

the United States whose communications had been reviewed under section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act. The response we got was prompt and candid. The response said "it is not reasonably possible to identify the number of people located in the United States whose communications may have been reviewed under the authority" of the FISA Amendments Act.

I should be clear that I do not plan to accept this response as a final answer. I understand that it may be difficult to come up with an exact count of the number of people in the United States whose communications have been reviewed, but I believe Congress at least needs to obtain an estimate of this number so that people can understand the actual impact of the FISA Amendments Act on the privacy of law-abiding Americans.

During the markup of the intelligence authorization bill, Senator UDALL of Colorado and I proposed an amendment that would have directed the inspector general of the Department of Justice to review the implementation of the FISA Amendments Act and attempt to estimate how many people inside the United States have had their communications reviewed under this law since it was passed 3 years ago. Our amendment also would have directed the inspector general to examine other important aspects of the FISA Amendments Act, including the problem of recurring compliance violations, and report back to Congress within 1 year.

I regret that the amendment that Senator UDALL of Colorado and I offered was not adopted, but I obviously plan to keep trying to get more information about the effects of this law. I hope that I will find out that no law-abiding Americans, or at least very few, have had their communications reviewed by government agencies as a result of this law, but I believe that I have a responsibility to get concrete facts rather than just hope that this is not the case. And I believe that it would be not be responsible for the Senate to pass a multiyear extension of the FISA Amendments Act until I and others who have concerns have had our questions answered.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to amend this bill, and I am hopeful that they will be willing to modify it to address the concerns I have raised. In the meantime, I should be clear that it is my intention to object to any request to pass the current version of S. 1458 by unanimous consent.

COMBATING ILLEGAL GUN TRAFFICKING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I speak today in support of a new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF, rule requiring federally licensed firearm dealers in four Southwest border States to report the sale of multiple semi-automatic assault rifles

to the same purchaser. This narrowly tailored reporting requirement, similar to one already in place for multiple handgun sales, will provide ATF with an important tool to combat straw purchases and the illegal trafficking of firearms, including the supply of weapons to drug cartels in Mexico.

Under the rule, federally licensed dealers in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas must report to ATF the sale of multiple semi-automatic rifles that have a caliber greater than .22 and accept detachable magazines to the same person within 5 consecutive business days. Weapons covered by the rule include AR-15s and AK-47s, military-style assault rifles favored by Mexican drug gangs. The rule focuses on sales in these four border states because they are the source of 75 percent of the firearms recovered and traced in drug-related crimes in Mexico, according to an analysis of Department of Justice statistics by the organization Mayors Against Illegal Guns. This rule allows ATF to collect information on guns that are frequently trafficked and used in crimes, improving in the Bureau's tracing efforts. Among other things, gun trace information can be used to identify potential trafficking networks and to link a suspect to a firearm in a criminal investigation.

Unfortunately, there are some who want to block ATF's ability to require this information, effectively hindering its efforts to combat gun trafficking and reduce violence along the U.S.-Mexico border. The National Rifle Association and some Members of Congress have claimed that ATF does not have the authority to implement the rule and that the rule would cause an unmanageable burden on law-abiding gun dealers. Both of these claims are false. The Firearm Owners' Protection Act of 1986, Public Law 99-308, 18 U.S.C. §923 (g)(5)(A), explicitly states that each Federal firearm licensee shall, when requested by ATF, submit to the ATF any information required to be kept by that law, like the name and address of a purchaser and a firearm's serial number, or such lesser information as ATF may request. Information on the sale of multiple semi-automatic rifles is part of the record which firearm dealers are required to maintain.

The claim that ATF's new rule will unfairly burden firearm dealers is also unfounded. ATF estimates that completing the form to report multiple rifle sales will take 12 minutes for gun dealers, and substantially less time for those with computerized sales systems. I cannot imagine that the overwhelming majority of Federal firearm licensees who are law-abiding will take offense to 12 minutes of work in the name of combating illegal trafficking and preventing violence.

The mandatory reporting of multiple sales of semi-automatic rifles to the same person is a measured, common sense step to help combat illegal firearm trafficking. The terrible drug cartel-related violence plaguing Mexico

and spilling north of the border into the United States continues to be fueled by weapons illegally trafficked from the American Southwest. Again, I support ATF's new rule, and I urge my colleagues in Congress to oppose any legislative efforts to block ATF's ability to carry it out.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES E. CARTWRIGHT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to GEN James E. Cartwright, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who will retire tomorrow after 40 years of distinguished service to his country.

General Cartwright is one of America's most respected four-star generals. His leadership and dedication to the security of this country will be sorely missed and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

On a personal note, I will miss the detailed briefings, insightful discussions, and honest assessments that I have come to expect from General Cartwright.

Simply put, he has had a notable record of achievement throughout his career.

As head of the U.S. Strategic Command, STRATCOM, General Cartwright led the effort to develop new strategies to tackle cyber, nuclear proliferation, space, and missile defense issues.

He transformed Strategic Command from an organization largely dominated by its mission with respect to nuclear weapons and nuclear doctrine to being the true center in the U.S. military for all strategic issues.

Of special note was General Cartwright's interest and action on cybersecurity and the use of cyberspace. He saw this as a major emerging threat and responsibility of the Department, and put STRATCOM on a footing to deal with cyber as a major strategic issue.

He distinguished himself as one of those special leaders who is able to foresee and understand the constantly evolving national security environment rather than getting stuck in the old ways of seeing the world and doing things.

Based on his notable record of service, on June 28, 2007, President Bush nominated General Cartwright to succeed ADM Edmund Giambastiani as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Cartwright was confirmed by the full Senate on August 3, 2007 and was sworn in on August 31 as the eighth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Recognizing his exceptional leadership, General Cartwright was confirmed for a second term on July 31, 2009.

He has, not surprisingly, used his capacity as the second most senior military officer in the Pentagon to make the Armed Forces a more strategic and more nimble military.