

Defense located in foreign countries under this section may not—

(1) detract from the established core missions of the laboratories; or

(2) compromise the security of those laboratories, as well as their research, equipment, expertise, and materials.

**SEC. 12. ASSISTANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH NETWORKS AND EXPANSION OF FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The President is authorized, on such terms and conditions as the President may determine, to provide assistance for the purposes of—

(1) enhancing the surveillance and reporting capabilities for the World Health Organization and existing international regional and international health networks; and

(2) developing new international regional and international health networks.

(b) **EXPANSION OF FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized to establish new country or regional international Field Epidemiology Training Programs in eligible developing countries.

**SEC. 13. FOREIGN BIOLOGICAL THREAT DETECTION AND WARNING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall establish the Office of Foreign Biological Threat Detection and Warning within either the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the technical ability to conduct event detection and rapid threat assessment related to biological threats in foreign countries.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Office of Foreign Biological Threat Detection and Warning shall be—

(1) to integrate public health, medical, agricultural, societal, and intelligence indications and warnings to identify in advance the emergence of a transnational biological threat;

(2) to provide rapid threat assessment capability to the appropriate agencies or departments of the United States that is not dependent on access to—

(A) a specific biological agent;

(B) the area in which such agent is present; or

(C) information related to the means of introduction of such agent; and

(3) to build the information visibility and decision support activities required for appropriate and timely information distribution and threat response.

(c) **TECHNOLOGY.**—The Office of Foreign Biological Threat Detection and Warning shall employ technologies similar to, but no less capable than, those used by the Intelligence Technology Innovation Center (ITIC) within the Directorate of Science and Technology of the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct real-time, prospective, automated threat assessments that employ social disruption factors.

(d) **EVENT DETECTION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “event detection” refers to the real-time and rapid recognition of a possible biological event that has appeared in a community and that could have national security implications, regardless of whether the event is caused by natural, accidental, or intentional means and includes scrutiny of such possible biological event by analysts utilizing classified and unclassified information.

**SEC. 14. REPORTS.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of programs under this

Act, including an estimate of the level of funding required to carry out such programs at a sufficient level.

**SEC. 15. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Subject to subsection (c), there is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2006 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—The amount appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) is authorized to remain available until expended.

(c) **LIMITATION ON OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.**—Not more than 10 percent of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) may be obligated before the date on which a report is submitted, or required to be submitted, whichever first occurs, under section 14.

**RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 342, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 342) recognizing the Republic of Croatia for its progress in strengthening democratic institutions, respect for human rights, and the rule of law and recommending the integration of Croatia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 342) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

**S. RES. 342**

Whereas the United States recognized the Republic of Croatia on April 7, 1992, acknowledging the decision of the people of Croatia to live in an independent, democratic, and sovereign country;

Whereas since achieving their independence, the people of Croatia have dedicated themselves to building a functioning democratic society, based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy;

Whereas Croatia has made progress in judicial reform and has adopted a judicial reform strategy;

Whereas Croatia has demonstrated a desire to protect minority rights and promote a viable multiethnic society;

Whereas, in 2002, Croatia adopted the Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities, ensuring the representation of minorities in the Parliament of Croatia and the establishment of the councils of national minorities;

Whereas the Government of Croatia has concluded specific bilateral agreements on the protection of minority rights with Hungary, Italy, and Serbia and Montenegro and has concluded an agreement on cooperation with representatives of the Independent

Democratic Serb Party in the Parliament of Croatia;

Whereas three prominent members of the Parliament of Croatia, Ratko Gajica, Milorad Pupovac, and Vojislav Stanimirovic, who represent the Serb minority, sent a letter to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Stephen Hadley, expressing their support for the Prime Minister of Croatia, Ivo Sanader, and for Croatia's path toward membership in the European Union and in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (“NATO”);

Whereas Croatia has shown dedication to advancing the return, reconstruction, and restitution of property in Croatia;

Whereas Croatia has proven to be a reliable partner of the United States in seeking the stabilization of the region;

Whereas Croatia participated in the Iraq International Conference held in Brussels on June 22, 2005, and offered to train and educate nationals of Iraq at universities in Croatia;

Whereas Croatia is taking part in the training of Iraqi security forces at the International Training Center in Jordan and has offered to train additional security personnel for Iraq in Croatia;

Whereas Croatia has been a partner in the war against terrorism, sent troops to Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in support of the war against terrorism in 2002, and has provided civilians to staff the Provincial Reconstruction Team under the leadership of NATO in Fayzabad;

Whereas, during July 2005, Croatia adopted a decision to triple its military presence in the International Security Assistance Force;

Whereas Croatia has endorsed and is participating in the Proliferation Security Initiative with like-minded nations across the world to prevent the flow of weapons of mass destruction, missile systems, and related material;

Whereas, on June 1, 2005, Croatia was the fourth nation to sign the Proliferation Security Initiative Shipboarding Agreement with the United States to prevent the maritime transfer of dangerous shipments of weapons or other illicit materials to keep such weapons and materials out of the hands of dangerous actors and terrorists;

Whereas, since Croatia has become an independent country, the United States has shown support for Croatia in many ways, including by providing Croatia with economic and military assistance that has contributed significantly to the progress and continued success occurring in Croatia;

Whereas the United States has encouraged Croatia's transformation and the future membership of Croatia in NATO;

Whereas a whole and free Europe cannot be fully achieved without the integration into NATO of all countries that share the common values of democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights;

Whereas the Membership Action Plan developed for NATO, which was launched in April 1999, is a program of assistance that provides both goals and a roadmap for countries aspiring to membership in NATO;

Whereas Croatia was invited into the Membership Action Plan in May 2002 and has made substantial progress toward the achievement of the reforms required for receiving an invitation to start accession talks with NATO;

Whereas the United States, Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia are signatories to the United States-Adriatic Charter for Partnership, which promotes Euro-Atlantic integration and commits the signatory nations to the values and principles of NATO and to membership in NATO at the earliest possible time;

Whereas Croatia supports regional cooperation as a means of bringing stability to Europe, particularly Southeast Europe, and has cooperated with the countries that neighbor Croatia to promote such stability, including providing technical and other assistance to countries that seek membership in the European Union;

Whereas, on October 3, 2005, the European Union decided to open accession negotiations with Croatia based on the assessment of the European Union's Council of Ministers that Croatia met the political and economic criteria for candidacy in the European Union, including that Croatia was fully cooperating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia;

Whereas the cooperation between the Government of Croatia and the Tribunal improved significantly under Prime Minister Ivo Sanader;

Whereas, since November 2003, Croatia has handed over to the Tribunal eleven individuals indicted for war crimes;

Whereas the cooperation of the Government of Croatia with the Tribunal assisted in the arrest of Ante Gotovina on December 8, 2005, in Spain and his transfer to the Tribunal on December 10, 2005;

Whereas the success of the Government of Croatia in bringing war criminals to justice demonstrates the commitment of the Government to move Croatia toward a brighter future of peace, stability, and prosperity for its people; and

Whereas Croatia shares the common interests and values of the free and democratic world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) since the Republic of Croatia became an independent country, the Government and people of Croatia have made significant progress in strengthening democratic institutions, respect for human rights, and the rule of law in Croatia;

(2) Croatia's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization ("NATO") would contribute to stability in Southeast Europe;

(3) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the Government and people of Croatia should be commended for their progress on protecting minority rights in Croatia, progress toward achieving the political, economic, military, and other requirements of NATO's Membership Action Plan, contribution to the International Security Assistance Force and the war against terrorism, and for their constructive participation in the Proliferation Security Initiative and in the United States-Adriatic Charter;

(B) the Government of Croatia should be commended for its cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia which led to the apprehension and transfer of several individuals indicted for war crimes, including Ante Gotovina, to the Tribunal;

(C) the Government of Croatia should continue its cooperation with the Tribunal;

(D) the Government of Croatia should continue and strengthen its role as a partner on nonproliferation and its support in the war against terrorism and in Iraq;

(E) the Government of Croatia should continue its efforts to implement defense reforms; and

(F) the Government of the United States should continue and increase its defense and security cooperation with the Government of Croatia, including through education, training, and technical cooperation, to assist Croatia in the reform process and in fulfilling its requirements for membership in NATO; and

(4) upon complete satisfaction of the criteria for NATO membership, in accordance with NATO's guidelines, Croatia should be

invited to be a full member of NATO at the earliest possible date.

#### THANK OUR DEFENDERS WEEK

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 343, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 343) expressing the sense of the Senate that the week of December 19, 2005 shall be designated "Thank Our Defenders Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 343) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 343

Whereas, ever since our Nation was founded, the members of our military, soldiers, sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guard personnel, active duty, Guard, and reserve, have played a critical role protecting America's vital interests and spreading peace throughout the world;

Whereas more than 193,000 troops in the Persian Gulf region are courageously fighting insurgents and helping to establish democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas 19,000 servicemen and service-women are stationed in Afghanistan, fighting Al-Qaeda and providing security for the people of that fledgling nation;

Whereas over 30,000 troops are protecting American interests and maintaining peace on the Korean peninsula;

Whereas, in total, nearly 300,000 brave men and women are actively serving on the soil of 120 foreign countries and on the High Seas, fighting terrorists and making sacrifices for American citizens and families; and

Whereas, thanks to their tireless efforts, a brutal dictatorship in Iraq and an oppressive regime in Afghanistan have given way to emerging democratic societies: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That with gratitude it is the sense of the Senate that the week of December 19, 2005 should be designated "Thank Our Defenders week."*

#### GEORGIA'S SOUTH OSSETIAN PEACE PLAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 344 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 344) expressing support for the Government of Georgia's South Ossetian Peace Plan and the successful and peaceful reintegration of the Region of Georgia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 344) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 344

Whereas during December 1991, Georgia was internationally recognized as an independent and sovereign country following the formal dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Whereas the United States supports the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and ongoing democratic reform process in Georgia;

Whereas the United States reaffirms its support for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Adjara and the restoration of democracy and political stability in that region of Georgia;

Whereas as a result of a conflict from 1991 to 1992, a separatist regime has enforced its rule in the Georgia territory of South Ossetia, impoverishing the people living in South Ossetia, militarizing the area, allowing organized crime to flourish, and posing a threat to the peace and security in the region;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has announced a peace plan to reach a full political settlement to the South Ossetian conflict;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has acknowledged that mistakes were made in its past efforts in dealing with the region of South Ossetia;

Whereas at the 59th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili outlined specific components of a peace initiative that includes demilitarization, confidence building measures, and economic, social, cultural, and political steps to protect the South Ossetian people and their rights while reintegrating the region, with significant autonomy, into Georgia;

Whereas President Saakashvili reaffirmed the main principles of the peace agreement at the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe in January, 2005, held in Strasbourg, France;

Whereas a formal comprehensive peace proposal based on the Strasbourg principles was formally proposed on October 27, 2005, at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; and

Whereas on December 6, 2005, at their 13th Ministerial Council Meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe endorsed the Government of Georgia's peace plan, stating, "We welcome the steps taken by the Georgian side to address the peaceful resolution of the conflict and believe that the recent proposals, in particular the Peace Plan built upon the initiatives of the President of Georgia presented at the 59th United Nations General Assembly and supported by the sides, will serve as a basis for the peaceful settlement of the conflict": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the Senate—*

(1) commends the Government of Georgia for its vision and determination in its efforts to resolve peacefully the conflict in South Ossetia;

(2) supports the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the democratic Government of Georgia;