

estimate for H.R. 363 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Commerce on March 5, 1997. On April 17, 1997, CBO prepared an estimate for the version ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on April 16, 1997. The three estimates for H.R. 363 are identical.

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TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. ARMY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 222d BIRTHDAY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, the primary mission of any army is to fight and win the wars of the nation which it protects. For the past 222 years, since June 14, 1776, the soldiers of the United States Army have valiantly and successfully defended the interests, ideals, and people of our Nation.

The American Army that was born on that June day a little more than two centuries ago is very different from the military force that meets our Nation's security needs as we prepare to enter the new millenium. The soldiers of our first Army were largely untrained, were poorly and infrequently paid, and faced tremendous logistical burdens. It is truly testament to the leadership abilities of General Washington that he was able to hold his troops together in the face of such odds. Of course, the men and women who serve in today's Army receive months of intensive and excellent training before they join their units, are paid fair wages on a regular basis, and benefit from a commitment to creating a professional, career oriented force. Despite these differences, one thing that has remained constant about those who have served in the United States Army over the past 222 years is that these are largely men and women who are selfless individuals and who are motivated by a patriotic desire to make a difference. From Valley Forge to Sierra Leone, no nation's army has benefitted more from the efforts of a finer array of people than our's.

Throughout its history, the American Army and its soldiers have served with distinction on literally every continent of the world. Minutemen, Johnny Reb & Billy Yank, Rough Riders, Doughboys, Dogfaces, and GI Joes have stood up to dictators, deposed tyrants, beaten back communism, defended freedom, and protected all that we hold dear. Additionally, our soldiers have served as a grassroots diplomatic corps in combat boots, spreading to people around the globe the knowledge that Americans are peaceful, that there is no finer form of government than democracy, and that we prefer building friendships with the citizens of other nations to fighting them in wars. There is no question that in many ways, a candy bar given to a small child from a smiling GI is the best form of foreign aid and diplomatic relations that can be undertaken by the United States.

While the battlefield accomplishments of the United States Army are impressive and unequalled in history, the missions of today's Army go far beyond that of warfighting. In addition to being able to act and react decisively to threats to our Nation no matter where they might arise, our Army is now tasked with a number of non-traditional missions which range from providing fresh water to refugees in Rwanda to keeping the peace in Bosnia. Though these missions are more varied and decidedly different from simply containing or destroying our enemies, our soldiers have characteristically embraced their new responsibilities without complaint and are carrying out their duties professionally.

As we approach the new century and look to the future, Americans have good cause to be optimistic. Our Nation is enjoying a period of prosperity, the world is in a relatively peaceful state, and we no longer are in a Cold War contest with another superpower, however, we must not allow ourselves to be lulled into a state of complacency. While things are calm now, we must remember that threats to our security and interest can crop up suddenly and we must remain vigilant for such developments. We cannot ignore our military and those who serve in them, to do so would undermine years of hard work and the significant investment we have made in building the finest and most technologically advanced fighting forces ever known to man. Clearly the Army will continue to have a critical role in assuring that the United States remains secure and that the world remains a stable place where disputes are resolved in manners short of warfare.

Mr. President, as the Army celebrates its 222nd birthday, it is important that we pause from our duties to remember the men and women who have served in the ranks of this service throughout its history. It is easy to forget that those who protect us and who carryout the policies we develop in this Chamber are individuals who are young, making many sacrifices, and have volunteered to protect the Nation. Their service is invaluable and they should be commended for their efforts. On this occasion I say to each of these soldiers, from the newest graduate of Fort Jackson to Chief of Staff Reimer, a happy 222nd birthday and thank you for all you do to keep the United States free and safe.

OBSERVATIONS REGARDING A TRIP TO LEBANON

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I visited Lebanon over the Memorial Day recess in order to assess the security situation there. A number of my Lebanese-American constituents have contacted me to request that the State Department's travel policy for Lebanon be changed, and I also decided to see firsthand the situation there.

Pursuant to United States law, the Secretary of State may restrict the use of United States passports for the travel of U.S. citizens to countries with which the United States is at war, where armed hostilities are in progress, or where there is imminent danger to the health or the physical safety of United States travelers. The Secretary of State has exercised that authority in the case of Lebanon and consequently U.S. passports are not valid for travel to, in or through Lebanon unless special validation has been obtained. The passport restriction includes landing at the Beirut airport en route to another destination.

Special validation is possible for professional reporters; representatives of the American Red Cross traveling pursuant to an officially-sponsored Red Cross mission; compelling humanitarian considerations such as a critical illness of an immediate family member; family reunification such as a situation where a spouse or minor child is residing in Lebanon, with and dependent on, a Lebanese spouse or parent for his or her support; or where the travel is found to be in the national interest.

In view of the limited exceptions to the travel restriction, a number of Americans have resorted to the practice of acquiring a Lebanese visa on a piece of paper separate from their American passports so that they will not encounter any difficulty from U.S. authorities upon returning to the United States. I have been advised that forty to fifty thousand Americans travel to Lebanon by this means each year. In doing so, they may be violating U.S. law. Countless other Americans, despite their earnest desire to visit relatives or friends in Lebanon, await a change in U.S. policy.

I traveled to Lebanon with the approval and support of the State Department. I arrived at the U.S. Embassy compound via U.S. Army helicopter from Cyprus in mid-afternoon on May 29th, spent the night on the embassy compound, and returned to Cyprus by the same means in mid-morning on May 30th.

While in Lebanon, I had a busy schedule. I met at length with our Ambassador Richard Jones. I also met with Nasrallah Sfeir, 76th Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all of the East; Mohamed Rashid Qabbani, Grand Mufti of the Republic; IMAM Mohamed Mahdi Shamseddine, President, Higher Islamic Shi'a Council; Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri; President Elias Hrawi; and General Emile Lahoud, Commander of the Lebanese Armed Force. In each instance, the meeting was held at the place where the religious figure or government official was located, requiring travel throughout the city of Beirut and its environs. Additionally, I met with a number of government officials, members of the Lebanese Parliament, and Lebanese businessmen at a dinner at the American Embassy hosted by Ambassador Jones.

I made it a point to ask each individual with whom I met about the United