Mr. Speaker, let me explain what is in this bill for the

Members.

We have $4 billion over the amount requested by the President. The

President requested a total of $12.1 billion for military personnel pay

and benefits. The committee recommends increasing the funds for those

programs by $1.4 billion. The committee adds $1.4 billion to cover the

full cost of housing allowance for military members in fiscal year

2007; $2.3 billion to cover the full cost of fielding an additional

36,000 Army troops.

If everybody here remembers, we added 30,000 troops in the

supplemental, which the White House did not ask for, argued about, and

which the Defense Department did not want. And yet now we are short of

troops, and they are trying to blame the Congress for being short of

troops.

We also added money for 9,000 additional marines. The committee

recommends $52.5 billion for military operations, $2.2 billion over the

President's request.

In addition to fully funding the request for military operations, the

committee proposes an additional $2.5 billion to address training and

equipping shortfalls in forces not deployed. We will set up a Reserve

Readiness fund.

The committee recommends adding funds for the war in Afghanistan, $1

billion. That is where the original war started, and that is what you

vote against if you vote against this bill.

$5.9 billion for the Afghanistan Security Forces fund, $3.8 billion

for the Iraq Security Forces fund, and a total of $2.4 billion is

recommended for the joint IED task force.

The recommendations propose an increase of $17 million for DOD's

Family Advocacy program. In other words, all of us hear, when we go

talk with the families, the problems that they have. We add $17 million

for that particular fund.

We have three significant reductions. We reduce some of the buys of

hardware which we think ought to be in the base bill.

The committee bill recommends a total of $24.8 billion for equipment

purchases, a slight decrease to the President's request of $86 million.

The committees proposed an allocation of $1.4 billion to purchase what

they call MRAP vehicles, that is, the vehicles with the V shape, which

we need so badly. And that is what you are voting against if you vote

against this bill: $311 million above the request of the White House.

For Army procurement accounts the committee approves a total of $15

billion: $994 million for tactical radios, $2.2 billion for tactical

trucks, $867 million for up-armored Humvees, $636 million for Bradley

fighting vehicle upgrades. And that is what you are voting against if

you vote against this bill.

The committee bill includes $192 million not requested for three

additional F/A-18s. We take care of the SEABEEs, something they have

talked about that have been decimated by this war, and we put equipment

in for the SEABEEs.

The committee is recommending reductions to several high-profile

programs requested by the President. We deny funding for two Joint

Strike Fighter airplanes because they ought to be in the base bill, and

we will talk about that depending on what they authorize.

The President requested a total of $1.4 billion for research and

development. The committee recommends a total of $1 billion.

Working capital funds: the committee bill provides a total of $1.3

billion for working capital.

Now let me talk about defense health programs. We just saw what we

went through with Walter Reed. Bill Young, who was chairman of the

committee, and I went out to Walter Reed all the time. I had no idea,

as most Members didn't, about what was going on at Walter Reed. And it

really gets to me that every time we went out there, we asked them if

you needed any help and they always told us everything is all right. We

put more money in any way because we knew there would be some problems

come about because of the fact that they were under BRAC. The committee

decided unanimously to eliminate the closing of Walter Reed, especially

during the time of war. We put $1.7 billion above the budget request.

The additional funding is for $450 million for post-traumatic stress.

And that is not near enough, folks. That is not near enough. We figure

there are going to be 65,000 military people who come back that are

going to have post-traumatic stress. And that is what you are voting

against if you vote against this bill.

We put $450 million in for traumatic brain injury care and research;

$730 million to cover the funding shortfall created by Congress' having

disapproved the Department's proposal to increase the health insurance

premiums. And I am for that, but we didn't fund it. But we fund it in

this bill, and that is what you vote against if you vote against this

bill.

We put $62 million in for amputee care. Let me tell you something

about amputee care. I went out to the amputee center in Brooks. Private

industry put up a place in 18 months; $58 million they raised to put an

amputee center up. We have been working on an amputee center at Walter

Reed. It took us 3 years and it is still not built. Jerry Lewis, Bill

Young, and myself, and it is still not done yet.

We are putting in $12 million for caregivers. The nurses called. They

said, We have got a real problem here. We see these wounded. We see the

people coming home all the time. It affects us mentally. It affects us

emotionally. It affects us psychologically. We need help. So we put $12

million in; $6 million for Landstuhl, where they get the worst

casualties; $2 million for Walter Reed; $2 million for Brooks; and $2

million for the hospital in California.

We put in $14.8 million for burn care. I want to tell you something,

Members. You can go to all the hospitals. When you go to the burn care

centers, you see the results of this war. We go to the hospitals. All

of us go to the hospitals quite often. And let me tell you the burn

centers are the worst when you go.

Now, we also took out 5 percent on contracting. Now, why did we do

that? We did that because contractors are falling all over themselves

and we asked the GAO and we asked the Inspector General of Iraq, How

many contractors do you have? They couldn't tell us. They said, Help us

find out how many contractors we have.

So we asked the Under Secretary of Defense. He couldn't tell us. He

said, I will let you know in a week.

He still hasn't told us. So we took 5 percent out. They will tell us

now how many contractors they have.

And we fenced 10 percent. So that is $800 million for the 5 percent

and then $1.6 billion for the contractors to come out. So that is $2.1

billion we have taken out for the contractors.

We put in for CERP, which is a program in which there is $456 million

provided under operations and maintenance for the commanders.

No permanent bases we said over and over again. We put in no torture,

which has caused us so much problem when they didn't have the people

trained when they were in Abu Ghraib.

Contracting oversight. We have a death gratuity amendment. Military

attorneys, we put some money in for military attorneys.

Meeting readiness guidelines: let me tell you what we do to meet

readiness guidelines. When you talk to these families, they need a year

at home before they are redeployed. Is there anybody that thinks we

should send these folks back before they have a year at home? Is there

anybody that thinks we should extend them when they have 13 months in

country? Is there anybody who thinks we should send troops into combat

who aren't trained and ready? Is there anybody here?

We put benchmarks in for the Iraqi Government, as the chairman of the

committee explained, because we need to give them the incentive. We

need them to have some benchmarks so they understand that they have to

get this done.

Every time something happens, and this is a problem we have, every

time something happens, we step in. They started out, they said, with

80 percent of the people in the Iraqi units deployed in Iraq. Now it is

50 percent. Where are they? They are on leave. They deserted. They are

not there. So who makes up the difference? Our troops are the ones

making up the difference. We have to force the Iraqis to make up the

difference.

Why are we even thinking about forcing the military to break their

own guidelines because of this surge? Because of the fact they can't

sustain the deployment. So the administration has decided, we are going

to have to send people back with less than a year at home.

We are going to send people back that aren't trained and ready? That

is unacceptable. That is unacceptable to every single Member of

Congress. We have an obligation to the taxpayer under the Constitution

to take care of defense.

We have an obligation to have oversight and auditing and

accountability. We have had 14 hearings so far. We will have at least

40 more hearings before we have the base bill. I am going to put you on

notice right now, the supplemental, the 2008 supplemental, is not going

to come up with the base bill. The 2008 supplemental is going to be

held, because we are going to see if there is going to be progress in

this country before we bring up the 2008 supplemental. We are going to

see if what they say is true. We are going to find out if this

administration is giving us the facts.

We have said to them under the Moran amendment, you have to tell us

how much oil production there is. Oil production is below prewar level.

Electricity production is below prewar level. Unemployment is 60

percent.

Incidents have doubled since I spoke out here a year-and-a-half ago.

Doubled. There are now 1,200 a week. And when I say ``incidents,'' I am

talking about 140,000 troops deployed to Iraq, individually. I heard

Elizabeth Edwards the other day talk about breast cancer, before she

knew it had come back, and she said to me, there is 40,000 people that

have breast cancer every year, but it is one at a time.

What we are talking about are troops, 140,000 troops, one at a time;

140,000 troops with families; 140,000 troops that have wives and

husbands and mothers and fathers that have to suffer during these

deployments.

When you go to the hospital, you see figures. Don't think when you

say you see 2,500 people who have been killed, 3,000 have been killed

or 25,000 have been wounded. It is individuals that have been wounded,

individuals that have been killed, and those families are suffering.

We have to put some benchmarks so the Iraqis, they have civil war, we

have to put benchmarks in this bill so the Iraqis start to do it

themselves, and the Americans aren't forced to make up the difference,

but they do it themselves.

Mr. Speaker, let me say to the Members what hurts our

troops.

I found our troops, 44,000, without body armor. I found our troops

with a shortage of jammers. I found our troops with a shortage of up-

armored Humvees. I find our troops now, because of the policy, having

to go back to Iraq before they have a year at home. I find our troops

now because of the policy of this White House having to extend troops

that have been there 13 months, and I find our troops having to go into

combat untrained or not trained as well as they should, not going to

the desert where they have this tremendous training area, going right

into Iraq.

That is what hurts our troops. That is what hurts the morale of the

troops when you send them without training, without the additional

training they need, without the equipment they need and without the

resources they need.

We are putting in the resources. If you vote against this bill, you

are voting against the resources they need to go into combat.

One of the Members said, how many less Iraqis have been

killed? I don't know how many less Iraqis we killed. I know 62

individual American soldiers or marines have been killed this last

month.

I want to say about equipment, I have got a chart here with the Army

National Guard. Every single National Guard unit in this Nation, all 50

States, doesn't have the Humvees they need.

Every State, they don't have the 7-ton trucks they need. Every State,

they don't have other equipment, the equipment they need for jammers

and so forth.

When you say they are training on equipment and are not fully

trained, they don't have the equipment to train on. This bill provides

that. When you vote against this bill, you are voting against the extra

money to fix that problem.

Mr. Speaker, in Kosovo we had 30,000 sorties. We never

lost one person to combat in Kosovo. Let me read the figures for you in

2001. All active duty Army divisions were rated highest readiness

level. Do you know what they are today? Almost all are rated lowest

level. Every National Guard unit today is rated the lowest level.

Mr. Speaker, we could not deploy our ground forces overseas for any

threat. Our national security has been significantly increased because

the depletion of our strategic reserve, our national strategic reserve.

We got a problem here. We are trying to fix the problem. If you vote

against this, you are voting against helping us to restore the

equipment that we have lost in this country.

Let me just say to the gentleman from California, when

President Clinton was President, Bush as a candidate was running

against him. He said, look, you are not ready to go to war. He said,

two entire divisions of the Army would not have had to report until

they are ready.

Let me tell you what it would be today. Almost no division in the

United States is ready to report for duty if we had to send them out

someplace else to a national threat. That is the difference today.

Today we are trying to fix this. Today we put money in the bill to fix

this.

The gentleman has to realize, we put it in. They didn't

ask for much of this. I found the 44,000 shortage of body armor. I

found the shortage of Humvees. We came back, and we put it in. Bill

Young, Jerry Lewis and I put it in. The Armed Services is the one that

is causing the problem.