STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 15

By: Wilkerson of the Senate

and

Plunk of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution urging the United States Secretary of Defense to restore Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6) funding for cooperative efforts between JTF-6, military engineering units and the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET); encouraging Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to support this effort; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, it is the policy and law of the State of Oklahoma to ensure comprehensive, professional, and specialized training of law enforcement officers through the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET); and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the dire need for a dedicated facility at which professional law enforcement training can be conducted, the Oklahoma State Legislature reaffirmed Oklahoma's commitment to fully train law enforcement officers in SB 1121 of the 2nd Session of the 47th Oklahoma Legislature by authorizing the construction of a $26,400,000.00 training facility; and

WHEREAS, President George H.W. Bush declared the "War on Drugs" in 1989, prompting then United States Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney to declare: "I believe that our military forces have the capability to make a substantial contribution toward drug interdiction, and I am instructing them to make the necessary preparation to carry out that responsibility"; and

WHEREAS, in response to the directives of national leaders and with Congressional support, the United States Department of Defense established Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6), a unique, dynamic organization of U.S. Department of Defense professionals working in full partnership with federal, regional, state, and local level law enforcement agencies in a counter-drug and counter-terrorism support role; and

WHEREAS, the mission of JTF-6 is to synchronize and integrate U.S. Department of Defense operational, training, and intelligence support to domestic law enforcement agency counter-drug and counter-terrorism efforts in the continental United States, to deter terrorism, domestic production of illegal drugs, and to reduce the flow of illicit drugs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the "front lines" of counter-drug and counter-terrorism efforts in Oklahoma are fulfilled by comprehensively trained law enforcement officers who conduct searches, seizures, and arrests, and gather intelligence data for enforcement of state and federal laws; and

WHEREAS, JTF-6 determined the valid support request for assistance in constructing the CLEET law enforcement training facility satisfied the directives of the U.S. Department of Defense that counter-drug support missions offer significant and focused training value to the participating military units by enhancing individual skills and accomplishing unit tactical training events; and

WHEREAS, through the combined efforts of CLEET, JTF-6 and the 864th Combat Engineering Battalion of Fort Lewis, Washington, JTF-6 and the U.S. Department of Defense, construction of the Ada, Oklahoma, training facility began in October 2002 with the deployment of 100 troops of the 864th Combat Engineering Battalion; and

WHEREAS, the work accomplished by the 864th during the deployment from October 1, 2002, through November 22, 2002, correlates to an estimated $1,500,000.00 savings to the State of Oklahoma, allowing enhancement to the CLEET training facility; and

WHEREAS, future deployments and funding of JTF-6 to the Ada, Oklahoma, training facility would benefit CLEET and the United States military by tangible enhancement of training opportunities in the combined efforts of counter-drug/counter-terrorism operations and wartime readiness; and

WHEREAS, current events demand greater emphasis on training enhancement and fiscal efficiency. Continued cooperation between CLEET, military combat engineering units, JTF-6 and the U.S. Department of Defense exceeds objectives established by the respective parties; and

WHEREAS, the only JTF-6 mission through the U.S. Department of Defense within the State of Oklahoma is the Ada, Oklahoma, Law Enforcement Training Center; and

WHEREAS, funding for future JTF-6 missions has not been reduced, but merely diverted from the Oklahoma mission to other counter-drug and counter-terrorism missions on the southwest border of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature strongly urges the United States Secretary of Defense to restore the funding of the JTF-6 mission to enhance construction of the CLEET training facility in Ada, Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature fervently encourages all members of Oklahoma’s Congressional Delegation to join the efforts of CLEET to restore JTF-6 funding for future deployments in Ada,

Oklahoma, for assistance with construction of the Law Enforcement Training Center.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the President of the United States, United States Secretary of Defense, each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Majority and Minority Floor Leaders in the United States House of Representatives and Senate, military command of Joint Task Force Six, and the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training.

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