

U.N. Mission in Iraq, violent extremists care little about these distinctions.

To provide clearer rules of the road for our efforts, the Defense Department and “Inter-Action”—the umbrella organization for many U.S.-based NGOs—have, for the first time, jointly developed guidelines for how the military and NGOs should relate to one another in a hostile environment. The Pentagon has also refined its guidance for humanitarian assistance to ensure that military projects are aligned with wider U.S. foreign policy objectives and do not duplicate or replace the work of civilian organizations.

Broadly speaking, when it comes to America’s engagement with the rest of the world, you probably don’t hear this often from a Secretary of Defense, it is important that the military is—and is clearly seen to be—in a supporting role to civilian agencies. Our diplomatic leaders—be they in ambassadors’ suites or on the seventh floor of the State Department—must have the resources and political support needed to fully exercise their statutory responsibilities in leading American foreign policy.

The challenge facing our institutions is to adapt to new realities while preserving those core competencies and institutional traits that have made them so successful in the past. The Foreign Service is not the Foreign Legion, and the United States military should never be mistaken for the Peace Corps with guns. We will always need professional Foreign Service officers to conduct diplomacy in all its dimensions, to master local customs and culture, to negotiate treaties, and advance American interests and strengthen our international partnerships. And unless the fundamental nature of humankind and of nations radically changes, the need—and will to use—the full range of military capabilities to deter, and if necessary defeat, aggression from hostile states and forces will remain.

In closing, I am convinced, irrespective of what is reported in global opinion surveys, or recounted in the latest speculation about American decline, that around the world, men and women seeking freedom from despotism, want, and fear will continue to look to the United States for leadership.

As a nation, we have, over the last two centuries, made our share of mistakes. From time to time, we have strayed from our values; on occasion, we have become arrogant in our dealings with other countries. But we have always corrected our course. And that is why today, as throughout our history, this country remains the world’s most powerful force for good—the ultimate protector of what Vaclav Havel once called “civilization’s thin veneer.” A nation Abraham Lincoln described as mankind’s “last, best hope.”

For any given cause or crisis, if America does not lead, then more often than not, what needs to be done simply won’t get done. In the final analysis, our global responsibilities are not a burden on the people or on the soul of this nation. They are, rather, a blessing.

Thank you for this award and I salute you for all that you do—for America, and for humanity.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3344. A bill to defend against child exploitation and child pornography through improved Internet Crimes Against Children task forces and enhanced tools to block illegal images, and to eliminate the unwarranted release of convicted sex offenders.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, without amendment:

S. 3339. An original bill to amend chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, to clarify and improve authorities relating to the availability of post-9/11 veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-433).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

H.R. 5683. A bill to make certain reforms with respect to the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3339. An original bill to amend chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, to clarify and improve authorities relating to the availability of post-9/11 veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 3340. A bill to provide for the resolution of several land ownership and related issues with respect to parcels of land located within the Everglades National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 3341. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 3342. A bill to improve access to technology by and increase entrepreneurship among small businesses located in rural communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 3343. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a disclosure requirement under the Medicare program for physicians referring for imaging services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COBURN:

S. 3344. A bill to defend against child exploitation and child pornography through improved Internet Crimes Against Children task forces and enhanced tools to block illegal images, and to eliminate the unwarranted release of convicted sex offenders; read the first time.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 3345. A bill to promote the capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide, to promote the use of energy produced from coal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1437

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1437, a bill to require the

Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

S. 2921

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2921, a bill to require pilot programs on training and certification for family caregiver personal care attendants for veterans and members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury, to require a pilot program on provision of respite care to such veterans and members, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 3341. A bill to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2008 with Senator LIEBERMAN.

In 1999, I introduced the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 with Senators LIEBERMAN, Thompson and DURBIN. My good friend from Ohio, Congressman Portman, introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives, and working together we were able to enact that legislation to improve the effectiveness and performance of Federal financial assistance programs, simplify Federal financial assistance application and reporting requirements, improve the delivery of services to the public and coordinate the delivery of such services.

Progress was made under the provisions of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999, commonly known as “PL 106-107.” A 2005 Government Accountability Office, GAO, report noted that “[m]ore than 5 years after passage of P.L. 106-107, cross-agency work groups have made some progress in streamlining aspects of the early phases of the grants life cycle and in some specific aspects of overall grants management . . .” However, GAO noted that work remained to be done, and in 2006 suggested that Congress consider reauthorizing the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. The Act expired in November, and I believe Congress should heed GAO’s advice and reauthorize this important law.

The bill I am introducing today with Senator LIEBERMAN reauthorizes the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act and makes improvements to that Act based on the 2005 and 2006 recommendations of GAO. The bill requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, to develop a public Web site that allows grant applicants to search and