Mr. Speaker, last week, during my work period at home,

my district office in Norwich was visited by a young Army enlisted man

who had in one hand his orders for his fourth deployment over the last

4 years. Over the last 4 years, he did two 1-year deployments in Iraq

and one 7-month deployment in Afghanistan.

In his other hand he held a bag of medication, anti-anxiety

medication, including Zoloft, because of the post-traumatic stress

which we got actually diagnosed from a treating psychiatrist a few days

later, which confirmed that his deployments have taken him to the

breaking point. That is the dirty little secret about this surge

policy, which is that we've broken the ground forces of this country.

This legislation crafted by Mr. Skelton, whose number one focus as

chairman of the Armed Services Committee is always about raising and

maintaining an armed force that can protect our national interest, is

desperately needed, primarily for the people who have borne the

disproportionate share of this war, which is the people who serve in

our uniform and their families.

It is easy for us to talk about commitment in this chamber. It's time

to stand up for the real people who are sacrificing for that

commitment.