

Mr. Walters with his long overdue Purple Heart. He should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

CONGRATULATING STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL BROUSSARD AND STAFF SERGEANT SHAYNE CHERRY

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate SSG Michael Broussard and SSG Shayne Cherry, winners of the 2008 Best Ranger Competition, a rigorous contest at Fort Benning, GA, between elite two-man teams.

Broussard and Cherry won a home-court victory, as they hail from Benning's 75th Ranger Regiment.

The Best Ranger Competition started out as a contest between the best two-man teams at Fort Benning in the early 1980s but quickly expanded Army-wide. It easily rates as one of the toughest, most physically demanding competitions in the world. Contestants endure extreme demands of their physical, mental and technical abilities as Rangers, and they must deliver at levels that far exceed the expectations of average soldiers.

Today, the competition pits the best of the best against each other. It's an honor to simply win a spot in the contest, making Broussard and Cherry's accomplishment all the more extraordinary. The event lasts 3 days and teams face elimination unless they complete all events, which include marksmanship, climbing a 60-foot rope and long, wet hikes. It's easy to see why of the 28 teams that entered only 16 finished all courses.

The pair took an early lead on the first day and never trailed again. Army Chief of Staff George Casey was on hand at Fort Benning to congratulate the winners.

Casey had high praise for all involved: "The men that have been through this competition . . . are a fitting example of what this Army stands for—about discipline, about mental and physical agility, about strength and about the warrior ethos."

Both SSG Broussard and SSG Cherry have been awarded many medals, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Valorous Unit Award and many others.

Broussard, from Brentwood, CA, joined the service after high school in 2001. He has served two tours in Afghanistan and two tours in Iraq. He is working on his master's degree and plans to become a physician assistant after his military career. Broussard had competed in the Best Ranger Competition twice before.

Cherry, from Monroe, NE, has served since 2001 and has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan seven times. He and his wife Amanda have two children.

"We said to each other . . . we're doing this to win. Period," Broussard told the Army Times. "Everything just sort of clicked for us."

Sergeant Broussard and Sergeant Cherry have dedicated their lives to the service of this Nation and have dedicated years of their lives to fighting on the front lines of the war on ter-

rorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. With a combination of hard work, dedication and talent, they have proven on the field of battle and on the field of competition that they rank amongst the best soldiers in the U.S. Army—the greatest fighting force in the history of the world.

Madam Speaker, I call on the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and the people of Georgia's 3rd Congressional District in honoring the service and applauding the stellar achievements of Sergeant Michael Broussard and Sergeant Shayne Cherry. They are a tribute to Fort Benning, the U.S. Army Rangers, and the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

**HON. JOHN CAMPBELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the city of Laguna Niguel, located within the 48th Congressional District of California, for recently formalizing its Sister Cities Agreement with Al Qa'im, Iraq. This is the tenth Sister City relationship to be established between United States and Iraqi jurisdictions, and I see this as a clear sign to the people of Iraq that citizen volunteers within communities like Laguna Niguel stand beside them in their time of building a free and prosperous society.

The Sister City Program, administered by Sister Cities International, was initiated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower back in 1956 to encourage greater friendship and cultural understanding between the United States and other nations through direct personal contact. The partnership between Laguna Niguel and Al Qa'im will be for the purpose of exploring and implementing mutually beneficial programs in the areas of government and business information exchange, health, education, cultural arts, and sports.

As a preliminary first gesture, the city of Laguna Niguel's Military Support Committee sent hundreds of soccer balls, uniforms and pumps to Al Qa'im to help the Marines deployed there build relations with the local citizens. According to their commanding officer, the city played an extremely important role in assisting the Marines in accomplishing their mission.

This is just an early indicator of many great things to come as the activities of their mutual cooperation agreement unfold. Mayor Farhan Tekan Farhan of Al Qa'im was recently quoted in Marine Corps News, saying that "this is a great occasion for Al Qa'im, and God willing, this relationship will prove to be a promising one."

I especially want to thank the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, led by LTC Jason Bohm, for initiating the program with Laguna Niguel and Al Qa'im, and the recently deployed Task Force 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, led by LTC Peter B. Baumgarten, for facilitating the official signing for the Sister City Program. I look forward to hearing and telling more about many other good things to come from this innovative program over the months and years ahead.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 21, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman JON C. PORTER.

Bill Number: HR 5658, The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act.

Account: Procurement of Aircraft, Air Force (APAF).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alliant Techsystems, LLC (Nevada Air National Guard).

Address of Requesting Entity: ATK Integrated Systems, 236 Citation Drive, Ft. Worth, TX 76106.

Description of Request: I received an earmark of \$5,000,000 to upgrade the Podded Reconnaissance System, also known as Scathe View, on the C-130H to provide ground and air forces critical real-time intelligence for domestic disaster relief operations and war fighter requirements. The Scathe View System has served as an important component of the Nevada Air National Guard in support of Homeland Defense and natural disaster missions. Specifically, \$1.7 million will provide for 2 additional Reconnaissance Pallets and \$3.3 million for the addition of a Tactical Information data link to provide near real-time multi-sensor, multi-source situational awareness and threat warning information broadcast to the war fighter in a common, readily understood format, all in sufficient time to permit action. Funding of Scathe View integration is critical to provide ACC with a tactical EO/IR surveillance and targeting capability can capitalize on years of investment in Group A modifications to the aircraft, mission systems and training. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Air Force's Aircraft Modifications: C-130H account. This is the last year funding will be needed to complete the program, as the 2 additional pallet upgrades would complete the Katrina modifications for 2 additional aircraft, for a total of 6 of 8 aircraft and add the Tactical Information data link to all 8 aircraft.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACKINAC ISLAND STATE PARK COMMISSION'S HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND MUSEUM PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support H. Con. Res. 325, Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program, which began on June 15, 1958.

In 1958, the State of Michigan granted authority to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission to restore and interpret Fort Mackinac and other historical properties at the Straits of Mackinac.