

and instead has put forward a responsible plan to give states the option to decide if portions of the Outer Continental Shelf no closer than 50 miles off our shores will be opened to oil drilling—and it requires oil companies to drill on their existing leases or lose them. I am gratified that the legislation will incorporate environmental safeguards by permanently withdrawing national marine monuments and national marine sanctuaries from leasing eligibility.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to protect our shores from the lifting of the offshore drilling moratorium and as a first step away from dependence on foreign oil and toward critical investments in renewable energy technology. This legislation provides the foundation for a long-term strategy to move the Nation on the road to energy independence.

HONORING ALLEN EUGENE
MYERS, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Allen Eugene Myers, Jr., of Gladstone, MO. Allen is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1260, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Allen has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Allen has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Allen Eugene Myers, Jr., for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I wish to make the following disclosure in accordance with the new Republican Earmark Transparency Standards requiring Members to place a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to a floor vote on a bill that includes earmarks they have requested, describing how the funds will be spent and justifying the use of federal taxpayer funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM LATHAM.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. Division C—Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Account: Aircraft Procurement, Army Project Name: UH-60 Improved Communications (ARC 220) for the ARNG.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Rockwell Collins, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 400 Collins Rd., NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52498.

Description of Request: To date, the Army National Guard has received 141 UH-60L helicopters from the regular Army without the ARC-220 radio system. The National Guard currently has funding of \$3.9 million to outfit 85 of the 141 UH-60 helicopters that are missing the ARC-220 radio system, and the \$1.6 million appropriation included in this bill will help outfit the remaining National Guard Helicopters. Mission and threat changes, as well as responding to emergencies and/or immediate medical evacuation calls, require the crew to have ability to communicate immediately and effectively over long distances (200 vs. the current 20 miles). The ARC-220 radio system is a formal Army Program of Record (POR) that is combat proven and currently being utilized by the U.S. Army in their AH-64s, UH-60s and CH-47s in combat. The ARC-220 is an essential combat-multiplier for long range voice, data and situational awareness to the flight crews and operational commanders. This lack of long-range communications reduces mission flexibility and increases risk to both the aircrew and soldiers being supported. Additionally, situations involving precautionary landings executed outside the current range of communications leave the aircrew with no immediate, effective means to communicate this situation with higher or adjacent forces for immediate assistance. Failing to fund long range communication will inhibit mission flexibility, decrease threat knowledge and limit emergency communications.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM LATHAM.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. Division C—Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Account: Research, Development, Test And Evaluation, Army.

Project Name: Advanced Live, Virtual, and Constructive (LVC) Training Systems.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Iowa State University.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1750 Beardshear Hall, Ames, IA, 50010.

Description of Request: The Virtual Reality Applications Center (VRAC) located at Iowa State University, will develop three advanced software prototypes for LVC training that dramatically enhance the ability of a training officer to create efficient and effective training programs. Keeping up with the unique demands of urban combat and the ever-changing tactics of the insurgency in Iraq requires flexible and adaptive training systems that can be modified rapidly and deployed reliably and effectively in the field. The VRAC at Iowa State University has a scientific team leading research in the development of immersive virtual training environments. 50% of the funding will be used for equipment, 25% for salaries and benefits, and the remaining 25% will be used for software licenses, student tuition and other expenses.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM LATHAM.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. Division C—Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Account: Research, Development, Test And Evaluation, Army.

Project Name: Battlefield Plastic Biodiesel.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Renewable Energy Group and General Atomics.

Address of Requesting Entity: Renewable Energy Group, 416 South Bell Avenue, Ames, IA 50010. General Atomics, 3550 General Atomics Ct. San Diego, CA 92121.

Description of Request: \$1.6 million is provided in the bill to continue a 3-year partnership with the U.S. Army to develop a technology providing a cost effective way to recycle military plastic waste into a useable biodiesel fuel with enhanced energy yield, for use in field power generation and other applications. This technology has the potential to save taxpayers millions per month in military waste disposal costs, and enhance the viability of increased use of biodiesel by both the military and civilian sectors to achieve greater energy independence. The \$1.6 million FY09 appropriation is needed to complete the development phase of this multi-year project and demonstrate the technology.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM LATHAM.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. Division C—Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Account: Research, Development, Test And Evaluation, Army.

Project Name: New Vaccines to Fight Respiratory Infection.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Iowa State University.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1750 Beardshear Hall, Ames, IA, 50010.

Description of Request: A team of researchers at Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center with expertise in biotechnology, bacterial genetics, pathogenomics, immunology and polymer chemistry has been formed to work on this project for the U.S. Army, in order to develop unique vaccine delivery vehicles that can be employed to combat a wide variety of respiratory pathogens threatening our military personnel. Such strategies also can be effective in combating agro-terrorism by protecting animals from airborne diseases. The project addresses needs identified in the President's Interagency Research and Development priorities related to Homeland Security and National Defense. \$4 million is provided in the bill for FY09. 38% of the funding will be used for equipment, 25% for personnel costs, and the remaining funding is for laboratory studies and the necessary materials and supplies.

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM LATHAM.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. Division C—Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Account: Research, Development, Test And Evaluation, Army.

Project Name: Wireless Medical Monitoring System (WiMed).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Athena GTX.

Address of Requesting Entity: 3630 SW 61st Street, Suite 395. Des Moines, IA 50321.

Description of Request: This WiMed project has gained extensive support from both U.S. and foreign military services since 2006. The U.S. Army and the National Trauma Institute are planning comprehensive clinical trials evaluation in 2008 and 2009 across numerous Level 1 Trauma Centers with core funding using this system. The purpose of the project