

Nonprofit Groups Cool On Call for Volunteers

By Jacqueline L. Salmon
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, February 8, 2002; Page A04

These are supposed to be grand times for the nation's charities.

With President Bush and key Capitol Hill legislators in their corner, nonprofit groups are cheering recently proposed federal initiatives intended to strengthen the philanthropic sector, such as allowing a charitable deduction to taxpayers who do not itemize and permitting tax-free donations to charity from individual retirement accounts.

But the reception has been more wary for Bush's marquee proposal, unveiled last week: a major public service initiative at home and abroad and a call for all Americans to donate 4,000 hours to worthy causes over their lifetime.

Why are the nation's charities being cautious about the prospect of millions of hours of free labor?

For one thing, they foresee practical difficulties -- from finding the funds to train and manage the volunteers, to figuring out ways to satisfy them once they're on board. Bush's plan is but the latest national call to volunteerism in recent years. Even so, the percentage of American adults who actually do volunteer work has not changed in more than a decade, surveys show.

What's more, today's generation of volunteers -- the Baby Boomers and their younger cohorts -- are generally choosier about what jobs they'll tackle, experts say.

"They want to make a difference," said Paul Light, who studies philanthropy for the Brookings Institution. "They are looking for a one-on-one impact, and if you don't use them wisely they'll leave and they won't come back."

Bush administration officials have promised to help the charities deal with the hoped-for surge in volunteers.

Seeking to build on the wave of civic pride and patriotism that swept the nation after Sept. 11, the president proposed creating a USA Freedom Corps in his State of the Union address last week. The ambitious undertaking seeks to enlarge public service programs such as the Peace Corps and its domestic cousin, AmeriCorps, and to create a vast citizens' corps to assist with homeland security.

Bush proposes spending \$560 million next year on the initiative. As of Wednesday, 160,000 users had visited the plan's Web site, www.usafreedomcorps.gov, and 3,500 people had called its toll-free number, 1-877-USA-CORPS. Leslie Lenkowsky, head of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency overseeing the program, called the response "enormous."

That's mixed news to the nation's charities, already straining to meet greater demands in an ailing economy. Leaders of nonprofit groups say they will need help and money to manage an infusion of volunteers -- a notoriously unstable labor force with high turnover -- and express concern that the administration is using an influx of bodies as a substitute for more funding.

"We're always a little cautious of volunteerism as the magic bullet that's going to solve these systemic

issues that often are not caused by behavior, they're often attributable to infrastructure issues" such as lack of affordable housing, said Chuck Gould, president of Alexandria-based Volunteers of America, which uses 40,000 volunteers a year.

The USA Freedom Corps "is a wonderful opportunity to mobilize a tremendous force of people who can really make some huge changes," said Elizabeth Miller, a former director of Greater D.C. Cares, a volunteer-matching service, who now runs new ventures for Washington Grantmakers. "But there's a real need to look at it carefully and make sure that there is enough money to help organizations train the people who will be working with the volunteers."

Those already engaged in such work caution that the administration's recruiting methods -- a Web site and a toll-free number -- could generate lots of calls but few actual hours of donated time.

"All too often people think that all that's needed is a call to volunteers to volunteer," said Susan Ellis, who has written a book about volunteering.

"Many groups have trouble recruiting because of the way they fashion their volunteer assignments. People don't want to do them."

Lenkowsky said the administration plans to explain its proposal more thoroughly to charities and provide assistance. "What you see now is just the first step. . . . There's no question that in a variety of ways we'll be linking up with the private charities."

Bush certainly isn't the first president to push volunteerism. Virtually every chief executive in the last 40 years has proposed some kind of program.

But none of the enthusiasm or rhetoric has done much to boost volunteerism in the United States, according to surveys. About 45 percent of American adults volunteer formally, helping out at their place of worship or soup kitchens, for example. While that rate is much higher than anywhere else, it hasn't budged since the 1980s, according to Independent Sector, a D.C.-based coalition of philanthropies.

Furthermore, those who do volunteer often gripe about the experience. A 1998 national survey commissioned by United Parcel Service found that two in every five volunteers quit because they didn't like how they were treated at a particular organization.

Said Light, "There is less patience in the volunteering experience than there was, say, 20 years ago."

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An Idea Worth Stealing

By David S. Broder

Wednesday, February 6, 2002; Page A19

Call it grand larceny, if you will, but it's still grand.

I am referring not to Enron but to President Bush's enthusiastic embrace of community and national service for hundreds of thousands of Americans as a way to answer the question repeatedly asked since Sept. 11: What can I do to help?

In the State of the Union address and a series of follow-up appearances across the South, Bush introduced the USA Freedom Corps of volunteers who will serve at home and abroad on projects ranging from homeland defense to teaching and mentoring to bringing the message of democracy to the Muslim world.

No one was more thrilled to hear the president's words than Will Marshall, the longtime president of the Progressive Policy Institute, the think-tank arm of the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC). "This action by the president dramatically enhances the prospects of a significant expansion of national service programs," Marshall told me.

It also demonstrates how good ideas -- carefully nurtured for years by people in one party -- can be brought to fruition when shamelessly swiped by their political opponents.

The practice had been long familiar in the British Parliament when Anthony Trollope had a Gladstone-like character complain about his fictional version of Disraeli: "He has taken the bread from our mouths!"

Bill Clinton was a master at such publicly justifiable thievery. Years of futile GOP efforts to develop some form of "workfare" preceded his potent 1992 campaign promise to "end welfare as we know it." And when the new Republican majorities in Congress began in 1995 demanding an end to deficits, Clinton pirouetted and placed himself at the head of the fiscal responsibility parade.

Since Bush "forgot" to mention the ancestry of his good idea, let it be noted that its parentage was largely on the other side of the aisle. The Peace Corps, whose size he proposes almost to double, traces back to John Kennedy's administration. The idea was introduced into the political world by Hubert Humphrey and by Henry Reuss, an able Milwaukee congressman who died just last month.

AmeriCorps -- the domestic version of the Peace Corps whose functions and membership Bush also proposes to expand -- came with the Clinton administration and survived a number of attempts by congressional Republicans to strangle it in the crib. It was saved in part by support from governors of both parties, who found AmeriCorps volunteers helpful to community organizations in their states. Marshall tells me that the governors were rallied to the cause of that Clinton initiative by none other than Marc Racicot, then governor of Montana and now chairman of the Republican National Committee.

National service was one of the bedrock ideas of the DLC. Sam Nunn, then a senator from Georgia, and Dave McCurdy, then a representative from Oklahoma, introduced legislation in 1989 to create what became AmeriCorps.

Last year, Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana, the current DLC chairman, wrote a national service bill more ambitious than Bush's proposal. The co-sponsor was Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who candidly acknowledged that he had once opposed AmeriCorps but had come to see its potential and believed it should grow. McCain promoted the idea in magazine articles, speeches and interviews last year.

It would have been gracious of Bush to acknowledge publicly the contribution of his onetime rival for the nomination; as it was, presidential adviser Karen Hughes gave McCain a heads-up on the proposal just a half-hour before the speech.

But none of that matters as much as Bush putting his prestige behind the idea. Bayh and McCain praised him for it, and some blend of their plan and his is likely to become law.

John Bridgeland, the astute domestic policy adviser who crafted the Bush proposal and will supervise the program from the White House, has the right experience to help capture the energy and idealism that is available in local communities without a stifling national bureaucracy.

There is a broad consensus -- from conservatives and liberals -- not just on national service but also on making community service an integral element of school and college curricula. The Education Commission of the States is pushing the idea, and just last week a panel of private citizens, headed by former senator John Glenn of Ohio and funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, made the point that working on projects in their own communities "reinforces and extends the standards-based [school] reform movement by . . . giving students a sense of the practical importance of what they are learning in school."

Credit George Bush for recognizing an idea whose time has come.

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New Director for Faith-Based Office

Bush Taps Jim Towey, a Veteran of the Hill and Mother Teresa's Ministry

By Dana Milbank
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, February 1, 2002; Page A06

ATLANTA, Jan. 31 -- A man who once lived and worked in a home for dying AIDS victims in Washington will be named by President Bush this morning to head the White House Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives. It is part of a bid to tie the office to Bush's new national service initiative and shift it from the controversy that greeted Bush's effort last year to aid religious charities.

The new director, Jim Towey, is a friend of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, the president's brother. He worked on Capitol Hill and in Mother Teresa's ministry before becoming Florida's health and rehabilitative services director under Democratic Gov. Lawton Chiles. Towey founded an advocacy group called Aging With Dignity in 1996.

Towey will succeed John J. DiIulio Jr., a blunt and feisty academic who was the office's first director but who resigned last fall. DiIulio, a Democrat, sparred with religious conservatives over the direction of the program, and the project became entangled in Congress over whether religious charities could discriminate in their hiring practices. The measure passed the House but stalled in the Senate, and Bush offered to drop the most controversial provisions.

Towey's lower profile fits with a White House plan to have the office under the wing of John Bridgeland, who was named Wednesday to head the newly created White House national service office. Bridgeland, a Bush domestic policy aide, had been closely involved in the faith-based initiative. The two efforts are to become increasingly integrated with more focus on volunteerism than on helping religious charities, administration officials said.

The changes come as Bush is assembling an effort to kindle national and community service in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. Like the original faith-based initiative, it retains a moral component but emphasizes the need for volunteerism.

"I view this as a unique moment not only to fight for freedom, a unique moment to fight for peace, but a unique moment to help change our culture from one that says, 'If it feels good do it,' to a new culture which says each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life," Bush said today at a reception of supporters in downtown Atlanta, echoing one of his campaign themes.

The president briefly detoured into a notion of "corporate responsibility" alongside individual responsibility in a reference to the collapse of Enron Corp. "There's corporate responsibility, part of the responsibility here, which says that let's make sure when you account for losses and profits, that you put it all on your books so everybody understands," he said.

Later, at Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta, Bush touted the Teach for America volunteer program in which young college graduates become teachers in troubled schools. "We can change," Bush told the students. "Use the evil to help usher in a period of personal responsibility. And part of an era of personal responsibility is to help somebody . . . help somebody in need."

At a firehouse in Daytona Beach, Fla., this morning, Bush watched a 9-year-old boy get fingerprinted and a group of senior citizens assemble "Individual Emergency Shelter Kits." He also examined exhibits

of mounted patrols and radio monitoring -- all part of homeland defense volunteer projects. "We've got to make sure they happen all across the country," Bush said, crediting the government program Senior Corps, which he would expand from 500,000 participants to 600,000.

A Web site launched Wednesday morning to register people interested in volunteering through USA Freedom Corps, Bush's national service plan, received more than 450,000 visitors as of noon today, the White House said.

Staff writer Mike Allen in Washington contributed to this report.

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President Hits the Road To Pitch Service Initiative

AmeriCorps, Peace Corps Expansion Outlined

By Dana Milbank
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, January 31, 2002; Page A01

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C., Jan. 30 -- President Bush embarked on a barnstorming tour to promote the national service initiative he proposed in Tuesday's State of the Union address, calling for significant expansion of a program Republicans had tried to kill a few years ago.

In a campaign-style appearance before 7,000 cheering supporters here, Bush released the details of the national service and volunteerism effort unveiled in his address to Congress. Its early provisions are fairly modest, costing \$560 million next year and expanding service programs far less than some in Congress had proposed.

But symbolically, Bush made clear that national service would be a priority for his administration, creating an eight-person White House office to oversee the initiative and putting it under the authority of John Bridgeland, a senior White House domestic policy official. That guarantees a prominent place in a Republican administration for President John F. Kennedy's Peace Corps and President Bill Clinton's pet project, AmeriCorps.

Administration officials said Bridgeland also would have influence over the White House Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives, which will be closely tied to the service office and will soon get a new director to replace John J. DiIulio Jr., who stepped down last year. The linkage provides the White House with a way to revive its effort to boost charities after legislation that Bush supported stalled in Congress last year.

"If you want to fight evil, we've figured out a way to do so militarily," the president said to a coliseum full of police officers, firefighters and GOP faithful. Tying national service to the war effort as he did in his Tuesday address, Bush added: "But at home, you fight evil with acts of goodness. You overcome the evil in society by doing something to help somebody."

Bush's blend of new programs and extensions of old programs included volunteer efforts to spot suspicious or threatening activities, called "Operation TIPS"; expanded neighborhood watches; and volunteer efforts to help police with administrative functions. These would be part of a new "Citizen Corps" coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and would have \$230 million to spend next year. The Citizen Corps today released a "Citizens' Preparedness Guidebook" to help individuals prevent and respond to terrorist attacks.

Bush would also expand the AmeriCorps program, which provides more traditional volunteer services such as home-building and literacy coaching but is expected to become more involved in domestic preparedness. His plan would add 25,000 slots to the current 50,000. Bush would also increase the number of Senior Corps volunteers, a similar program for older Americans, to 600,000 from 500,000. The two expansions would cost \$280 million next year. In addition, Bush proposed requiring colleges and universities to devote 50 percent of federal work-study funds they receive for community service work, up from the current 7 percent.

As he said in his speech Tuesday night, Bush would double the number of Peace Corps volunteers to a level near the 1960s peak. The new recruits, to be added at a cost of \$200 million over five years, would

help reconstruct Afghanistan and represent the United States in Muslim countries and in newly independent East Timor.

The proposals significantly expanded on the initiative Bush announced in November, when he said he wanted AmeriCorps and Senior Corps to provide 20,000 volunteers to help police, fire and public health agencies. But they are far smaller than proposals by Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), who introduced legislation calling for 250,000 new AmeriCorps slots. Clinton had proposed 100,000 slots.

"The Bush proposal is a modest first step, but it puts it on the radar screen," said Marshall Wittmann, a Hudson Institute scholar who advised McCain on the legislation.

Les Lenkowsky, who heads AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, said the Bush program could become much larger. "We're looking at a whole host of things," he said, noting that the outline of the program was rushed out for the State of the Union speech. "The key is creating the mechanism," he said, referring to Bridgeland's office. "You might consider this the equivalent of the National Economic Council or the National Security Council."

A new "USA Freedom Corps Council" will recommend to Bush proposals for "additional service opportunities" and "incentives and information" to encourage service, according to a 32-page description of the service initiative released today by the White House. On Tuesday, Bush set a goal that each American would volunteer 4,000 hours in a lifetime.

Bayh said he was confident Bush's proposals could grow into the sort of massive national service program he pictured. "The president embraced the framework," he said. "The differences are of magnitude, not direction."

The first President Bush was an early supporter of AmeriCorps. But in the mid-1990s, congressional Republicans regularly sought to cut or eliminate it. In that context, Bush's support for the program is a dramatic shift for the party.

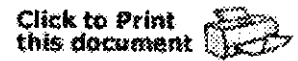
"It's a very good sign for the future of service," said Bruce Reed, who was domestic policy director during the Clinton administration, when AmeriCorps grew from several thousand volunteers to the current 50,000.

Bush toured a local crime-prevention project this morning and met with a group of Republicans in the afternoon before flying to Daytona Beach, Fla., where he will visit a firehouse for a Senior Corps event. In his address in Winston-Salem, the president looked as if he were leading a telethon as he stood in front of a banner promoting the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and his new USA Freedom Corps.

"It sounds like I'm making a pitch, and I am," Bush said to laughter after reading out the initiative's Internet address, usafreedomcorps.gov. "This is the right thing to do for America. 1-877-USA-CORPS. If somebody out there is interested in figuring out how to serve, it's 1-877-USA-CORPS."

Staff writer Glenn Kessler in Washington contributed to this report.

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For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
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Press Briefing by Ari Fleischer and John Bridgeland, Executive Director of USA Freedom Corps

Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

4:12 P.M. EST

MR. FLEISCHER: I just want to introduce you to John Bridgeland, who the President just named, of course, his Executive Director in charge of USA Freedom Corps. John is going to be available to answer any questions you may have about the President's new initiative today. If anybody has one or two questions, I'll take one or two questions, and then we'll go to Mr. Bridgeland.

Q Ari, there's been quite a strong response from Iran, and actually, one from Iraq, as well, in regard to the President's axis comments from his State of the Union address last night. I wonder if you can deal with that. You've said that military action is not imminent, but the President seemed to suggest that military action is certainly under active consideration. Is that not the case?

MR. FLEISCHER: The President is very pleased by the bipartisan reception that his remarks received in his speech last night. Many members

of Congress -- Democrats and Republicans alike -- agreed with the President's message. The President could not have been more plainspoken, himself, when he said that time is running out. But he will be deliberative, and that's the President's words and he's pleased with the reaction.

Q Internationally, there's been --

MR. FLEISCHER: Dana.

Q Do you have anything, Ari, on the kidnapped Wall Street Journal reporter?

MR. FLEISCHER: I do not.

Q On Enron, on the task force -- the GAO is trying to get the records -- they have presented case, saying they have a legal right, a statutory right. What is the administration's legal case? Do you have court precedent or --

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, the President will stand strong on principle, fighting for his right and the right of all future Presidents to receive advice without it being turned into a virtual news release. The President will fight for this right in a court of law. And the White House expects to prevail because our case is strong, our policy is sound, and principle is on our side.

Q Is there legal precedent, court cases or --

MR. FLEISCHER: GAO has never done this before.

We're going to have to get to John Bridgeland in just a second. So last question.

Q Are you asserting executive privilege? Is that the legal basis here?

MR. FLEISCHER: No. The administration's position, which we expect to

be upheld in a court of law, is that the General Accounting Office is acting beyond their authority, outside a statute, so there's no need to exert the privilege. The GAO is acting outside its authority.

All right, let me introduce you to John Bridgeland. Thank you.

MR. BRIDGELAND: Thank you, Ari. Good afternoon. Last night, the President called, building on a long tradition of volunteerism and working in our local communities around America, for the public good, the President

called on every American to serve their country for two years over their lifetimes -- 4,000 hours.

The power of the call to serve, itself, we know is extremely important. When Americans are asked to serve, data shows that 63 percent of them do. And where people are not called upon to serve, only 25 percent

do. We have 76 million Americans over the next decade who are baby boomers, who will be entering retirement, and 44 million senior Americans in the Social Security system today. We have a rising generation of young Americans who have an opportunity to be the next great generation.

It was Robert Putnam who said, from Harvard, once or twice a century there is an occasion to enlist Americans to serve their country in greater service. The call to service is not a federal mandate, but an individual -- a powerful individual commitment, and one that calls upon Americans to do great service to their nation and to their communities.

Service could be military or civilian; serve great national purposes or local community needs; be domestic or international. It's also clear that two years of service is within reach. Currently, 44 percent of Americans serve, on average, about 187 hours per year. So that service -- maybe a young person coming out of high school or college could go into an activity and serve their country for one or two years. Or a senior entering retirement could go and serve their country for one or two years.

Or perhaps an individual could accumulate service over a lifetime.

Last night the President announced the USA Freedom Corps. The USA Freedom Corps is going to be a coordinating council chaired by the President in the White House with the support from an office. It will have

three principal components.

First, it will begin to attempt to answer the question of, what is the

citizen's role in helping to protect the homeland, and to help galvanize and organize communities all across America, like the community with whom we just met: police chiefs, firefighters, emergency response personnel, mayors, school officials, faith leaders, people who are working actively in

the community to make a difference.

You know, a first responder told me that in New York City, after that horrific act, what happened within the first few hours that made the difference between life and death for Americans there was the result of the

local infrastructure that was in place and the local response that was undertaken.

And so the President is committed to working with FEMA, to working with communities like we saw today, around America, to mobilize Americans through the Citizen Corps, which will strengthen our homeland security efforts.

Currently in this country, we have a vast crime prevention network, and a natural disaster preparedness network, and a public health network. Building on that infrastructure, we're hoping to design and strengthen a new homeland security effort: \$230 million in fiscal year 2003 will be provided to help the formation of Citizen Corps councils, and six new initiatives initially to support these efforts.

We know in places like Henderson County, North Carolina, that volunteers, especially senior citizens, are working with local police departments on non-sworn functions so they can free up police to perform their front-line duties. We know in places like Anne Arundel, Maryland, similar efforts are working successfully, so that cops can be out on the beat doing their front-line work.

We also know that, for the first time, we want to mobilize retired nurses and doctors and health care professionals through a medical reserve corps, with support from the Department of Health and Human Services, to provide vitally needed support to our local hospitals and community centers, and other institutions that would be called upon to respond to natural disasters or potentially and act of terrorism.

Ten million dollars will be provided initially in fiscal year 2003 for

that effort. For the volunteer in police service program, we will provide

\$6 million initially for emergency training and capacity-building.

We also are working with local communities to triple the capacity of community emergency response teams. Currently, there are 200,000 individuals in 28 states around America, who are working to support first responders in the event of an emergency. We're going to triple that capacity with \$61 million over the next two years to support these important efforts in local communities.

There are people all across this country, 15 million transportation workers, truckers. The President visited up in Portland, Maine last week lobster fishermen and others who were working together in a collective effort, they have daily routines. And they can be the eyes and ears of law

enforcement. They can detect suspicious activity.

We're going to create an Operation TIPS, a Terrorism Information and Prevention System, to engage our truckers and our postal workers and our train conductors and our ship captains, and our utility employees and our airline stewardesses, who have already done so much to make a difference to

see how they can be a gauge through Highway Watch and the Global Maritime School and a comprehensive network to engage them in this effort through a pilot program initially in 10 cities, and the support of \$2 million for a hotline so they can report suspicious activity to their local law enforcement authorities, and \$6 million additional dollars to support these

pilot programs.

And, finally, Americans have been asking again and again and again: What can we do in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, on airlines, public places, to be prepared? And we have a citizens preparedness guide book that's been developed to give them the latest guidance that we have.

All in all, this effort will help strengthen crime prevention in this country, strengthen public health infrastructure, and strengthen natural disaster preparedness.

Tomorrow -- and I just want to mention two other elements of the USA Freedom Corps -- the President is spawning the creation of new service opportunities. Twenty-five thousand additional AmeriCorps participants, leveraging at least 75,000 additional volunteers, 100,000 new Senior Corps participants, and finally, the third component, to double the number of Peace Corps volunteers over the next five years, from 7,000 today to near its historic high back in June of 1966, of 15,000.

We're also going to undertake, through the Crisis Corps, working with sophisticated volunteers who know the culture, tradition and language to go

back into Afghanistan as part of the reconstruction effort, and to work to

send volunteers consistent with safety and security throughout the Islamic

world.

I'd be happy to take any questions that you have about the USA Freedom

Corps.

MR. MCCLELLAN: This is off-camera, but it is ON THE RECORD, so just so everybody's clear on that, like we said earlier.

MR. BRIDGELAND: Yes, sir.

Q I'm confused about the split. Like if you take AmeriCorps as an example, you say you're going to have 25,000, but they're going to leverage

and get 75,000 more. In the end, what's the difference? Are the 25,000 -- they get a stipend from the government?

MR. BRIDGELAND: Yes. The way it works currently, actually the leverage ratios that people use today are actually 12 to one, but conservative estimates show that AmeriCorps is basically a program that supports Habitat for Humanity, or Teach for America, or The Boys and Girls Club. And if you've ever worked in a Habitat home, the AmeriCorps participant who gets a small stipend, or perhaps just an education award that they can use to go on to help pay for college.

That person ends up training additional volunteers that work in that habitat construction. So you have -- people who get stipends also are leveraging other volunteers, and one thing that we want to require as part of assessing whether or not Habitat and these other organizations are having an important effect and that the taxpayer dollar is being used wisely is to see how they actually are mobilizing additional volunteers to perform these important tasks.

Q Is everybody in AmeriCorps and the Senior Corps and in the new Citizen Corps, will they all get stipends?

MR. BRIDGELAND: No. The Senior Corps actually works differently. They typically get a very small allowance to cover gas and mileage and some

of their incidental expenses. So it's a very cost-efficient program.

The new Citizen Corps is an effort to work with local communities, with states and governors, to mobilize Citizen Corps councils so you have sectors from the community represented.

We're going to provide support through FEMA to support those councils,

and underneath the councils specific programs that have been proven to be effective in addressing crime prevention or responding to natural disasters, or strengthening the public health infrastructure.

Q But they will be true volunteers, not people --

MR. BRIDGELAND: They will be volunteers. Some of them will go on to get trained as part of a community emergency response team. Many of them will be volunteers for the local police or firefighters. Some may be part of the Medical Reserve Corps. But you're right, they will be volunteers.

Q No stipends at all? Not like -- so it is different?

MR. BRIDGELAND: No, it is different. It is different. They will not get stipends. That's correct.

Q I still just don't get it. If I call this 800 number, say I'm interested in helping out, somebody will call me back and ask me to do what

kinds of things? Will I be asked to walk the neighborhood beat Crime Watch? Can you give us some tangible idea, not bureaucratic-speak about what these people are going to do?

MR. BRIDGELAND: Sure. Yes. With respect to the Citizen Corps, if an individual calls up the 1-800 number today, and let's say you're a retired

doctor and you live in a community and you want to volunteer to help support your local hospital or community center and be part of a medical reserve corps in your community, that information will go today through the

website or by that 1-800 number into FEMA, they will take your name and address, and as soon as a medical reserve corps is mobilized in your local community, you will get information about how you can participate.

Q Okay. And this is all meant to be a response to terrorism, as well?

MR. BRIDGELAND: Yes, it is. But one of the ancillary benefits, as the President mentioned, is that it will strengthen public health in that area and natural disaster preparedness.

Q How much of any of this happening depends on Congress coming up with some money?

MR. BRIDGELAND: Actually, there are communities today, just like the one we met with, that are starting to get organized. But they're constantly asking the questions in communities around America: What ought we be doing, and how do we best interact with the local structure and with the states and with the federal government. And what we're trying to do is

create an integrated system so that Americans, when they're volunteering, are a part of this local effort, it has an impact on addressing the risks and threats.

One thing that they'll do is come up with a plan. What are the vulnerabilities in our community? What are the potential threats? What are our resources? What are our gaps in resources. This will better inform us as to what's required in the way of funding support and other support at the state and federal level.

Q To follow on that a little bit, can you give us some sort of breakdown or estimate of how much of this you see directly related to helping prevent against future terrorist attacks, either by training people

to look for suspicious boats in harbors, or trucks moving on highways, that kind of thing.

MR. BRIDGELAND: Right. What we know, from crime prevention, Highway Watch on Highway 81, for example, and in rest stops, has had, actually, a dramatic impact on reducing crime. Again and again and again, the number of homicides in Virginia along the rest stops, they put in place a system to actually have those areas patrolled as part of the routine mission of police officers and truckers.

Tremendous success in shutting down crime. We think that same principle can be applied all across America, and our borders, internally on

our highways.

Q You're using that as a model and applying it to training -- here are the 10 ways a terrorist might be in your part of your world, here's what you should look for?

MR. BRIDGELAND: Yes. Right. Yes. And we're taking both -- we're

taking Neighborhood Watch, which some of you may participate in your community, and bringing it up to capacity, so again, if a neighbor or someone sees something suspicious in a community, that can be reported instantly. And people who have routines -- your truckers, your ship captains, your train conductors -- again, those working day-in and day-out,

are uniquely positioned to report suspicious activity.

Q Can I ask you about the funding? You say here that there's \$560 million you need from Congress for Freedom Corps, and then a couple pages later, you need \$230 million for AmeriCorps. I mean, what is the total here?

MR. BRIDGELAND: Yes, the breakdown, the total is \$560 million in Fiscal Year '03, \$230 million of which is for the Homeland Security Citizen

Corps effort, \$230 million of which is for support for AmeriCorps. There is an additional \$10 million for challenge grants that support programs like Teach for America; \$100 million for Senior Corps,

and then the \$200 million for Peace Corps is actually a five-year number, and in Fiscal Year '03, it's \$42 million would be the number for '03 --

Q So it's \$560 million or billion?

MR. BRIDGELAND: It's \$560 million in Fiscal Year '03, total.

Q Total?

MR. BRIDGELAND: That's correct.

Q To implement this.

MR. BRIDGELAND: That's correct.

Q So the President can't do anything of this unilaterally, he needs

Congress to come up with the money? Which is, I guess, the question I was asking before.

MR. BRIDGELAND: Well, we can start, and we are beginning to organize,

through FEMA -- we have the authority to do it -- to organize these citizen councils locally, and to help put in place -- there are existing programs, like Neighborhood Watch, which is supported.

We're going to develop Operation TIPS. Again, with existing resources, we're going to attempt to do everything we can with respect to Citizen Corps.

With respect to the expansion, the enhancements to AmeriCorps, we're going to work with Senator McCain and Senator Bayh in conjunction with their Citizen Service Act, to get this legislation to the Congress so we both authorize and then fund these programs.

Q Do you have a five-year number in terms of the cost?

MR. BRIDGELAND: No, the budget's -- it's a one-year number.

Q So establishing the USA Freedom Corps was just an executive order, it happened?

MR. BRIDGELAND: Yes. The President signed yesterday an executive order creating the USA Freedom Corps Council.

Q But there's no money yet, as we were saying, until Congress passes --

MR. BRIDGELAND: Yes. The '03 request -- that's correct -- is \$560 million. But we're going to go forward with existing resources and implement those programs that are currently in operation.

Q So these programs exist then, without a lot of the money?

MR. BRIDGELAND: Some of the programs exist --

Q I meant like Citizen Corps now exists?

MR. BRIDGELAND: Citizen Corps does not exist. But, for example, Neighborhood Watch is supported by the Department of Justice.

Q When will Citizen Corps exist?

MR. BRIDGELAND: Citizen Corps, today, has via website, people are able to volunteer and work in tandem with their local communities to start to organize these local efforts.

A lot of this is an organizational challenge; it's not all about funding. And we want to help communities like Winston-Salem get organized at the local community and help funnel volunteers into these local efforts to support these homeland security efforts.

Q How many new positions at the White House will there be to oversee this?

MR. BRIDGELAND: I'm directing the office. We'll have a number of staff within the office. And then, the coordinating council consists of those individuals who are outlined in your book.

Q New positions?

MR. BRIDGELAND: New positions should be around eight.

MR. MCCLELLAN: And I want to encourage you all to go ahead and -- I mean, log onto the website, call into the 800 number, or the 877 number, see how it works. That's already up and running.

END 4:20 P.M. EST

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