I thank the chairman of the Rules Committee. Mr.

Speaker, I am blessed to be a Member of the House of Representatives.

Under the Constitution of our country, this is a co-equal branch of

government. We are charged here in Congress to raise and maintain the

military of the United States. The President is charged with being the

Commander in Chief. Our job is clear. We must prepare and maintain our

military to the highest standard possible.

1950, the North Koreans invaded South Korea. We had a small force

there. General MacArthur, supreme commander in that part of the world,

sent a unit that was untrained, underequipped and undersized, called

Task Force Smith to stem the tide of the North Korean armies. They

fought valiantly and found themselves in the southeast corner of South

Korea in what is now known as the Pusan perimeter, and they were in

serious trouble. General MacArthur's brilliant Inchon landing on the

western coast of Korea changed the nature of the Korean War at that

moment.

But the lesson of all of this is the lack of readiness of the United

States Army as it was in 1950. Our job is to see that that does not ever

happen again.

This rule, this bill, this resolution is the right one for our time.

It will help the readiness of the United States military, in particular

our Army. I am very concerned about the stretching and the straining of

the Army in Iraq, so much so we just have to fund them, and this is a

major step in that direction.

Now, some object for some Iraqi language, which frankly leaves a lot

to the discretion of the White House. But what we are overlooking is

the fact that this bill, this resolution does lead to supporting the

troops and keeping the readiness at a higher level. A large percentage

of the equipment of the active duty of the National Guard and of the

Reserve is not here in America, is overseas in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Readiness capability of the future is what this is all about.