

In March 2005, the Army approved Excalibur as the materiel solution to respond to an Urgent Needs Statement for precision cannon munitions in Iraq. The additional procurement funding will support wartime requirements, stabilize the production profile of the program, and continue efforts to reduce unit cost. Quantities to be procured are dependent upon final negotiations with the program office as well as the total amount of the contract, but will be generally consistent with All Up Round costs in FY07 and FY08.

(6) Project Name: Realign Air Depot Street at Tinker Gate.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Air Force, Military Construction, Oklahoma.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Office of Congressman TOM COLE.

Receiving Entity: Tinker AFB.

Address of Requesting Entity: Tinker AFB, 7751 1st St, Tinker AFB, OK 73145.

Description of Request: This \$5,760,000 addition to the Air Force MilCon Account will accelerate from within the FYDP the realignment of Air Depot Street at Tinker Gate. This project is fully executable in the next fiscal year, is within the FYDP, supported by the base commander, is a base priority, and has a parametric cost estimate associated with it. The existing roadway alignment poses a safety issue and does not satisfy the Anti-Force/force protection requirements. It is not in compliance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices—extreme congestion during morning and afternoon peak traffic flows presents significant driver safety issues as exits are made from a major Interstate onto the entrance to Tinker AFB. The project also provides for a new Pass and Identification building consolidating all operations at the 24-hour gate.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman LAMAR SMITH.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Department of Defense, Air Force RDT&E (R-1 Line #18).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Texas Research Institute.

Address of Requesting Entity: 9063 Bees Cave Road, Austin, Texas 78732.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$2,000,000 for the Air Force's "Improved Inspection Reliability for Optimized Maintenance Program." Regularly scheduled nondestructive inspection (NDI) and maintenance of Air Force aircraft requires that these key assets are removed from service for extended periods of time in addition to routine maintenance issues. This program will develop and validate model-based approaches to the measurement of inspection reliability, and data mining methods to assure continued performance over time in

Air Force field and depot inspections. This will result in improved confidence in the reliability of NDI to assess damage without costly and time-consuming maintenance will increase availability and reduce maintenance costs over current practices. This one time program of \$2M will use \$1.7M for the development and testing of the systems and the remaining \$300K will be used for required reports. As the Air Force is scheduled to decrease in manpower over the FYDP it is critical that those in the Air Force will have the tools and equipment to do complete their jobs. This project fully supports the 2008 Air Force Strategic Plan which calls for "Smart Operations across the total Air Force" and specifically calls for "Efficient processes free up resources for re-capitalization and modernization, increase the availability of our aircraft by reducing the time they are in Depot"—This effort is termed Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO21).

RECOGNIZING THE FINE WORK OF U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR BUFFALO AND NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK (MAY 17-23, 2008)

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Safe Boating Week to recognize the fine work of the men and women in the United States Coast Guard and particularly the many contributions of those in USCG Sector Buffalo.

Commissioned on July 22, 2005 as a merger of the Group Buffalo, Marine Safety Office Buffalo and Marine Safety Office Cleveland commands, Sector Buffalo covers a large area of responsibility including Lake Erie from Lorain, Ohio to Buffalo, New York, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, the Erie Canal, and the St. Lawrence Seaway to Massena, New York.

Sector Buffalo provides many services to our region including: Search and rescue, homeland security, law enforcement, aids-to-navigation, recreational boating safety, marine environmental response, and Immigrations and Customs.

On Saturday, May 17, 2008, under the direction of Coast Guard Commander Captain Scott J. Ferguson, Sector Buffalo held their first annual East Great Lakes Water Safety Expo. According to national statistics, 700 people drown each year from recreational boating accidents—10 percent of these victims fail to wear a life jacket. Through Sector Buffalo's public outreach event, the Coast Guard spread the message about boating safety and the importance of life jackets to hundreds of Western New York residents.

The Coast Guard has been a presence in Western New York since 1818, beginning with the construction of the Buffalo Lighthouse.

Sector Buffalo currently occupies approximately 31 acres on the City of Buffalo's Outer Harbor. The Coast Guard has indicated that Sector Buffalo occupies a site that is too large for its needs and drew up a preliminary plan

to upgrade facilities—some of which are over 70 years old—and consolidate them in a way that would meet its operational needs, allow for future growth and open up public access to the historic lighthouse and valuable waterfront land.

For the last 90 years the U.S. Coast Guard has honorably served our waterfront community. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize Sector Buffalo's efforts to raise public awareness this week, National Safe Boating Week, and their many contributions protecting people along our waterways and serving as a committed community partner each and every week for the last ten decades.

THE DAILY 45: FAR ROCKAWAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Last Saturday, May 17, Brandon Bethea, a 15-year-old Jamaica girl was fatally shot on a Far Rockaway, New York street corner. She was shot while standing with a crowd near the Redfern Housing Projects.

Then, 2 days later and a half-mile away, while police investigated Brandon's killing, 17-year-old Tyrese Jones was gunned down in front of a local restaurant.

Two more young people, gone before they could even graduate from high school. And on both of these days, 44 other people were shot. Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

H.R. 5501, THE TOM LANTOS AND HENRY J. HYDE UNITED STATES GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support for H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008. This important legislation authorizes appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes, including program monitoring, operations research, and impact evaluation research of U.S. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs.

Since the HIV/AIDS epidemic began, 20 million men, women, and children have died from the disease. Forty million around the globe are HIV-positive, and each and every day, another

6,000 people become infected with HIV. Tuberculosis and malaria are devastating diseases in their own right, particularly in developing countries. However, tuberculosis (particularly drug-resistant strains) in the immunocompromised poses a particularly vexing treatment challenge.

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria are sometimes referred to as the "diseases of poverty;" without question, Africans and various peoples of African descent have been hit the hardest by this global epidemic. In three of the larger countries in the Caribbean—the Bahamas, Haiti, and Trinidad and Tobago—more than 2 percent of the adult population is living with HIV. Higher prevalence rates are found only in sub-Saharan Africa, making the Caribbean the second-most affected region in the world.

AIDS is now one of the leading causes of death in some of these countries, with Haiti being the worst affected. An estimated 16,000 lives are lost each year to AIDS in Haiti, and tens of thousands of children have been orphaned by the epidemic. As well, Haiti has the highest per capita tuberculosis burden in the Latin America and Caribbean region. After HIV/AIDS, TB is the country's greatest infectious cause of mortality of both youth and adults, resulting in 6,000 deaths annually.

What must not be overlooked in the global pandemic of HIV/AIDS is the need for preventative care. For example, the Act directs the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop a program to facilitate availability of proven microbicides that prevent the transmission of HIV. The Act also creates linkages and requires patient referrals between HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis programs, and creates a new plan to stop tuberculosis by enhancing testing and treatment in countries with high tuberculosis rates. New tactics for attacking drug-resistant tuberculosis are also supported.

Most importantly, the Act provides funding for treatment based on scientific principles and evidence-based practices. It is our duty to battle these life-threatening illnesses, and it is inappropriate to forebear moral judgment or other inherent prejudices upon those suffering from these terrible diseases. The Act's purpose is to help provide treatment and support to those who are unable to provide these services on their own. It implores us to care for one another, for we are all brothers and sisters in the eyes of our Creator.

Madam Speaker, there is a moral imperative to combat this epidemic, and the late Congressmen Lantos and Hyde, both dear friends and colleagues, fought long and hard on this important issue. Please honor their efforts by supporting H.R. 5501, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008.

STATEMENT ON VETERAN'S
LEGISLATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about some im-

portant legislation that honors the sacrifice and courage of our women who have served and are currently serving in our armed forces.

The Veteran's legislation we considered today provides an opportunity for each of us, regardless of political views, religion, ethnicity, gender, or background to come together, and to recognize and honor our Nation's heroes.

We gather here today, in the midst of ongoing conflict and warfare, to celebrate the dedication of our men and women in uniform. Though we may be divided by our positions on the war in Iraq, we stand together to support our veterans. Our Nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country. We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion this grateful Nation can bestow.

All too many of our veterans are left without the help and support they need to transition from the horrors they bravely face on the front lines of battle to successful civilian life. According to the Veterans Affairs Department, as of 2006, on any given night, 196,000 veterans of all ages were homeless.

The V.A. also reports 400 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan alone have already become homeless, and this figure only takes into account those who have sought services from V.A.-sponsored programs. Experts have predicted that the trauma resulting from the extreme horrors of these modern wars could lead to a surge in homeless veterans in the coming years.

I chose to celebrate one of our heroic daughters of Texas, Specialist Monica L. Brown of the United States Army with House Concurrent Resolution 320 for her efforts earlier this year.

Spec. Brown was the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the Nation's third-highest medal for valor. This soldier from Lake Jackson, Texas is only 19 years old.

On April 25, 2007, Specialist Brown was part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near Jani Kheil in the eastern province of Paktia on April 25, 2007, when a bomb struck one of the Humvees.

When Spec. Brown saw her fellow soldiers were injured, she grabbed her aid bag and started running toward the burning vehicle as insurgents opened fire. All five wounded soldiers from her platoon scrambled out. Under this commotion, she assessed her patients and moved them to a safer location because they were still receiving incoming fire.

The Pentagon's official policy is to prohibit women from serving in front-line combat roles in the infantry, armor or artillery, but the nature of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, with no real front lines, has seen women soldiers take part in close-quarters combat more than previous conflicts.

According to the army four Army nurses in World War II were the first women to receive the Silver Star, though three nurses serving in World War I were awarded the medal posthumously in 2007. Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, of Nashville, Tenn., was the first to receive the Silver Star in 2005 along with two fellow male

soldiers for her gallantry during an insurgent ambush on a convoy in Iraq.

The Army has stated that Spec. Brown's "bravery, unselfish actions and medical aid rendered under fire saved the lives of her comrades and represents the finest traditions of heroism in combat."

Though I have opposed the war in Iraq from its inception, I remain absolutely committed to ensuring that we recognize, celebrate, and honor the service of our sons and daughters returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Our troops in Iraq did everything we asked them to do, and I firmly believe that we must commend the men and women of our military for their exemplary performance and success in Iraq.

I am proud to be a cosponsor on H. Res. 1054—Honoring the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans (Representative DAVIS (CA)—Armed Services) and H.R. 3819—Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2007 (Representative SPACE—Veterans' Affairs).

We are providing for our Veterans with legislation such as:

H.R. 6081—The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (Representative RANGEL—Ways and Means).

H. Res. 986—Recognizing the courage and sacrifice of those members of the United States Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and calling for a full accounting of the 1,729 members of the Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict (Representative BOEHNER—Armed Services)—Recorded Vote

H.R. 2790—To establish the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health as amended (Representative HARE—Veterans' Affairs).

H.R. 3681—Veterans Benefits Awareness Act of 2007 (Representative BOOZMAN—Veterans' Affairs).

H.R. 3889—To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a longitudinal study of the vocational rehabilitation programs administered by the Secretary (Representative BOOZMAN—Veterans' Affairs)—Passed

H.R. 5554—Veterans Substance Use Disorders Prevention and Treatment Act of 2008 (Representative MICHAUD—Veterans' Affairs)—Passed

H.R. 5664—To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update at least once every six years the plans and specifications for specially adapted housing furnished to veterans by the Secretary (Representative RODRIGUEZ—Veterans' Affairs).

H.R. 5826—Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2008 (Representative RODRIGUEZ—Veterans' Affairs)—Recorded Vote

H.R. 5856—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Authorization and Lease Act of 2008 (Representative MICHAUD—Veterans' Affairs).

H.R. 6048—To amend the Service members Civil Relief Act to provide for the protection of child custody arrangements for parents who are members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation (Representative TURNER—Veterans' Affairs).