clock on to make sure that all of our colleagues are aware that it is time that this body step up and support these brave American heroes, people who every year have fought to keep our towns and our cities safe.

The supplemental bill is important. It will put more money into defense. It will put more money into FEMA. But for the first time, we have an opportunity to put money into those organizations that have been there in each of our towns protecting our citizens. Each congressional district has, on average, 80 fire and EMS departments, ambulance organizations, organizations involving rescue and fire departments. Tomorrow is our chance in this body to support that legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing I ask our colleagues to support the amendment that will be offered by myself, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) with the support of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the support of people like the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), as we come together in a bipartisan message of support for these brave and true American patriots, the men and women we call our domestic defenders.

I urge our colleagues and our constituents again to make sure that we hear that message loudly and clearly tomorrow. Get on the phone. Make those calls. Be heard so that this government responds with a token amount of money to allow these people to continue to serve America most of them being volunteers.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0108

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 1 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3908, 2000 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-549) on the resolution (H. Res. 450) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3908) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey (at the request of Mr. ArmeY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. METCALF (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GREEN of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BILIRAKIS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and March 29.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, April 4.

Mr. FOSSELLA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DELAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GILMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1731. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to provide that certain environmental reports shall continue to be required to be submitted; to the Committee on Commerce.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1000. To amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 9 minutes a.m.),