

work of the citizens of Pueblo, along with a strong bipartisan effort here in DC, has resulted in forward progress, money needs to be designated specifically for MilCon so the Department of Defense can spend money for ACWA construction projects. Without money being designated for MilCon, the progress at Pueblo Chemical Depot could be halted once again.

The amendment adopted today was cosponsored by the Senators from Colorado and Kentucky. It ensures that money will be available to be spent in fiscal year 2006 for construction, planning, and design work at both the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado and at the Bluegrass, KY, site.

This amendment is an essential step forward for the destruction of the tons of chemical weapons still stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. I hope this is another indication that the Pentagon recognizes the urgency this situation demands—an urgency the people of Pueblo and all of Colorado are right to expect.

I am proud to be part of such a strong coalition of concerned citizens and Senators from the communities impacted by these terrible weapons. But even though I am cautiously optimistic that today's amendment signals positive action in the future, there is still much work to do. I hope that this upcoming work will go forward in a similar manner: with good communications, with utmost concern for the safety of the citizens of Pueblo and Bluegrass, and with our eye always fixed on the goal of the safe destruction of these chemical weapons by 2012.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I urge the Senate to adopt this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1324) was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEVIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1325

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator COLLINS, I offer an amendment that would require the Department of Defense to develop a strategic plan for the civilian workforce of the Department of Defense, and I believe the amendment has been cleared.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], for himself, and Ms. COLLINS, proposes an amendment numbered 1325.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a strategic human capital plan for civilian employees of the Department of Defense)

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1106. STRATEGIC HUMAN CAPITAL PLAN FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—(1) Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a strategic plan to shape and improve the civilian employee workforce of the Department of Defense.

(2) The plan shall be known as the “strategic human capital plan”.

(b) CONTENTS.—The strategic human capital plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a workforce gap analysis, including an assessment of—

(A) the critical skills and competencies that will be needed in the future civilian employee workforce of the Department of Defense to support national security requirements and effectively manage the Department over the next decade;

(B) the skills and competencies of the existing civilian employee workforce of the Department and projected trends in that workforce based on expected losses due to retirement and other attrition; and

(C) gaps in the existing or projected civilian employee workforce of the Department that should be addressed to ensure that the Department has continued access to the critical skills and competencies described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) a plan of action for developing and reshaping the civilian employee workforce of the Department to address the gaps in critical skills and competencies identified under paragraph (1)(C), including—

(A) specific recruiting and retention goals, including the program objectives of the Department to be achieved through such goals; and

(B) specific strategies for development, training, deploying, compensating, and motivating the civilian employee workforce of the Department, including the program objectives of the Department to be achieved through such strategies.

(c) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—The recruitment and retention of civilian employees to meet the goals established under subsection (b)(2)(A) shall not be subject to any limitation or constraint under statute or regulations on the end strength of the civilian workforce of the Department of Defense or any part of the workforce of the Department.

(d) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than March 1 of each year from 2007 through 2012, the Secretary shall update the strategic human capital plan required by subsection (a), as previously updated under this subsection.

(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than March 1 of each year from 2007 through 2012, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(1) the update of the strategic human capital plan prepared in such year under subsection (d); and

(2) the assessment of the Secretary, using results-oriented performance measures, of the progress of the Department of Defense in implementing the strategic human capital plan.

(f) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—(1) Not later than 90 days after the Secretary submits under subsection (a) the strategic human capital plan required by that subsection, the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the plan.

(2) Not later than 90 days after the Secretary submits under subsection (e) an update of the strategic human capital plan under subsection (d), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the update.

(3) A report on the strategic human capital plan under paragraph (1), or on an update of the plan under paragraph (2), shall include the assessment of the Comptroller General of the extent to which the plan or update, as the case may be—

(A) complies with the requirements of this section; and

(B) complies with applicable best management practices (as determined by the Comptroller General).

(g) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committees on Armed Services and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committees on Armed Services and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the amendment is acceptable to this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1325) was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. WARNER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I believe, unless my distinguished colleague has a need to further address the Senate, we have concluded the opening round of our bill. My understanding is that the pending business will be amendment No. 1314 to S. 1042, am I correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct, that is the pending question.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VERLIE DOING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I rise to honor one of the pillars of my hometown, Searchlight, NV—Mrs. Verlie Doing. Saturday, July 23, 2005 will be designated Verlie Doing Day, and it could not go to a more deserving or influential person.

Searchlight has never been the same since Verlie came to town in 1968 to help her late husband run Sandy's Casino. They built the Searchlight Nugget, which Verlie still owns. Verlie is a proud Texan, but she quickly adopted the citizens of Searchlight and put down lasting roots in the community that will benefit many generations to come.

For years, Searchlight did not have a senior center; so Verlie donated a building for the Searchlight Senior Citizen's Center. Searchlight did not have a church, so Verlie helped found the Searchlight Community Church, where she plays the organ every Sunday. Searchlight did not have a modern