Mr. Speaker, last night President Bush accepted

responsibility for the failures in Iraq. Yet he offered no real

strategy for winning the war in Iraq or the broader struggle with

terrorism.

Many military and foreign policy experts, including the Joint Chiefs

of Staff, have acknowledged that the President's proposal to increase

troop strength is not a solution to the ongoing instability in Iraq.

I believe that an influx of troops will actually worsen the situation

on the ground. Not only that, but redeploying 20,000 additional troops

in Iraq will stretch our already fully deployed Armed Forces even

further.

I am particularly concerned that deploying additional troops will

significantly hinder our ability to effectively combat the global

terrorist threat. In fact, the very consideration of redeploying troops

in Iraq means that we are distracted from the wider war on terrorism,

especially in Afghanistan where additional forces may be necessary to

reign in al Qaeda and the Taliban.