

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF 25 YEARS OF
THE MAFFS MISSION SUP-
PORTED BY THE 302D AIRLIFT
WING AT PETERSON AFB, CO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Citizen Airmen serving in the Air Force Reserve's 302nd Airlift Wing, Air at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

Today I recognize their 25 years of dedicated support of the Department of Defense's C-130 Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, or MAFFS mission.

In 1993, the Air Force Reserve portion of the MAFFS mission was moved to the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado from March Air Force Base, California.

On October 28, 1993, two aircrews from the 302nd Airlift Wing's 731st Airlift Squadron and maintenance personnel from the 302nd Maintenance Group departed for Point Mugu Naval Air Warfare Center, California for their first MAFFS activation.

Since that first activation, hundreds of Reserve Citizen Airmen have trained, supported and executed the Defense Support of Civil Authorities Mission assisting in the tireless efforts of ground firefighting crews through reaching inaccessible areas by air, supporting the containment of hundreds of wildland fires and saving lives and property throughout the United States of America and Mexico.

In addition to supporting fire suppression efforts across the U.S., 302d Airlift Wing Reservists have responded to fires in their own backyards supporting suppression of major Colorado fires including the Hayman fire (2002), Waldo Canyon fire (2012) and Black Forest fire (2013).

Innovation is in their DNA, and it comes from the diverse experiences our Reserve Citizen Airmen bring to the mission. We honor all who work tirelessly to support and make this special mission possible both in the air and on the ground. We recognize the hundreds of hours of labor expended by the Reserve aircraft maintenance crews who ensure the MAFFS-equipped C-130s, call-signs MAFFS 2 and MAFFS 5, are mission ready. We honor the highly-experienced Air Force Reserve aircrews flying one of the most challenging missions in the U.S. Air Force.

When not supporting the wildland firefighting mission, the 302nd is always ready to answer our nation's call with the agility to shift to its tactical airlift mission supporting rapid global mobility.

Today, it is also important to remember the six Reserve Citizen Airmen who lost their lives in support of the MAFFS mission, specifically the crew of SUMIT 38, a MAFFS support mission from Boise, Idaho that did not make it back to Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado on May 13, 1995; and four members of the crew of MAFFS 7 from the 146th Airlift Wing, North

Carolina Air National Guard who were lost during a MAFFS mission in White Draw, South Dakota on July 1, 2012.

Today, the Reserve Citizen Airmen from Colorado's Peterson Air Force Base along with their Air National Guard counterparts continue to provide the surge support to wildland firefighting efforts when requested by the National Interagency Fire Center at a moment's notice. To make it happen, we seek the best and brightest minds from across the nation to fill critical career fields such as Air Force Reserve pilots and maintenance technicians.

Today, in 2018, the continued bravery, sacrifice, expertise and dedication to this mission by our Reserve Citizen Airmen has allowed for 25 years of unwavering support of the MAFFS mission by the Air Force Reserve at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAULA
LINKER

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a very special member of my community. For as long as I have been involved in working for Arizona, Paula Linker has been a friend and supporter. Those who know Paula admire her for her courage and determination. She is forthright and dependable. She works every single day to make sure that the causes and people she cares for most have all the support she has to give. And, it is in that spirit that I am so pleased she is being awarded the Lincoln Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maricopa County Republican Committee.

The community celebrates Paula, and it is with great enthusiasm that I include these remarks into the RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives.

DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM AND
THE GLOBAL THREAT TO FREE
SPEECH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today we held a hearing on China's digital authoritarianism. China has the world's largest number of internet users as well as the world's most sophisticated and aggressive internet censorship and control regime. The Chinese government, under the leadership of Xi Jinping, views digital controls as necessary for its political stability and control of core digital technologies as necessary for its economic future.

The Chinese government spends \$10 billion on maintaining and improving their censorship

apparatus. The U.S. government has an annual internet freedom budget of \$55 million and Congress still has little idea how this money is spent.

Over the past year or so, Chinese companies were ordered to close websites that hosted discussions on the military, history, and international affairs and crack down on "illegal" VPNs (in response, Apple was forced to remove VPNs from the China App store). New regulations were announced restricting anonymity online and the Chinese government rolled out impressive new censorship technologies, censoring photos in one-to-one WeChat discussions and disrupting WhatsApp.

Beijing has also deployed facial and voice recognition, artificial intelligence, and other surveillance technologies throughout the country, but particularly targeting the Uyghur ethnic minority, where between 500,000 to 1 million Uyghurs have been detained arbitrarily.

The Chinese government and Communist Party's attempts to enforce and export a digital authoritarianism poses a direct threat to Chinese rights defenders and ethnic minorities and poses a direct challenge to the interests of the U.S. and the international community.

The U.S. must recognize that we are engaged in a battle of ideas with a revitalized authoritarianism—online, in the marketplace, and elsewhere—and we need up our "competitive game" to meet the challenge.

The Administration's National Security Strategy says quite clearly that the Chinese government and Communist Party (along with Russia) seek to "challenge American power, influence, and interests, attempting to erode American security and prosperity. They are determined to make economies less free and less fair, to grow their militaries, and to control information and data to repress their societies and expand their influence."

[The Chinese government and Communist Party] is using economic inducements and penalties, influence operations, and implied military threats to persuade other states to heed its political and security agenda. . . China gathers and exploits data on an unrivaled scale and spreads features of its authoritarian system, including corruption and the use of surveillance."

The Chinese government and Communist Party want to shape a world antithetical to U.S. values and interests and to export its economic, political, and censorship models globally.

In response, the U.S. and like-minded allies must stand resolutely for the freedom of religion, fairer and freer trade, labor rights, freedom of navigation, the rule of law and the freedom of expression—including online.

A coherent and engaged internet freedom strategy must be a critical part of the U.S. diplomatic toolbox. This strategy should have at its core a commitment to protect fundamental freedoms, privacy, and promote the free flow of news and information.

But it is not a matter of just having a strategy; it should be the right one. The Bush and Obama Administrations pursued cyber diplomacy; yet internet freedom has declined

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