

As the commander of the Europe Regional Medical Command, General Ursone led a health care system comprised of a medical center, two hospitals, and 27 clinics. This medical command supported operations spanning over three continents—Europe, Africa and Asia—while simultaneously providing healthcare to over 250,000 soldiers, family members, retirees and civilians from the Department of Defense. In subsequent assignments as the Assistant Surgeon General for Force Sustainment and the Assistant Surgeon General for Force Projection from June 2002 to June 2004, General Ursone's leadership was integral in preparing the Army Medical Department to serve our troops in their efforts against the new and unfamiliar threat of global terrorism.

As chief of the Medical Service Corps, General Ursone has unified the most diverse group of specialties in the Army. His commitment to leader development and mentoring of junior officers helped the Corps achieve annual increases in recruiting and retaining officers. General Ursone's vision and leadership have created opportunities for officers to serve our Nation while also achieving their own professional and personal aspirations.

Health care in the Army encompasses a staggering array of services, from basic medical and dental checkups to prescription medications to emergency care on the battlefield to vaccinations against biological and chemical threats. Officers serve as medical operations officers, healthcare administrators, medical logisticians, preventive medicine officers, allied scientists, behavioral science officers as well as optometrists and pharmacists.

To lead and manage such a wide and complex network, you need to be a special person—one who is able to think strategically and act appropriately for the time and circumstances. You need a leader who will take swift and decisive action in a crisis, like when General Ursone worked around the clock managing the evacuation and care of the victims of the USS *Cole* bombing. You need a compassionate leader capable of implementing Women, Infant and Child programs. Above all, you need a leader who recognizes that his decisions will have a tremendous impact on thousands and thousands of individual soldiers and their families. In each and every one of these critical areas, Richard Ursone has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Brigadier General Ursone's service and contributions to fellow soldiers and our Nation are eloquent testimony to his loyalty, dedication, talents, and abilities. General Ursone is not a physician. However, it is difficult to imagine any individual who has done more to ensure that every single soldier, family member and retiree in the U.S. Army receives the most advanced, efficient, and compassionate health care. His commitment to the men and women of our Armed Forces is truly an

inspiration to us all. I send him my best wishes on his well-deserved retirement. And on behalf of our Nation, I extend to him thanks and gratitude for a remarkable career of service.●

REPORT PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD ENTITLED "SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING INDICATORS—2004"—PM 75

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1), I transmit herewith a report prepared for the Congress and the Administration by the National Science Board entitled, "Science and Engineering Indicators—2004." This report represents the sixteenth in the series examining key aspects of the status of science and engineering in the United States.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 22, 2004.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1779. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans during the period that a military reservist or national guardsman is called to active duty for an extended period, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3147. An act to designate the Federal building located at 324 Twenty-Fifth Street in Ogden, Utah, as the "James V. Hansen Federal Building".

H.R. 3970. An act to provide for the implementation of a Green Chemistry research and Development Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4019. An act to address the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

H.R. 4030. An act to establish the Congressional Medal for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science Education programs to recognize private entities for their outstanding contributions to elementary and secondary science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

At 5:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2844. An act to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 45 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1779. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans during the period that a military reservist or national guardsman is called to active duty for an extended period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 3147. An act to designate the Federal building located at 324 Twenty-Fifth Street in Ogden, Utah, as the "James V. Hansen Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3970. An Act to provide for the implementation of a Green Chemistry Research and Development Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4019. An act to address the participation of Taiwan in the World health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4030. An act to establish the Congressional Medal for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science Education programs to recognize private entities for their outstanding contributions to elementary and secondary science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3550. An act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 2844. An act to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 21 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7194. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Tolerance Exemptions for Certain Biopesticides" (FRL7353-5) received on April 22, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7195. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the National Guard Challenge Program dated March 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7196. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting, the report of legislation entitled "Support of Sensitive Military Operations to Combat Terrorism" as part of the National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7197. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission,