

about 1996 and invariably he or she will say the floods. We have spent the last year trying to recover and rebuild, and I thank FEMA Director James Lee Witt and Regional Director Lynn Canton and SEMO Director Ed Jacoby for all their help. We have made a lot of progress but, as Delaware County Board of Supervisor's Chairman Ray Christensen will often tell you, "We have to realize things will never be the same."•

#### DEFENDING AMERICA ACT OF 1997

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to join the distinguished majority leader, and my colleagues, in co-sponsoring Senate bill S. 7, the Defending America Act of 1997. This legislation builds on the significant, but still insufficient, progress we accomplished in the 104th Congress. During the last session of Congress, we were able to secure the funding necessary for the eventual deployment of a missile defense system capable of protecting the United States. But we were not able to explicitly direct that we deploy the missile defense system as soon as possible. This leaves us with no assurance that the funding we have secured will be used, efficiently and expeditiously, for its intended purpose.

Therefore, Mr. President, the majority leader, in close cooperation with Congress' national defense leadership, has crafted a proposal that would secure our Nation's missile defense through prudent development of policies and force structures. To begin with, we would produce the system necessary to protect the United States from limited, unauthorized, or accidental ballistic missile attacks. We then would augment that capability to defend our Nation against larger and more sophisticated ballistic missile threats. I am especially heartened that the most promising antiballistic missile technologies, including sea-based systems such as Navy Upper Tier, are fast approaching the point at which we will be able to make them operational.

We need this technology, in my view, because the post-cold-war world remains a dangerous place. Ballistic missile proliferation to rogue regimes continues apace. The security of nuclear armed ballistic missiles in the former Soviet Union has declined sharply. Given these facts, old strategies and treaties can no longer meet our national security needs. We must develop and deploy a ballistic missile defense system capable of protecting our cities and citizens from disastrous attack.

I mentioned old treaties, Mr. President. I would like in particular to discuss the Anti-Ballistic-Missile Treaty and its relationship to missile defense. Congress has repeatedly stated that the ABM Treaty does not, in any way, hinder the development of theater ballistic missile defenses. It has also called for a renegotiation of the ABM Treaty so as to allow the development of more robust national missile defense systems.

Mr. President, the times have changed since the ratification of the ABM Treaty. Our primary threats no longer come from a general nuclear attack by thousands of Soviet weapons—an attack that would probably overwhelm a ballistic missile defense system. Today our immediate threats come from rogue, unintentional, or unauthorized attacks of limited size and duration. I believe we are quickly approaching the point of our last, best hope in properly modifying the ABM Treaty, and protecting America from ballistic missile attack.

The majority leader has displayed the foresight and perceptiveness critical for developing effective national security strategies. There can be no doubt that a fully operational and technologically capable ballistic missile defense system is crucial to that strategy. Nor can there be any doubt that antiquated treaties which fail to adapt to vastly different national security threats must be either changed or discarded.

The majority leader's bill constitutes a reasonable and moderate attempt to bridge the philosophical gap that exists between Congress and the administration. We should not let this opportunity be lost.•

#### THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and commemorate, with very deep patriotic pride, the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Pacific Command.

On January 1, 1947, the U.S. Pacific Command was established to unify with the Alaskan and Far East commands.

As the largest of nine unified commands within the Department of Defense today, the U.S. Pacific Command interacts daily with foreign military and civilian leaders, serving as a key link for the United States in the most dynamic region of the world—a region that contains 44 countries, two-thirds of the world's population, and 7 of the world's largest armed forces.

During the past 50 years, the Asia-Pacific theater has grown from a war-torn region recovering from the devastation of World War II to the most dynamic economic region in the world. The importance of the United States' interest in the Asia-Pacific theater is best illustrated by the pivotal role of East Asia's economies in the world's economic order. The Asia-Pacific gross national product surpassed the European Union in 1990, and today, our trans-Pacific trade now exceeds \$503 billion per year.

Fostering peace, providing security, and meeting the challenges within an area totaling more than half of the Earth's surface, the U.S. Pacific Command is represented by more than 300,000 trained and highly dedicated soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

Mr. President, after World War II, our Nation's military leaders recog-

nized the importance of unity of forces worldwide. On December 14, 1946, President Truman approved the first unified command plan, and on January 1, 1947, the U.S. Pacific Command was established.

During the past 50 years, the U.S. Pacific Command's responsibilities have expanded to include the west coast of the United States, the eastern shores of Africa, all points in Asia, and the Arctic to the Antarctic.

Mr. President, during the past 50 years, U.S. Pacific Command Forces have been engaged in three major conflicts and numerous military actions. During the Korean conflict, Vietnam conflict, and the Gulf war, the United States Pacific Command Forces have fought bravely.

The United States Pacific Command provided forces to support the United States, Far East and U.N. Commands during the Korean conflict. These support forces were primarily in the form of naval assets which conducted patrolling missions and aided amphibious operations by providing naval gunfire, sealift and airstrikes from carrier task forces. The naval airstrikes were an integral part of the overall air campaign.

The United States Pacific Command oversaw our involvement through all phases of the Vietnam conflict—from the build-up and military actions to the withdrawal of United States combat forces. However, Mr. President, as many will sadly agree, memories of the Vietnam conflict were not over for the United States Pacific Command. The command became deeply involved in the emotional repatriation of American prisoners of war during Operation Homecoming. Additionally, the United States Pacific Command assisted with the movement of Vietnamese nationals to the United States and the airlift of Vietnamese children during Operation New Life and Operation Babylift, respectively.

During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, the United States Pacific Command Forces provided vital ground, sea, and air assets in support of U.S. Central Command Operations conducted in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and off-shore in the Arabian Sea.

The United States Pacific Command deployed forces to Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy and continues to deploy forces in support of the United States' interests in the European and Middle Eastern theaters.

Today Mr. President, the U.S. Pacific Command's mission is to foster peace, deter aggression, and rapidly respond to crisis. If necessary, they will fight to maintain security and stability throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

In order to maintain security in the vast Asia-Pacific region, the U.S. Pacific Command has the U.S. Army Pacific, the Pacific Fleet, the Pacific Air Forces, and the Marine Forces Pacific as its service components. Additionally, its sub-unified command includes United States Forces Korea, United