

gathering, and public education campaigns to enhance the protection of children trapped in one of the worst forms of child labor.

For nearly a decade, I have been working hard to end the scourge of abusive child labor. It is a tragic and disturbing fact that millions of children under 18 years of age currently endure slave-like conditions in brothels, back alleys, and hideaways that jeopardize their basic health, safety and well-being. These children are being tricked, lured, and sold outright for purposes of forced labor and exploitation in the commercial sex trade of prostitution and pornography.

In the European Union, the International Organization for Migration reports a marked increase in the number of unaccompanied minors trafficked for sexual purposes from Central and Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

In India alone, hundreds of thousands of children exist in slavery-like conditions for purposes of forced labor or prostitution, according to the U.S. Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

UNICEF estimates that at least 200,000 children every year are trafficked into the Central and West African slave trade for purposes of forced labor.

In Mexico, a UNICEF study estimates that 16,000 children are victims of sexual exploitation—many of them are prostituted in tourist destinations such as Cancun and Acapulco.

In the United States, experts within the Department of Justice estimate that at least 100,000 children are involved in the sex trade in any given year. Approximately 400 cases of Internet child pornography are prosecuted each year in the Federal courts alone. I am pleased to report, for example, that a crackdown on Internet child pornography was launched last year in Des Moines, the capital city of my own home state.

A 1999 report issued by the Central Intelligence Agency estimated that up to 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year.

We must not stand by while millions of children are sold for purposes of forced labor and consigned to prostitution and pornography in order to satisfy adults who profit from their abuse. When presented with the dimensions of human trafficking in 2000, I joined 94 of my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to express both our outrage over the criminal behavior of child traffickers and our support for the victims of trafficking by passing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

This week we are taking more effective action through ratification of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography. It is an important victory in our effort to protect children everywhere. I look forward to continuing this effort with my colleagues in the weeks, months, and years to

come. In approving this new stand-alone treaty, we are affirming that the American people believe that all children, given their vulnerability to adult coercion and greed, deserve special protection in international law and practice against sexual predators and exploiters.

I also want to take a moment to say how pleased I am that the Senate this week has ratified the Optional Protocol Against the Use of Children in Armed Conflict.

As you know, I worked very hard with Senator HELMS, in particular, to secure ratification of the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Convention #182 to Prohibit the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Our bipartisan efforts paid off when the Senate in November, 1999 ratified that important new human rights treaty on a 96-0 vote.

Now included in the universal definition of the worst forms of child labor within ILO Convention #182 is the prohibition of forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. Therefore, the Senate's action this week on this Optional Protocol means the U.S. has followed through on our international commitment at the time that ILO Convention #182 was under negotiation and joined the world community in universally condemning and outlawing the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

It probably seems unthinkable to most Americans that young children have been recruited, trained, and turned into soldiers who are actively engaged in combat. The latest research estimates that more than 300,000 children under 18 years of age are participating in armed conflicts around the world. For example, there are an estimated 50,000 child soldiers in Burma alone. Hundreds of thousands more are members of armed forces who could be sent into combat at any moment. Although most child recruits are over fifteen years of age, significant recruitment starts at ten years, and the use of even younger children is not uncommon.

Robbed of their childhood, child combatants are subjected to a cycle of violence that they are too young to understand or resist. While many of these young recruits may start out as porters or messengers, too often they end up on the front lines of combat. Some are used for especially hazardous duty, such as entering mine fields ahead of older troops, or undertaking suicide missions. Some have been forced to commit atrocities against family members or relatives. Inexperienced and immature, these children suffer far higher casualty rates than their adult counterparts. Those who survive are often physically or psychologically scarred for life. Typically lacking an education or civilian job skills, their futures are often very bleak.

Ninety-three percent of Americans believe that combatants should be at least 18 years of age, according to a recent poll conducted by the Inter-

national Committee of the Red Cross. Accordingly, I want to particularly salute the leadership of my colleagues, Senator BIDEN, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator HELMS, the Ranking Member of that Committee, as well as Senator WELLSTONE and thank them for their tireless work to see this treaty through to ratification. There is absolutely no justification for the forced or compulsory recruitment of children under 18 for deployment into combat anywhere in this world and I am proud that America is doing our part to end this egregious abuse of human rights and affront to common decency.

FIRST RESPONDER TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Madam President, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the First Responder Terrorism Preparedness Act of 2002 that I introduced along with the committee chairman, Senator JEFFORDS. This legislation is a huge step forward in providing the necessary tools for local and state first responders to prepare to respond to any act of terrorism.

We recognize that it is the local emergency responders who are on the scene first to rescue and help those who have been caught in a disaster. I visited the Pentagon and Ground Zero less than a week after the attacks and can tell you that these first responders are true patriots, and they live and serve us in every town and city across this great Nation. These local heroes, the type of first responders who made the ultimate sacrifice on September 11, are the embodiment of the American spirit—brave, selfless, and caring. They save lives and we should focus our resources to help them with their mission.

Prior to his confirmation to be the head of FEMA, nearly 9 months before the terrorists attacks on this Nation, I met with Joe Allbaugh to discuss FEMA priorities. Chief among the priorities we discussed was that of terrorism preparedness of our Nation's first responders. Little did we know what this Nation would be facing less than 9 months down the road.

Since September 11, I have met with Director Allbaugh and his staff on several occasions, and the Environment and Public Works Committee, of which I am the ranking member, has held a number of hearings on this issue.

In January, I enthusiastically endorsed President Bush's announcement of his first responder plan to be run by FEMA. This bill, the First Responder Terrorism Preparedness Act, mirrors the President's proposal and represents months of work by the Environment and Public Works Committee flushing the President's proposal with the aid of the administration.

In brief, this bill will authorize a first responder grant program for 4 years at \$3.5 billion per year. Each

State will receive a minimum of \$15 million with the remaining being distributed to States based on criteria set by FEMA but will include population, vital infrastructure, military installations and proximity to international borders. The money will be used for preparedness efforts including to purchase equipment, train, develop response plans, conduct exercises and provide for communication needs. We ensure that the money does not get tied up in bureaucracy and gets to the first responders.

The bill also requires that all the efforts at the State and local level be part of a broader national preparedness strategy as determined by the Office of National Preparedness (ONP). The ONP was put in place by the President over a year ago, a move I have been advocating for some time, and the President deserves a great deal of credit for that action.

This bill takes the additional step of establishing the ONP in statute. The ONP will help to coordinate preparedness efforts at the Federal level and be the point Federal office for the State and local responders. It is vital that we do not have thousands of independent preparedness plans and efforts—we need a local, state, regional and national strategy.

The bill will also enhance the capabilities of FEMA designated Urban Search and Rescue teams. Many of those teams were activated on September 11, but have had serious financial difficulties in maintaining adequate levels of preparedness. That certainly should not be the case and we address those needs.

We all entered a new world and a new reality on September 11, and we must be prepared for whatever may come our way. The President has done a tremendous job to dramatically reduce the vulnerabilities of this Nation and I, once again, applaud his effort to establish a new Department of Homeland Security. However, regardless of how much we work to prevent further attacks, we must be prepared if the unthinkable were to happen again. This will be an ongoing effort and this bill takes a very large step in providing the resources and direction to ensure that the effort is productive.

I thank the chairman of the EPW Committee for his leadership and for working closely with me on this important and bipartisan issue. It is my hope that our bill will make it to the President's desk in short order.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COL. DAVID R. CHAFFEE

• Mr. THOMPSON. Madam President, today I pay tribute to a U.S. Air Force officer, Colonel David R. Chaffee. Colonel Chaffee currently serves as the Program Director of the Combat Air Forces Command and Control Systems

Program office at the Electronic Systems Center on Hanscom Air Force Base. He will soon retire from the Air Force after 25 years of service. Today, it is my privilege to recognize some of Colonel Chaffee's accomplishments, and to commend his service to the Air Force and our Nation.

Colonel Chaffee was born in Rockwood, TN, and began his Air Force career as a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Early in his career, he was an Aeronautical Developmental Engineer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, OH, and later returned there as the Program Manager for the F100-PW-220 engine. After multiple, high-level acquisition positions at Headquarters in Washington, DC, he spent 2 years at the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill Air Force Base, UT as a Program Director before arriving in May 2000 at Hanscom Air Force Base for his current assignment.

Throughout his career, Colonel Chaffee won numerous awards for performance in the Acquisitions career field, including the General O'Malley Memorial Leadership Award in 1987 and the Clements Award in 1985. Additionally, he was a Distinguished Graduate from Squadron Officers School and Air Command and Staff College. He holds two master's degrees, one in Aeronautical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology and one in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

At Hanscom Air Force Base, Colonel Chaffee's leadership contributed to the Combat Air Forces Command and Control Systems Program Office being regarded as a center of excellence for command and control and air battle management. This office provides integrated mission critical command and control tools that help create air tasking orders, plan combat sortie missions, and analyze weather information for planned targets. Colonel Chaffee's support for improved processes and innovation led to significant increases in program office performance.

Colonel David Chaffee has made a difference during his service to the Air Force and our Nation. He displayed a commitment to the men and women in his charge and was well known for mentoring junior officers. In addition, throughout his demanding career, Colonel Chaffee has been a family man, as he and his wife, Ann, raised three daughters, Lauren, Katelyn, and Jillian. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Colonel Chaffee and thanking him for his years of service.●

JERRY BLOCKER: IN HONOR OF HIS "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" PRESENTED BY THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

• Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, during the turbulent social unrest of the 1960s in the U.S. and particularly Detroit, Jerry Blocker—a "skinny little kid

with the big voice"—often dominated the radio and television news business. His rise and success in the industry has been attributed to an imagination fueled by a strong sense of drama, and his ability to craft a calm, orderly objectivity out of news ripe with disorder, rawness, and uncertainty.

Born on the west side of Detroit on February 14, 1931, Jerry Blocker's arrival on Valentine's Day was unheralded during the height of the Great Depression. Because of the Depression, Jerry's parents and family bestowed upon him the only gifts they could afford: an abundance of love and pride. Those generous gifts carried dividends the remainder of his life.

During his early years at Columbian and Sampson elementary schools, Jerry Blocker thrived while participating in school plays. Later, while attending McMichael Intermediate he became interested in all activities associated with radio. By the time he reached Northwestern High School, it was recognized that the "skinny little kid with the big voice" was destined for a future in the media. At Wayne State University in the mid-1950s, Jerry honed his broadcast skills but discovered that minorities were not to be found working in the broadcast business. His dream would have to wait. In the late 1950s Jerry became a teacher, first serving at Hampton Institute in Virginia, then with the Detroit Board of Education. His flair for the dramatic became evident as he staged plays, pageants, and festivals to the delight of hundreds of children.

In 1961, Jerry Blocker finally found employment in the radio industry when WCHD entered the general-format radio market as the first of many stations. In 1967, Jerry became the first black television news anchorman in the state of Michigan, working for WWJ-TV Channel 4, now known as WDIV-TV. He was hired by Channel 4 after the 1967 Detroit riots and anchored weekend newscasts until 1975. After his departure from WWJ, Jerry Blocker was hired as the television news director of Channel 62, the first television station to actively recruit from and program for Detroit's African-American community. Jerry Blocker won several awards for his distinguished and accurate broadcast professionalism.

During his 10-year career in television, Jerry Blocker witnessed and reported the events which helped shape Detroit and the nation in the years immediately following the advent of U.S. Civil Rights legislation: the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., the challenge of the Detroit NAACP and the Detroit Board of Education, which was eventually settled by the U.S. Supreme Court, and the tremendous effect on the tri-county area and on all of Michigan by the election of Coleman A. Young, Detroit's first black mayor.

In 1977, Blocker was named executive director of the Detroit branch of the