the treatment of acute care or injuries that may have occurred in the battlefield or the like. Prosthetics were made. I think they said 22 prosthetics had been made for the detainees who have been at the facility.

The nature of health care has shifted a bit. There is still acute care 24 hours a day, in which surgical procedures, everything, can be performed right there in the detainee camps, but as those wounds healed and as the detainees got further and further away from acute injuries, there has been increasing emphasis on preventative care. Indeed, the immunization rate there is higher than in the United States of America.

I think the report is they have had fewer than 500 detainees, but all have been immunized appropriately. Things such as screening for cancer have taken place there. Colonoscopies—a procedure which, as we all know, is used commonly in this country to screen for colon cancer—are performed there on a routine basis.

The health personnel-to-detainee ratio is 1 to 4—remarkably high. That is all health personnel who are there. And I guess, as I left this briefing and the opportunity to talk to the doctors and the nurses and the psychologists and the psychiatrists, I left with an impression that health care there is clearly better than they received at home and as good as many people receive in the United States of America.

Also, I have to comment on the courageous men and women who are our military personnel there, working every day, 24 hours a day. They are doing a tremendous job. I commend them for it. As you walk through the cells, it is clear they are at least verbally abused in just walking through those cells. I know they are under a great deal of stress in carrying out their activities every day.

Our men and women, in spite of that sort of verbal abuse—and clearly at risk of physical assault—remain focused on their mission to provide the detainees there safe and humane treatment but, at the same time, simultaneously protecting Americans from the deadly plots that have been hatched by many of those detainees who are there.

As we all know from the President's comments and speeches over the last week or so, on that island today are some of the world's most hardened enemy combatants, terrorists. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is there, the man the 9/11 Commission described as the ''principal architect of the 9/11 attacks.'' The fact that we have the presence of them—we did not see them, we did not even ask to go to their facility—but the fact that they are there is a vivid reminder that the detainees at Guantanamo do remain locked up for a critical purpose: to protect Americans. We were reminded of that again and again as we listened to the stories about the backgrounds of the types of people who are there. I left there with no question in my mind that many would return to what they were doing before they were captured; that is, plotting new ways to attack us. We know some who have been released have, indeed, returned to the battlefield. And that has been well documented.

There has been a lot of debate recently on how we should prosecute these terrorists, these enemy combatants. Soon we will be addressing that issue once again on the floor of the Senate, as we should. But I think we should all be very clear in our own thinking that these men are dangerous terrorists who remain a threat to the safety and well-being of every American. They are militant extremists whose goal in life is to kill Americans, is to destroy our freedom and security.

Mr. President, as we were reminded through remembrances and through the ceremonies of yesterday and through the discussions yesterday, 9/11 shattered our longstanding illusions of safety and security in this country. As we learned then and have since learned—on no less than 11 occasions—safety and security are not static states, but they are dynamic, they are constantly changing, in constant flux. That means we cannot just enact a bill and then move on and say that is sufficient. We have to continuously, in this body, take stock of where we are, assess and reassess and implement changes when necessary.

We have done just that over the last 5 years. As of August, we passed 71 laws and other bills related to the war on terror. The next step is the bill we are debating today; that is, the Port Security Improvement Act. It provides additional authorities and tools critical to improving our port security and our maritime security—and to foil plots to injure us or to destroy our ports, to the detriment of hard-working Americans and to the detriment of our economy.

Very soon we will take up legislation that strengthens and modernizes our foreign intelligence surveillance laws, as well as legislation that authorizes military commissions to prosecute terrorists for war crimes, such as those who are currently detained at Guantanamo Bay.

Without these tools, we simply cannot guarantee the safety and security of the American people. That is why they are being addressed on the floor right now. That is what hangs in the balance: the safety and security of the American people. On this floor, we are not going to always agree on the approach, but it is a goal I believe every one of my colleagues shares.

As we move forward in this body over the next couple weeks, I hope we do remain focused on that goal, ensuring the safety and security of the American people.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

PRESIDENT'S 9/11 SPEECH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was honored to join with President Bush and others at the Pentagon yesterday to commemorate the fifth anniversary of 9/11. I was pleased, also to join my colleagues on the east steps of the Capitol last evening in an emotional tribute to those who died on that fateful day 5 years ago.

Mr. President, 9/11 was one of the darkest days of this Nation's history. It brought America together. We were inspired by the bravery of our fellow Americans. We stood shoulder to shoulder with the President. And when he stood upon the mound of rubble at Ground Zero, with a bullhorn in hand, he spoke for all of us.

Last night, however, the President, in his address to the Nation, spoke for himself, for his administration, and not for the Nation. No bullhorn, only the bully pulpit of his office, which he used to defend an unpopular war in Iraq and to launch clumsily disguised barbs at those who disagree with his policies.

By focusing on Iraq in the manner he did, the President engaged in an all-too-familiar Bush administration tactic: conflate and blur the war in Iraq with the response to 9/11.

Despite definitive and repeated findings that there were no ties between Iraq and al-Qaida—a finding most recently echoed by the Republican-controlled Senate Intelligence Committee—the President continued to deliberately lump and blur al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden, Iraq, and 9/11 together.

This is a political move designed to tap the overwhelming public sentiment to destroy al-Qaida as a way to bolster sagging public support for the war in Iraq.

Despite the President's best efforts, the American people can see through this ploy—as we have seen with the pundits' comments following his speech and editorials all across the country today. The American people understand that Iraq is largely a sectarian struggle and that the longer we are bogged down in the streets of Baghdad, the easier it is for al-Qaida and its affiliates to reconstitute in places such as Afghanistan and Somalia.

Americans understand that this administration's ''stay the course'' strategy is hurting our security and moving Iraq in the wrong direction. Unemployment in Iraq is high. It is 40 to 50 percent unemployment, at least. Some places, it is 70 and 80 percent.

News accounts today say that inflation is now 75 percent in Iraq. An average of a thousand Iraqis are dying each month in Iraq. Is that a civil war? I think so. News accounts, the last couple of days—one, in fact, today said: ''Iraq conflict worsens.'' The General Accounting Office, the watchdog of Congress, a nonpartisan organization, said that the Iraq conflict worsens.

We heard two days ago an Army general saying that the Anbar province is lost. We have a general, even before he