

Cyber Command. Cyber warfare is taking place every day. It is a domain of war that our Nation must dominate just as we do on land, at sea, and in the air. At the rate electronic warfare is growing, I believe elevating Cyber Command to a combatant command is vital to ensuring that the United States is fully prepared for cyber warfare and has unparalleled capabilities in that domain.

Does my colleague from Arizona feel the same?

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I strongly agree with my friend from Montana.

Elevating Cyber Command is one of the most critical pieces to ensuring our Nation is at the forefront of the rising threats abroad. Earlier this year in the Armed Services Committee, I held a hearing on Cyber Command. I was told by the commander of Cyber Command, ADM Mike Rodgers, that this elevation would make them faster, generating better mission outcomes. These are the individuals we have leading the fight against ISIS on the newly established online battlefield—better mission outcomes is something we need.

At a time when we are also debating what the entire combatant command structure should look like, one thing is clear: Cyber is growing, and its command structure needs to grow as well. I look forward to ensuring this debate is settled in conference and Cyber Command is elevated to a combatant command.

Does my colleague from Montana agree?

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I do share my colleague from Arizona's commitment to elevate Cyber Command to a combatant command in conference. The House NDAA includes a provision to elevate Cyber Command, and I stand with eight bipartisan Members of the Senate, including my colleague from Arizona, who support this effort. It is paramount that the final fiscal year 2017 NDAA that goes to the President's desk includes this provision.

Can my colleague from Arizona further describe the value that elevating Cyber Command would bring?

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, for years, our enemies have been setting the norms of behavior in cyber space while the White House sat idly by hoping the problem will fix itself. With the elevation of Cyber Command, we are able to ensure we set ourselves on the right course for this new form of warfare. And we will do it without creating a hollow force. Just as it would be unacceptable to send a soldier to battle without a rifle, it is unacceptable to deprive our cyber forces the basic tools they need to execute their missions. We must remain committed to ensuring Cyber Command has the authority, the funding, and the tools it needs to succeed.

I look forward to the continued work on this issue with my colleague from Montana and to working in conference to ensure this elevation. I understand

my colleague from Montana has ensured the Defense appropriations legislation complements our efforts in cyber command.

Can you elaborate on your efforts?

Mr. DAINES. My colleague from Arizona is correct. My provisions in the Defense appropriations legislation states that the Department of Defense has the funding needed to elevate Cyber Command to a combatant command this year. We cannot wait for our enemies to outmaneuver us on this new battlefield. Elevating Cyber Command to a combatant command is one of the best ways we can ensure our troops have the authority they need to succeed.

I want to thank my colleague from Arizona for his commitment to a continued effort on the elevation of Cyber Command and thank him for his continued hard work on behalf of the men and women of our Armed Forces.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

GUN VIOLENCE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from June 15, 2016, in the Huffington Post, regarding the Orlando shooting and the urgent need for the Senate to take action on gun control.

The material follows:

[The Huffington Post, June 15, 2016]

ON GUN VIOLENCE—LET'S COME TOGETHER
AND STOP THE HEARTBREAK

(By Senator Barbara Boxer, Ranking Member, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee)

Columbine. Virginia Tech. Fort Hood. Tucson. Aurora. Newtown. Navy Yard. Isla Vista. Charleston. Umpqua. Colorado Springs. San Bernardino.

And now Orlando is etched into the list of places in America that have been forever scarred by gun violence.

In the aftermath of each of these deadly mass shootings, we express our horror, our prayers for the victims and survivors, our condolences, our thanks to the courageous first responders—and of course, we must and we should. But words are not enough.

After the horrific tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School four years ago, I was convinced that Congress would finally take action to address that epidemic of gun violence that kills more than 30,000 Americans every year. But only four Republicans were willing to join with 51 Democrats and independents, and so commonsense gun safety legislation was once more derailed.

That's why I am so proud that Senator Chris Murphy—joined by his Connecticut colleague, Senator Richard Blumenthal—took to the Senate floor with a simple message: Enough is enough. The Senate must address this issue with a vote.

We may not be able to prevent every tragedy, but there is so much we can do to save lives and protect our communities. And we can do it while still protecting the Second Amendment. We should start by taking these six commonsense steps right now:

We can pass legislation to prevent a suspected terrorist from buying firearms or explosives.

We can pass legislation to keep military-style weapons off our streets. These are

weapons of war, and they do not belong in our communities.

We can expand background checks—an idea supported by almost 90 percent of the American people and a majority of NRA members—which will help keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill.

We can pass the Gun Violence Intervention Act, which would allow families to go to court to seek a "gun violence prevention order" to temporarily stop someone who poses a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing a gun.

We can increase funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), an important grant program that helps communities plan how best to prevent and respond to acts of terrorism.

We can protect our children by investing in the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative, which helps schools develop school safety plans and provide critical safety training to school personnel.

We need a layered defense to protect our communities from criminals and terrorists who want to inflict mass casualties, and that is what these proposals would provide.

We know that tough gun safety laws work. We have seen it in other countries, like Australia. And we have seen it in my state of California which—after passing sensible laws—saw a 56 percent drop in gun violence between 1993 and 2010, according to the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

People deserve to feel safe in their communities. They deserve to feel safe at work, at school, at a shopping mall, at a movie theater, at a health clinic, at a night club.

As elected officials, we take an oath to protect and defend the American people. Right now, we are failing at our most basic task—keeping our children and our families safe from harm.

It isn't enough for us to keep lamenting these tragedies. The people of Orlando, San Bernardino, Isla Vista, Newtown and so many other communities want more than words. They want action. And they want it now. •

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. BENNY GOODEN

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Fort Smith School District superintendent Dr. Benny Gooden, who will retire at the end of June after a lifetime of dedication to education.

Dr. Gooden has led the Fort Smith School District since 1986, and in those 30 years, he has proven himself to be a driving force in education at the local, State, and national level.

He made a career out of helping students and creating a solid education, to pave the way for a successful future for them. During his 50 years in education, he always put students first and fought to ensure the community created opportunities in their best interest.

Dr. Gooden has remarked to the School Superintendents Association that his best professional day was when Fort Smith voters approved a 20 percent tax increase to guarantee the district's financial stability.

He has been recognized for his career as a school administrator earning the American Association of School Administrators' Arkansas Superintendent