Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for an explanation and a

full accounting from the Department of Defense concerning an attack on

Camp Falcon last year. This much is not in dispute: Under cover of

darkness on October 10, 2006, Camp Falcon, America's largest military

base in Iraq, which is 10 miles south of Baghdad, was attacked by

insurgents, and the base was shelled with mortars and rockets. An enemy

round struck an ammunition store which triggered massive explosions and

huge fireballs that lit up the night sky in Baghdad.

News footage and amateur video were shown on television in the Middle

East, and a BBC reporter described the explosions as immense. In the

days following the attack, U.S. military officers in Iraq repeatedly

said that the damage would not degrade U.S. military capacity and that

the attack did not injure or kill anyone at the base.

In a briefing on October 12, 2006, Major General William Caldwell

told reporters, ``Very fortunately, no coalition forces or Iraqi

security forces were injured, nor civilian casualties that anyone is

aware of at this point. We lost some munitions, but took no personnel

casualties.'' That is the official line for the military.

But the questions are beginning to surface as to whether the official

line is the truth. It was brought to my attention yesterday during a

meeting in my congressional office with Mohammed al Deeni, an

independent member of the Iraqi Parliament. He came to the U.S. to talk

with Members of Congress about the realities of life in Iraq. At my

invitation, other Members of Congress joined me in this face-to-face

legislative exchange of information. They heard what I am about to

share.

During our meeting, I asked Mr. al Deeni if Iraq was so unstable that

a terrorist attack could claim a large number of Americans in one

attack. As many of us remember, that is what happened in 1983 when a

massive terrorist truck bomb struck and killed 241 U.S. Marines in

Beirut. I wanted to know if such an attack was possible in Iraq.

Without hesitation, Mr. al Deeni said such an attack had already

occurred. He said--and others are saying online--that the attack on

Camp Falcon killed 300 Americans, wounded another 200 Americans and

killed or injured another 200 Iraqis.

The Pentagon says there were no casualties. But a member of the Iraqi

Parliament and others claim there were significant casualties. Which

story is true? Satellite images, aerial photographs, videos and written

accounts that purport to be firsthand can be found online. I will enter

into the Record a list of some of these sites so that people can see

for themselves.

Internet sites which contains video, photographs, or

written accounts of the attack on Camp Falcon on October 10,

2006:

Here is one excerpt from a site written after the attack by French

journalists:

This happened just before the last elections, and it is unclear as to

what happened. I don't know if these stories are credible. But these

reports cannot be ignored. If we lost hundreds of U.S. soldiers and

other Americans in one attack, Congress and the American people have a

right to know about it.

I looked at the videos and the aerial photographs, and the damage

appears quite extensive to buildings and military vehicles like tanks.

Perhaps American soldiers and others miraculously escaped injury. That

would be very good news. Or perhaps we don't know what really happened

on the night of October 10, 2006 in an insurgent attack on Camp Falcon.

The Pentagon should open all of its files to independent journalists.

I call for a full accounting as soon as possible. Some are saying

there's a cover-up in the military. I say it's time to put all the

evidence out in the open.