

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (S. 2549) FOR FY2001
ADD-ONS, INCREASES AND EARMARKS—Continued

	Dollars (in mil- lions)
Amdt. 3770 National Labs Partnership Improvements	10
Amdt. 3801 National Energy Technology Lab, Fossil Energy R&D	4
Amdt. 3802 Florida Restoration Grant	2
Amdt. 3812 Indian Health Care for Diabetes	7,372
Amdt. 3807 Salmon restoration and conservation in Maine	5
Amdt. 3795 Forest System Land Review Committee	1
Total = \$1,981,522,000.00	

SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my serious disappointment with the Fiscal Year 2001 Department of Defense Authorization bill, which passed the Senate earlier this week. I opposed a number of provisions in the bill, including language to restructure and rename the School of Americas. It is this issue which I would like to address today.

Mr. President, it is clear that the Department of Defense recognizes there are serious problems with the School of the Americas, otherwise they would not have gone to the trouble of proposing to repackage it. But make no mistake, that is all that has happened. While the name may not remain the same, the School of the Americas still exists.

Mr. President, I think a little history is in order here. The School of the Americas was founded in 1946, originally in the U.S.-controlled Panama Canal Zone. At that time, it was known as the Latin American Center-Ground Division. In 1963, the facility was renamed the School of the Americas, and in 1984, in compliance with the Panama Canal Treaty, the school was moved to Fort Benning, Georgia as part of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

SOA was charged with the mission of developing and conducting instruction for the armed forces of Latin America. Unfortunately, what SOA has produced are some of the most notorious dictators and human rights abusers from Latin America including El Salvador death squad leader Roberto D'Abuisson, Panamanian dictator and drug dealer Manuel Noriega, Argentinian dictators Leopold Galtieri and Roberto Viola, and Peruvian dictator Juan Velasco Alvarado.

Mr. President, the list continues. SOA alumni include 48 of the 69 Salvadoran military members cited in the U.N. Truth Commission's report on El Salvador for involvement in human rights violations, including 19 of 27 military members implicated in the 1989 murder of six Jesuit priests.

SOA alumni reportedly also include more than 100 Colombian military officers alleged to be responsible for human rights violations, and several Peruvian military officers linked to the July 1992 killings of nine students and a professor from Peru's La Cantutu University.

SOA alumni include several Honduran officers linked to a clandestine

military force known as Battalion 316 responsible for disappearances in the early 1980s.

And, SOA graduates have led military coups and are responsible for massacres of hundreds of people, including the Uraba massacre in Colombia, the El Mozote massacre of 900 civilians in El Salvador, the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the torture and murder of a UN worker, and hundreds of other human rights abuses.

Mr. President, it is not merely coincidence that SOA has such an egregious list of alumni. In September, 1996, the Department of Defense made available excerpts from seven Spanish-language training manuals used at SOA and it was revealed that those manuals included instruction in extortion, execution, and torture techniques that the Pentagon conceded were "clearly objectionable and possibly illegal."

Even today, the SOA legacy lives on. Just this past January, another SOA graduate, Guatemala Col. Byron Disrael Lima Estrada, was arrested for his involvement in the death of Guatemalan Bishop Juan Jose Gerardi in 1998. As CRS noted, Bishop Gerardi was murdered in April of 1998 just two days after he released a report accusing the Guatemalan military for most of the human rights abuses committed during the country's conflict.

Mr. President, as I mentioned earlier, while the Department of Defense will ostensibly close the School of the Americas, it is producing a clone in its place. The Department of Defense Authorization bill establishes the Western Hemisphere Institute for Professional Education and Training—an institution that appears in every way to be nothing more than a repackaged School of the Americas.

To my knowledge, nothing has been done to ensure that a thorough evaluation of SOA is conducted before this new entity is operational. As SOA Watch has noted, there appears to be no critical assessment of the training, procedures, performance or consequences of the SOA training program this new entity copies.

I regret the Pentagon has not taken more meaningful steps to address the horrifying legacy of SOA. I support closing SOA permanently, not merely changing its name.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of legislation introduced by the senior Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) that would terminate this program.

But, Mr. President, even if there were any justification for continuing some portion of the School of the Americas, it should come only after a truly serious and independent review is made of the purpose, mission, curricula, administrative structure, and student selection of the new entity.

Given the bloody heritage of SOA, the very least we owe the people of Latin America and the innocent who have been killed is such a review. Unfortunately, that is not what will happen.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I am committed to promoting human rights throughout the world. While it may be appropriate for the United States military to train its colleagues from other nations, it is inexcusable that this training should take place at an institution with a reputation far beyond salvage. In my view, our government cannot continue to support the existence of a school or a simple repackaging of that school which has so many murderers among its alumni.

Mr. President, I will be watching this new institution very closely, and so, I have no doubt, will many of my constituents. My concerns about accountability and transparency have not been sufficiently addressed, and I will continue to raise this issue until I am satisfied that the U.S. Government has finally and firmly brought an end to the shameful legacy of the School of Americas.

CHINA AND NATIONAL MISSILE
DEFENSE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, 3 years ago I came to the Senate floor to talk about China and how the United States can best achieve its national interests in the Far East.

I spoke then on the eve of two summits which went a long way toward putting the U.S.-China relationship on a firmer foundation. I called for a patient, principled engagement strategy designed to win greater Chinese compliance with international norms in the areas of human rights, non-proliferation, and trade.

Three years later, there has been some progress, but also some setbacks.

U.S.-China relations remain dogged by uncertainties—each side harbors doubts about the other's intentions, doubts reinforced by allegations of Chinese espionage and the tragic mistaken U.S. bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade. China's fear of how we might exploit our position as the world's only superpower is matched by our concerns over China's proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its intimidation tactics against Taiwan. China's leaders decry U.S. "hegemony" and "interference in their internal affairs." We worry about whether the Dragon will breathe fire at its neighbors, or just blow smoke.

So today I rise at what I believe may be a pivotal moment which will determine our Nation's future in Asia not just for this year, or next year, but for 10 years, 20 years, and into the world my grandchildren will inherit.

Three decisions—on national missile defense, on invoking sweeping new unilateral sanctions on China, and on extending permanent normal trade relations to China—will help shape U.S. strategic doctrine and irrevocably alter the security landscape in East Asia for decades to come. They are decisions which must be made in the context of revolutionary changes underway on the