$112 billion increase in defense spending over the 5-year defense plan to arrest declining readiness rates. He additionally implemented new processes to carefully manage high demand and low density resources in support of the National Security Strategy.

Chairman Shelton and his staff published Joint Vision 2020 to establish goals and the metrics for the future joint force; he established the U.S. Joint Forces Command as the premier center for experimentation and Joint Force readiness. He established Joint Task Force-Civil Support to increase the military’s ability to respond to crises in the U.S. homeland and established Joint Task Force-Computer Network Defense to enhance protection of U.S. information networks.

The General directed numerous initiatives designed to improve the interoperability of the four Services including a Joint Airlift Logistics Initiative, development of a Global Information Grid, revision of all Joint Professional Education Programs, and an enhancement on the joint warfighting focus of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council.

General Shelton’s awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster), Bronze Star Medal with V device (with three oak leaf clusters), and the Purple Heart.

He has also been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Military Freefall Badge, and Special Forces and Ranger Tabs and numerous foreign awards and badges.

Mrs. Shelton is the former Carolyn L. Johnson of Speed, NC, who was young Hugh Shelton’s high school sweetheart. As Mrs. Hugh H. Shelton, she has been actively involved with service issues and support to military families throughout General Shelton’s career. The General and Mrs. Shelton have three sons: Jonathan, a special agent in the U.S. Secret Service; Jeffrey, a U.S. Army Special Operations soldier, and Mark, their youngest son.

Mr. President, Dot Helms and I are proud to have General Shelton and Carolyn as our very special friends—and to be theirs. The General has rep-