

materials/packages in the field, neutralize biological/chemical agents when discovered, decontaminate areas where bio/chem agents may have been released, and detect explosives and contraband in a variety of challenging circumstances. The IAC and the ISU academic community, in collaboration with scientists and engineers from the private sector and national laboratories, has been involved in developing technology for the remote detection of hazardous materials and contraband for more than 15 years. Through these associations the IAC has devised non-intrusive means to identify the contents of containers of various kinds that may contain Fissionable material, Radioactive material, Explosives, Hazardous material (biological or chemical), and Contraband (FREHC) for homeland and national security applications.

This project was requested by Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho.

The report contains \$1 million for a program entitled Systematic Hierarchical Approach to Radiation Hardened Electronics (SHARE). As many of us know, consistent, reliable performance of integrated circuits (IC) used in space communication, surveillance, and guidance systems continues to be a potentially debilitating problem for the military services. The problem has been aggravated by the rapid and unsettling contraction of the industrial base needed to design and produce the specialized electronics that must perform in applications requiring high reliability in a challenging radiation-charged environment. As one of the principal users of radiation-hardened (RadHard) electronics, the U.S. Air Force is pursuing technologies that will ensure a ready and economical domestic capability for producing radiation hardened microelectronics using advanced commercial processes. SHARE has been identified by the Air Force as a critical capability that will enable collaboration among circuit designers, simulation software vendors, and foundries under the direction of SEAMS Center AFRL at Kirtland AFB, NM.

This project was requested by American Semiconductor in Boise, Idaho.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of Congressionally-directed projects in my region and an explanation of my support for them.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to yet another bloated Defense Appropriations bill. H.R. 5631 provides billions more for missile defense systems that are nothing but a pipe dream and a War in Iraq that has turned into an international nightmare.

Republicans in Congress should wake up and smell the coffee. Another \$9 billion for development of ineffective and outdated weapons systems may boost the bottom lines of their well-connected sugar daddies in the defense industry. But throwing good money after bad will do little to make Ronald Reagan's Cold War fantasy a reality. Despite nearly \$100 billion in research, these systems have yet to demonstrate even a basic ability to intercept incoming missiles. Even if they could, they'd do little to make us secure from the much more likely and contemporary threat of a weapon delivered by suitcase or cargo container.

Republicans have irresponsibly funded the majority of their misguided Iraqi adventure through supplementals. But they couldn't resist also including tens of billions more in today's

Defense Appropriations bill. In H.R. 5631, taxpayer money is appropriated as a so-called "bridge fund" for the first six months of war operations during fiscal year 2007. But our troops should be brought home immediately. The bill's billions are, in reality, a bridge to more death and destruction. The United States' continued occupation encourages Iraqi civil war and feeds the insurgency, providing terrorists with refuge and recruits.

Once upon a time, Congress took its oversight role seriously. Not today. Despite a recent Pentagon report that found significant cost overruns in 36 major weapons systems, this bill increases defense spending by a whopping \$19.1 billion. As a result, defense spending will now total more than half of the entire federal discretionary budget!

Instead, we should provide quality education and health care to all Americans. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting no to additional spending on ineffective missile systems and a counterproductive war.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, thank you for recognizing me for some comments on H.R. 5631 and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this balanced bill that supports our troops and addresses critical issues to our Nation's safety and security.

This bill provides \$500 million in funding above the President's request for the equipment needs of the Army National Guard to provide items needed for homeland defense and disaster response. This funding is important to our district in Houston because it is susceptible to flooding—as we are seeing right now—and the National Guard has played a critical role in responding to past tropical storms and hurricanes in our district and along the Gulf Coast.

Many Guard units are leaving equipment in Iraq when they finish their tour for future troops to use. This cuts down on transportation costs, but it also leaves units here in the U.S. under-equipped to respond to a natural disaster. The funding in this bill is necessary to ensure Guard units here at home have the equipment to respond to these events.

I also want to speak briefly on two important projects included in this bill.

The first is the University of Houston Consortium for Nanomaterials for Aerospace Commerce and Technology (CONTACT). For the past four years, the University of Houston has been partnering with several University of Texas System institutions, Rice University, and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) in the Strategic Partnership for Research in Nanotechnology (SPRING). Federal funding for SPRING will end in FY06, and CONTACT will carry on the work started under that partnership.

CONTACT will have two main goals: to ensure our national air superiority through nanomaterials research and development, and to commercialize nanomaterials developed by scientists from Texas universities. This funding will make use of existing infrastructure and enable research, development and technology transfer that address three critical capabilities of the Air Force: power on demand, reconfigurable full-spectrum detectors, and interdisciplinary fundamental nanoscience and engineering.

The second project will modernize the Standard Army Retail Supply Systems (SARSS) and Standard Army Ammunition System (SAAS) and combine the two systems

into one by rewriting it in a Microsoft Windows environment.

This program—the Army Legacy Logistics Systems Modernization (SAMS-E)—modernizes computer logistics systems that are critical to the operation of the Army making them more efficient.

This effort will link the STAMIS modules through the web, allowing for a sharing of information and a flexible supply chain that can be redirected seamlessly on the battlefield. The result will be more efficient field logistics management that will save money and provide soldiers with more dependable and reliable management systems.

I applaud the Subcommittee and Committee for putting forward this balanced bill and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this legislation. This bill is unfortunately very short on real defense spending and very generous with spending enormous amounts on expensive military equipment that is ultimately of very little use to defend our country. This bill will not do much to help our military troops. In fact, it gives the troops a pay raise lower than civilian federal employees. It short-changes them.

The bill is very generous with spending on grossly over-budget acquisition of military equipment of questionable value in our current times. Over the past 5 years, the Defense Department has doubled spending on new weapons systems from about \$700 billion to nearly \$1.4 trillion. However a recent Pentagon report found significant cost overruns—50 percent over original cost projections—in 36 major weapons systems. These programs benefit well-connected defense contractors, but they do not benefit the taxpayer and they do not benefit the soldiers who risk their lives.

The bill manages to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on foreign aid—\$372 million to Russia, for example—and the failed drug war, but it fails to address the real problems of a military force that has been seriously stretched and challenged by an unprecedented level of sustained deployment overseas. I urge my colleagues to support a defense spending bill that really puts defense of the United States first.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA) assumed the Chair.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The Committee resumed its sitting. The Acting CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed