

the United States whose communications had been reviewed under section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act. The response we got was prompt and candid. The response said "it is not reasonably possible to identify the number of people located in the United States whose communications may have been reviewed under the authority" of the FISA Amendments Act.

I should be clear that I do not plan to accept this response as a final answer. I understand that it may be difficult to come up with an exact count of the number of people in the United States whose communications have been reviewed, but I believe Congress at least needs to obtain an estimate of this number so that people can understand the actual impact of the FISA Amendments Act on the privacy of law-abiding Americans.

During the markup of the intelligence authorization bill, Senator UDALL of Colorado and I proposed an amendment that would have directed the inspector general of the Department of Justice to review the implementation of the FISA Amendments Act and attempt to estimate how many people inside the United States have had their communications reviewed under this law since it was passed 3 years ago. Our amendment also would have directed the inspector general to examine other important aspects of the FISA Amendments Act, including the problem of recurring compliance violations, and report back to Congress within 1 year.

I regret that the amendment that Senator UDALL of Colorado and I offered was not adopted, but I obviously plan to keep trying to get more information about the effects of this law. I hope that I will find out that no law-abiding Americans, or at least very few, have had their communications reviewed by government agencies as a result of this law, but I believe that I have a responsibility to get concrete facts rather than just hope that this is not the case. And I believe that it would be not be responsible for the Senate to pass a multiyear extension of the FISA Amendments Act until I and others who have concerns have had our questions answered.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to amend this bill, and I am hopeful that they will be willing to modify it to address the concerns I have raised. In the meantime, I should be clear that it is my intention to object to any request to pass the current version of S. 1458 by unanimous consent.

COMBATTING ILLEGAL GUN TRAFFICKING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I speak today in support of a new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF, rule requiring federally licensed firearm dealers in four Southwest border States to report the sale of multiple semi-automatic assault rifles

to the same purchaser. This narrowly tailored reporting requirement, similar to one already in place for multiple handgun sales, will provide ATF with an important tool to combat straw purchases and the illegal trafficking of firearms, including the supply of weapons to drug cartels in Mexico.

Under the rule, federally licensed dealers in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas must report to ATF the sale of multiple semi-automatic rifles that have a caliber greater than .22 and accept detachable magazines to the same person within 5 consecutive business days. Weapons covered by the rule include AR-15s and AK-47s, military-style assault rifles favored by Mexican drug gangs. The rule focuses on sales in these four border states because they are the source of 75 percent of the firearms recovered and traced in drug-related crimes in Mexico, according to an analysis of Department of Justice statistics by the organization Mayors Against Illegal Guns. This rule allows ATF to collect information on guns that are frequently trafficked and used in crimes, improving in the Bureau's tracing efforts. Among other things, gun trace information can be used to identify potential trafficking networks and to link a suspect to a firearm in a criminal investigation.

Unfortunately, there are some who want to block ATF's ability to require this information, effectively hindering its efforts to combat gun trafficking and reduce violence along the U.S.-Mexico border. The National Rifle Association and some Members of Congress have claimed that ATF does not have the authority to implement the rule and that the rule would cause an unmanageable burden on law-abiding gun dealers. Both of these claims are false. The Firearm Owners' Protection Act of 1986, Public Law 99-308, 18 U.S.C. §923 (g)(5)(A), explicitly states that each Federal firearm licensee shall, when requested by ATF, submit to the ATF any information required to be kept by that law, like the name and address of a purchaser and a firearm's serial number, or such lesser information as ATF may request. Information on the sale of multiple semi-automatic rifles is part of the record which firearm dealers are required to maintain.

The claim that ATF's new rule will unfairly burden firearm dealers is also unfounded. ATF estimates that completing the form to report multiple rifle sales will take 12 minutes for gun dealers, and substantially less time for those with computerized sales systems. I cannot imagine that the overwhelming majority of Federal firearm licensees who are law-abiding will take offense to 12 minutes of work in the name of combating illegal trafficking and preventing violence.

The mandatory reporting of multiple sales of semi-automatic rifles to the same person is a measured, common sense step to help combat illegal firearm trafficking. The terrible drug cartel-related violence plaguing Mexico

and spilling north of the border into the United States continues to be fueled by weapons illegally trafficked from the American Southwest. Again, I support ATF's new rule, and I urge my colleagues in Congress to oppose any legislative efforts to block ATF's ability to carry it out.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES E. CARTWRIGHT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to GEN James E. Cartwright, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who will retire tomorrow after 40 years of distinguished service to his country.

General Cartwright is one of America's most respected four-star generals. His leadership and dedication to the security of this country will be sorely missed and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

On a personal note, I will miss the detailed briefings, insightful discussions, and honest assessments that I have come to expect from General Cartwright.

Simply put, he has had a notable record of achievement throughout his career.

As head of the U.S. Strategic Command, STRATCOM, General Cartwright led the effort to develop new strategies to tackle cyber, nuclear proliferation, space, and missile defense issues.

He transformed Strategic Command from an organization largely dominated by its mission with respect to nuclear weapons and nuclear doctrine to being the true center in the U.S. military for all strategic issues.

Of special note was General Cartwright's interest and action on cybersecurity and the use of cyberspace. He saw this as a major emerging threat and responsibility of the Department, and put STRATCOM on a footing to deal with cyber as a major strategic issue.

He distinguished himself as one of those special leaders who is able to foresee and understand the constantly evolving national security environment rather than getting stuck in the old ways of seeing the world and doing things.

Based on his notable record of service, on June 28, 2007, President Bush nominated General Cartwright to succeed ADM Edmund Giambastiani as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Cartwright was confirmed by the full Senate on August 3, 2007 and was sworn in on August 31 as the eighth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Recognizing his exceptional leadership, General Cartwright was confirmed for a second term on July 31, 2009.

He has, not surprisingly, used his capacity as the second most senior military officer in the Pentagon to make the Armed Forces a more strategic and more nimble military.

As the Vice Chairman, General Cartwright has helped guide the United States through many pivotal moments in our history: notably, the end of the military mission in Iraq, the implementation of a new strategy for the war in Afghanistan, and securing ratification of the New START agreement with Russia which will reduce the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads by 30 percent.

I spoke with General Cartwright many times over the course of the treaty negotiations, and during the Senate's debate that ultimately led to ratification and signing New START.

He never failed to provide me with his frank and honest assessment and I greatly appreciated his clear and persuasive support for the treaty.

He recognized, as I do, that if we are to convince other nations to forgo acquiring nuclear weapons, it is imperative for the two nations that possess more than 90 percent of these weapons to take meaningful steps to reduce our stockpiles.

General Cartwright knows that lowering the number of nuclear weapons in the world and stopping their spread will enhance our national security, not diminish it. And we will still maintain a robust arsenal for our defense.

As he stated:

I think we have more than enough capacity and capability for any threat that we see today or that might emerge in the foreseeable future.

General Cartwright's commitment to providing his honest and blunt assessments go beyond nuclear forces and extend to all security threats facing our nation, and the best way to prepare and respond to them, even when it was not popular to do so.

In his recent book, "Obama's Wars," Bob Woodward describes General Cartwright as committed to providing the President his candid advice. Woodward quotes General Cartwright as saying "I'm just not in the business of withholding options. I have an oath, and when asked for advice I'm going to provide it."

He certainly has come a long way.

General Cartwright grew up in Rockford, IL, and joined the Marine Corps in 1971.

After numerous operational assignments as both a naval flight officer and naval aviator, the pinnacle of his Marine Corps operational aviation career came as the Commanding General of First Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan, from 2000 to 2002.

After a tour with the Joint Staff, in 2004, General Cartwright became the first Marine Corps general to lead the United States Strategic Command, STRATCOM.

As always, the security and defense of our Nation has been his top priority. That, along with his commitment to the active, guard, and reserve members of the Armed Forces and their families, is probably his greatest attribute and lasting impact.

I wish General Cartwright all the best as he retires from 40 years of serv-

ice to his country and, on behalf of the people of California and all Americans, I offer him my most sincere and heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

COLD REGIONS RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING LABORATORY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Research and Development Center's Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, CRREL. For half of a century, the men and women at CRREL have provided outstanding service to our military, our Nation, and our friends and allies around the world by advancing science and engineering and applying these disciplines to complex environments, materials, and processes in all seasons and climates.

CRREL's mission dates back to 1867, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers first began exploration and development of the newly acquired Alaskan territory. Formally established in 1961 under Army General Order No. 3, CRREL merged the Snow, Ice and Permafrost Research Establishment with the Arctic Construction and Frost Effects Laboratories, and continues to serve as one of seven laboratories under the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center, ERDC.

To complement its dedicated staff, CRREL operates some of the most advanced and unique research facilities in the world. At its headquarters in Hanover, NH, my home State, CRREL operates the 73,000 square foot Ice Engineering Facility, the 27,000 square foot Frost Effects Research Facility, as well as 24 separate low-temperature research cold rooms, capable of reaching temperatures down to -35°C. Other CRREL facilities include the Corps of Engineers' Remote Sensing/Geographic Information Systems Center of Expertise, the Cold Regions Science and Technology Information Analysis Center, as well as a permafrost research tunnel and 133 acre permafrost research center, both located in Alaska.

As part of the ERDC, CRREL's distinguished service record includes being recognized as the Army's top research and development laboratory 5 of the last 8 years and the last 3 consecutive years, a feat unmatched by any other Army laboratory. CRREL's scientists, engineers and staff continue the critical research that ensures that the men and women of our Armed Forces are the most capable and well prepared in the world.

I along with the entire State of New Hampshire would like to congratulate and honor the scientists, engineers and staff of CRREL for their honorable service to the Army, our Nation and our State. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating CRREL's 50 years of success and wishing them well as they work toward another 50 years of innovation and service.

VIOLATIONS DURING THE SRI LANKAN CIVIL WAR

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, this past spring marked the 2-year anniversary of the end of Sri Lanka's civil war. After more than two decades of fighting and estimated losses of far too many innocent people, Sri Lankans now seek to build a peaceful future from their recent violent past. The task will not be easy. Infrastructure must be rebuilt. Good governance must be established. Education, health care, and a thriving economy must be available for millions of citizens. And so, too, must there be accountability and investigation into alleged violations and abuses of international human rights.

From July 1983 until May 2009, Sri Lanka's civil war claimed the lives of innocent civilians including children and women, seniors and students, many of whom may have fallen victim to violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws. The families of these victims deserve to know the truth about their loved ones' deaths. They need to know that those responsible for the atrocities and violations of basic human rights will be held accountable. This is the only way Sri Lanka can come to grips with its past as it moves forward toward its future.

We have seen how accountability can lead to reconciliation for societies emerging from violent civil strife. South Africa and Northern Ireland are just two recent examples.

The Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Accountability In Sri Lanka, released on March 31, 2011, found "credible allegations, which if proven, indicate that a wide range of serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law was committed both by the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), some of which would amount to war crimes against humanity."

This report further states that "the conduct of the war represented a grave assault on the entire regime of international law designed to protect individual dignity during both war and peace."

Under international law, parties responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights law must be held accountable.

In order to ensure that the Sri Lankan people receive the truth, an independent international inquiry must be established to investigate the credible reports of human rights abuses and humanitarian law violations by the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka.

This position is shared by Amnesty International, and other international human rights organizations; the European Union; and the panel of experts who authored the U.N.'s Report on Accountability in Sri Lanka.