

words, and I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, what I am trying to get at is to not be at the same place next year that we are now. Last year we were trying to get a little money for research, but we were trying to focus some attention so we would do more. Where I see the problem is that we are actually spending less than we did 2 years ago, that we have reasonable proposals from the Department of Defense for doing something about it, and now I am back here hearing that here is \$5 million for a pilot project and we will have a study and come back next year.

Mr. MURTHA. Wait a minute. The gentleman says it is a little project. This is a project you are advocating. This is not a little project. It is a project you are advocating. It is \$5 million.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I wanted to explain what I hope to accomplish. My goal is to be in a situation where we can actually make some significant progress for expenditures to solve the problem, not to continue to study it or to do tests.

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I appreciate the courtesy that has been offered by the Chair and ranking member to try to help out for 5 million. I am trying to respond to this question about what I am trying to achieve. I do not want to be back here next year and see the funding level going down, the cost going up, needs unmet, and people looking at me like it is hard to understand what I am trying to achieve. That is what I am trying to do.

Mr. MURTHA. We want to help.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I will seek to work with the committee, but my ironclad commitment is to help make sure that there is a way that we focus on the floor so we are not back here with another study and a pilot project, no increase in funding and a problem that continues to get worse year after year after year.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendments offered by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Oregon, Mr. BLUMENAUER, relative to unexploded ordnance. I completely agree with the underlying assertion of his amendments that our country is failing its obligation to clean up unexploded ordnance (UXO) throughout our states and in fact, throughout the world.

My own Hawai'i is a classic example. Our military has made extensive use of my state for military training and preparedness for at least a century, and we in Hawai'i accept that use as an obligation that we owe to our country.

However, according to the Department of Defense's FY2002 Defense Environmental Restoration Program Annual Report to Congress, today there remain throughout Hawai'i over fifty Department of Defense-registered locations that have not been cleaned up, presenting ongoing public safety risks. These include 10 separate sites at Lualualei Naval Magazine on the Waianae Coast, one ten acre

site at the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands on the island of Kaua'i, five sites at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i at Kaneohe Bay, four sites on the island of Lana'i, and many smaller locations throughout the state. I can only believe that there are a number of other states in the same situation.

Let me take the specific example of the military's past use of a large portion of the Island of Hawai'i in and around the current residential communities of Waimea and Waikoloa. During and after World War II, the United States military, primarily the Navy and Marine Corps, utilized an area of approximately 123,000 acres on the western side of the Island of Hawai'i as an artillery range, military training cap, and general military grounds. This former Waikoloa Maneuver/Nansay Combat Range lies in and around the Coast resort area, and remains littered with related debris including UXO. This UXO has already resulted in civilian deaths and injuries and represents a continuing threat to residents and visitors and renders large portions of the area effectively unusable.

In 1992, the United States Army Corps of Engineers determined that the site was eligible for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for designation as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS). In 2002, the Corps completed an engineering evaluation/cost analysis which designated the entire site for potential ordnance health and safety risk and estimated total cleanup at an excess of \$600,000,000.

Of that amount, the Corps analysis estimated cleanup costs for the three highest areas of potential risk, in and immediately adjacent to existing and pending residential communities at \$250,000,000. A comprehensive plan for utilization of such funds to those purposes requested by the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC Report 107-151), completed, and submitted to the Secretary of the Army. Same amounts have been expended and other have been allocated in effectuation of that plan, but much less of the \$250,000,000 estimate and far short then the estimated costs of total cleanup in excess of \$600,000,000.

On April 12, 2004, I met with official from the United States Army Corps of Engineers on the Big Island of Hawai'i. At that meeting, I was given an update on the Corps of Engineers' ongoing efforts to clear high priority sites within the Waikoloa Maneuver Area. A small project now underway has begun to clear UXO around Waikoloa Village and Waimea Town—two relatively populated areas on the Big Island. This cleanup project is located in an area that was once used as a military training cap and artillery range.

Both on and off the record, I have heard many excuses about the reasons we cannot fund UXO: the war, the deficit, the President's tax cuts. But, these excuses and past Congressional and Executive mishandling of the UXO issue are no excuse for the country—for this Congress—to ignore a concept espoused by parents, coaches and camp counselors alike: Leave any place you visited cleaner than when you arrived. The Army Corps of Engineers is ready and willing to begin the process of cleanup; it is now up to all of us in Congress to appropriate the funds for this much-needed action.

Mr. Chairman, our military needs places where they can train fully to protect our country, but when they've completed their mission

it's only right that they clean up and assure that those of us that come after them can use the land safely. These amendments offered by the gentleman from Oregon are an essential first step towards cleaning up the many communities which are littered with UXO. I urge their adoption by the House.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally to receive a message from the President.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was 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, 2005

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 35, lines 20 and 21, after the dollar amounts insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, to the chairman of the subcommittee, first of all, let me add my appreciation as well for the years of service that we can count on Members with his kind of commitment to do their very best, and we thank him very much. As usual as well, let me add my appreciation to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), who has not only been both committed and dedicated with his expertise but has been forthright in some of the very difficult times that we have faced over the last 2 years.

9/11 changed America. It changed the way we wage wars. It changed the way we dealt with conflicts. And as we have seen over the last 2 years, it seemed the number of service personnel that we have utilized in conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq in particular. Over the last year, we have seen a number of statistics that frighten and concern us.