

INTRODUCTION OF CLEANER
BUSES FOR CLEANER CITIES ACT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation that would eliminate federal transportation funding to any person or agency that purchases diesel-fueled buses to be used in any ozone, particulate, or carbon monoxide nonattainment area under the clean Air Act. Black clouds of diesel exhaust are all too commonplace in many urban areas. My bill, the Cleaner Buses for Cleaner Cities Act, will help alleviate the devastating environmental and health problems caused by diesel exhaust.

Diesel exhaust negatively impacts millions of Americans every day. Diesel emissions are a large source of harmful oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and diesel particulate matter (PM). NO_x is the main ingredient in ground level ozone (or smog) and a contributor to acid rain. Diesel PM is especially dangerous because it is fine enough to become lodged deep into the lungs, aggravating respiratory ailments such as asthma, bronchitis, and pneumonia. Furthermore, diesel exhaust has been linked to cancer, lung damage, and premature death.

In my own district of New York City, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has carelessly proposed to purchase 756 diesel buses, more than two times the number of alternative fuel buses they plan to acquire. Its decision and any other local agency's similar decision endangers the air quality and health of their communities. Many highly polluted cities like Los Angeles, Atlanta, Boston, and Houston are phasing out diesel buses and switching to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses. CNG emits almost no toxic particles and significantly less smog-forming gases. Federal policy should applaud and encourage such environmentally beneficial measures, not provide funding for practices that sustain health hazards.

The elderly and children residing in poor minority communities suffer the most from the environmental hazards of diesel fuel. Asthma is the most common cause of hospitalization for children and asthma related deaths of children have risen 78% from 1980 to 1993. In certain parts of Manhattan and the South Bronx in New York City, the child asthma rates are five times the national average. The use of federal taxpayer money to perpetuate such a public health risk is illogical and irresponsible.

All available measures should be taken to better the quality of life in our cities, especially for our children. Enactment of the Cleaner Buses for Cleaner Cities Act would bring us one step closer to our goal.

IN PRAISE OF THE EFFORTS OF
BRIG. GEN. HARRY GATANAS,
COMMANDING GENERAL OF
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE,
NM

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I call attention to an important event which will occur in my con-

gressional district in southern New Mexico next week, on November 16th, 1999. On that day, Brig. Gen. Harry Gatanas will turn over the reins as Commanding General of the U.S. Army's White Sands Missile Range to incoming Brig. Gen. Steven Flohr.

Gen. Gatanas is deserving of special recognition for his efforts as the Commanding General of one of the nation's major test and evaluation ranges and for instituting cost-cutting measures and retooling strategies to enable the Range to upgrade existing technologies and capabilities as well as to attract new business. His story offers insights and positive suggestions to all military commanders throughout the country.

Gen. Gatanas took charge of White Sands on April 13th, 1998. During his tenure at the Range, he demonstrated outstanding command performance of duty by significantly improving every aspect of the Range, while enhancing the well being of all with whom he served and was professionally associated. His command philosophy effectively focused on three principal elements simultaneously: mission, people and shaping White Sands for the 21st Century.

Upon assuming command at the Range, Gen. Gatanas immediately began rebuilding ties with several offices and customers of White Sands. During the last fiscal year (1999), White Sands Missile Range operated on a total budget of approximately \$550 million. Of that amount, only 30 percent was provided by the government in institutional (budget) funds, while the remaining 70 percent was generated from outside customers. All together, the Range employs almost 7,000 people, including military, government-contract labor and civilian labor.

To attract more business, Gen. Gatanas quickly implemented cost cutting efficiencies in test design and execution while streamlining test-support processes and procedures. The remarkable net effect of these efficiencies and processes not only increased White Sands' test activities by more than 18 percent during the last year, but also increased the Range's reimbursable income from 69 percent to 76 percent overall. By reinvesting dollars earned through well planned and executed efficiencies, White Sands has been able to invest over \$10 million of its budget dollars this year to accomplish modernization, while becoming one of the most cost-effective ranges for Project Managers to test rockets, missiles and weapon systems.

Gen. Gatanas' strategy for the 21st Century is already underway in many areas with modernized Range launch complexes currently under construction, test instrumentation upgrades being implemented, communication trunk radio networks and fiber optic local area networks being installed throughout the entire Range, and accelerated scheduled construction of the "state of the art" Cox Range Control Center which is nearing completion. I was pleased to work with the General to secure the necessary funds for these important projects in the 105th and 106th Congresses. The Range is pursuing technological breakthroughs in the development of miniaturized digital cameras and associated digitized test suites to allow White Sands to make finite measurements of sophisticated weapon systems.

Perhaps the General's greatest success was embodied in the Range's completion and

validated Year 2000 compliance of White Sands' 6,500 computers that support daily test, analysis and operations. In fact, Gen. Gatanas established White Sands as the Year 2000 frontrunner in the entire Department of Defense through flawless Year 2000 demonstrations on four separate occasions during tests of Range and infrastructure assets for compliance, including live fire tests of four major weapon systems and associated command and control computers in comprehensive integrated end-to-end demonstrations. These events received national media news coverage. Even the House Appropriations Committee, in its committee report accompanying the FY 2000 Defense Appropriations bill, called attention to the Range's efforts on these matters by noting, "the White Sands Missile Range deserves particular mention for its early and aggressive Y2K effort."

During the watch of Gen. Gatanas, White Sands Missile Range and the Army witnessed several firsts in the success of weapons systems developments. These successes include the first intercepts of the Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC-3) and the Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile systems. The successes of these systems are a direct reflection on the great teamwork and capability of the White Sands work force.

Gen. Gatanas exercised great community leadership as the Commander of White Sands, especially in keeping good ties with the three major communities surrounding the Range: Las Cruces and Alamogordo, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. He also worked with the commanders of nearby bases—Ft. Bliss and Holloman Air Force Base—on important issues such as joint testing and training activities, federal land withdrawal legislation, air defense issues, and Air Force weapons development, testing and training concerns.

Gen. Gatanas took command of the Range at a time of intense conflict and turmoil as a result of military cutbacks in personnel positions and was immediately faced with the decline of over 400 civilian positions and over 100 soldier slots. He immediately designed a program that capitalized on early retirements and transfers in a manner which had minimal impact on the work force morale. Consequently, the plan was implemented without a single unresolved civilian issue or any complaint from a soldier family. In addition, Gen. Gatanas stressed the importance of a qualified work force by instituting several programs which focused on the needs and concerns of employees on the Range. He instituted the important Consideration of Others program ahead of schedule and made it a role model with the Army Test and Evaluation Command. He earnestly and efficiently implemented Disabled Employee Programs which earned the Range the 1998 Department of the Army award. And Gen. Gatanas implemented programs which earned the Range the 1999 IMAGE de Neuvo Mexico award for support of Hispanic employees, the 1999 National IMAGE award for education excellence for Hispanic employees and the 1999 Secretary of the Army award for Outstanding Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity.

Gen. Gatanas made quality of life initiatives for soldiers and civilians a major priority at White Sands by implementing programs to improve housing, re-open facilities to provide recreation and dining support as well as making the gymnasium facility fully accessible to